

Abstract for Atlantic Reclamation Conference 2021

A Review of Large-Scale Renewable Energy Partnerships with Indigenous Communities and Organizations in Canada

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Abstract

In this paper, Indigenous engagement in renewable energy projects is debated and the main elements of energy partnerships between various stakeholders and Indigenous partners are discussed. Recent years have witnessed more significant Indigenous involvement in economic and energy development projects than ever before across the nation. The key components of large-scale energy partnerships focus on community engagement, finance capital, community buy-in (readiness with entrepreneurial and business skills) and benefits-sharing with community partners. Equity-ownership, decision-making, reconciliation and self-determination intersect land claims, impact benefits and sustainability of energy projects as they are interrelated in the framework of energy partnerships. In addition, this paper also emphasizes the characteristics of energy projects identified in the existing literature debating pros and cons and policy disconnects of partnership-making, social outcomes and equity and decision-making patterns among Indigenous communities. Furthermore, findings from the literature explore the socio-economic implications and challenges that interlink with land resource management, reconciliation among different Indigenous nations when promoting large-scale renewable energy partnerships within Indigenous communities. Through meta-analyses of literature and the NVivo coding, findings suggest that the Crown, energy proponents and community partners collectively work together to achieve energy expectations and goals in the near future.

Keywords: renewable energy partnerships, bottom-up approach, land resource management, community buy-in, equity-ownership, reconciliation, Indigenous communities

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