

CLIMATE CHANGE INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY FRAMEWORK

Awardee Summary

CCITF PROGRAM	Clean Technology Networks Program
PROJECT TITLE	Energy Futures Lab 2.0
ORGANIZATION	The Natural Step Canada
SECTOR	Energy Efficiency
PROJECT LEAD	Rollie Dykstra
GRANT AMOUNT	\$600,000 (\$200,000 per year over 3 years)
START DATE	
END DATE	

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

The primary objectives of the Energy Futures Lab 2.0 are:

- Continuing to identify, develop and pressure-test innovative solutions to the most significant problems in the generation, distribution and use of energy.
- Developing a platform for connecting participants, initiatives, and partner organizations to a best-in class network of funders, advisors and service providers who can accelerate the process of taking solutions to market.
- Aligning a growing community of leaders and their organizations behind a bold and transformative vision for the future of energy in Canada and beyond.
- Inspiring and sharing narratives that help depolarize the public conversation about energy in Canada and accelerate progress toward the shared vision developed through the EFL.

PROJECT PROFILE:

The Energy Futures Lab is an award-winning, multi-stakeholder initiative to accelerate the transition to the energy system that the future requires of us.

Launched publicly in early 2015, the lab is powered by The Natural Step Canada, in collaboration with the Suncor Energy Foundation, Alberta Real Estate Foundation, Government of Alberta, and several other partners. The initiative also involves dozens more organizations in an unprecedented series of innovative partnerships and collaborations.

The (EFL) addresses a number of problems, but chief among these is that innovation is being slowed by the prevalence of polarization in almost all discussions and debates surrounding energy in Alberta. What should be a source of creative tension has become a roadblock. The result is that despite its natural advantages and innovative capacity, Alberta risks lagging behind as the world transitions to the energy systems of the future, while Canada risks missing out on economic benefits of being an energy leader. Clean technology innovators are chief among the groups that suffer the consequence of this situation because the adoption of new

technologies is about more than the technology itself; their success is highly influenced by policy and regulatory frameworks, market characteristics and especially the broader public narratives that reflect and influence cultural readiness for innovation.

We are addressing this polarization and accelerating the transition to the energy system of the future by working at three levels:

- Stimulating collaboration among those innovators working at the cutting edge of technological and social innovation.
- Building “receptor capacity” for innovation within institutions by aligning and working in partnership with government and corporations.
- Generating and promoting public-facing, future-focussed narratives in and about Alberta and fostering a culture ready to embrace innovation.

The Energy Futures Lab is designed as a platform to identify, develop and pressure-test innovative solutions to the most significant challenges in the generation, distribution and use of energy. Its portfolio of initiatives helps accelerate the shift to a diversified, lower carbon economy in Alberta, while generating significant environmental and economic benefits including reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy Futures Lab 2.0 is a three-year cycle commencing in July 2018.

GHG EMISSION REDUCTION SUMMARY:

TBD - methodology in development