

EPIC

Energy Peers in Indigenous Communities



Quatsino First Nation



Among Quatsino First Nation's renewable energy projects, a solar power installation for its community building is in development. | Photo credit: Sybil Zhang

According to the Community Energy Plan, Quatsino First Nation (QFN) set out goals to enhance energy efficiency in residential and community buildings and to explore renewable energy development within the Quatsino Traditional Territory.

Guided by community-driven goals and continuous feedback and supported by professional energy audits and assessments, the plan prioritizes reducing energy costs, improving energy efficiency in homes and buildings, and developing local renewable energy sources. Renewable energy prospects include run-of-river hydropower, wind, solar photovoltaic and wave energy.

Wind energy development within the Quatsino Traditional Territory is a promising future opportunity, particularly given the strategic location of QFN reserve lands near substantial wind resources.

Kara Wilson, Community Energy Champion (CEC) of Quatsino First Nation has gained expertise from her involvement in the successful Cape Scott Windfarm project. She brings valuable knowledge to the EPIC cohort. The EPIC program has enabled Kara to engage extensively in conferences and to forge pivotal partnerships, enhancing her capacity and involvement in clean energy initiatives.

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Transmission Line that Connects All

In her role as a Community Energy Champion for Quatsino First Nation, Kara is leading the conceptualization of a major transmission line initiative that would enable regional infrastructure and industrial development. Pivotal in this work is collaborating with various tribal entities and multiple levels of government to foster partnerships that support these initiatives.

20/20 Catalyst

EPIC has supported Kara's participation in the 20/20 Catalysts Program, an intensive capacity-building initiative that catalyzes her skills in renewable energy and community energy planning. This involvement has equipped her with practical skills and knowledge to advance clean energy projects in her community.



Kara Wilson (second from right) at the on-site training | Photo credit: ICE Network

Funding for a Cleaner Future

In May 2024, Quatsino First Nation successfully secured \$300,000 from the BCICEI to install a 100kW solar-PV system at its daycare, K'ak'ot'lats'i School, and office admin building, with additional 13kWh battery storage systems in two buildings to enhance energy resilience. Kara contributed significantly to the grant application process. The project team has completed the critical load list for the new location, and a site assessment with contractors is currently underway.