



CMHC / NRCan EQUilibrium™ Communities Initiative

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A collaborative initiative between Natural Resources Canada's CanmetENERGY
and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation



Presentation Outline

- Introduce the new Initiative
- Identify who it is designed to support
- Explain how it will work



Equilibrium™ Communities Initiative

Goals:

- Fund and support developers to improve performance in designing and developing sustainable communities.
- Demonstrate how the neighbourhood scale offers opportunities to integrate systems
- Measure, showcase and share what works and how well.

Scope

- Joint NRCan CanmetENERGY/CMHC program until 2012
- \$4.2 million in financial, technical and promotional assistance
- Approximately six neighbourhood development projects across Canada
- Proposal submissions currently being reviewed.



Resources

- Up to \$550,000 and technical assistance per project.
- For activities that improve performance, such as research and design modifications
- ...and for monitoring, commissioning and showcasing.

Six Themes:

- 1. Energy** - An energy efficient community that balances energy supply and use to minimize greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2. Land Use and Housing** - A compact community with a balanced mix of activities, housing choices, and commercial, institutional, recreational and industrial land uses.
- 3. Transportation** – A community that reduces fossil-fuel use from personal vehicle travel and provides opportunities for energy-efficient and healthy alternatives.



Six Themes (con't)

4. **Water, Waste Water and Storm Water** – A community that will minimize the use and disposal of water and negative impacts on watersheds.
5. **Natural Environment** – A community that protects and enhances/restores the natural environment.
6. **Financial Viability** – A marketable community that through its design, operation, integration and financing is economically viable over the long term.



Participants will ...

- Be seen as leaders as sustainable mixed-use developments move from niche to mainstream.
- Be able to access funds and expertise for their project to lower their risk as they move up the learning curve on sustainable community development approaches.
- Build their brand and reputation from regional, national and international exposure.

Explore options not viable at the smaller scale to:

- Improve energy efficiency and environmental performance at a neighbourhood scale
- Integrate systems, such as energy and water systems, across multiple buildings and land uses
- Make community energy systems and transportation alternatives viable through multiple buildings and land uses.

Project Types:

SHOWCASE

Projects that were recently completed, or are under construction.

OR

IMPROVEMENT

Projects that have already begun the planning/design process but have not yet started construction.

Funded activities for each type:

SHOWCASE

To showcase effective approaches, do commissioning and/or measure and report the actual results achieved in built projects.

IMPROVEMENT

To improve project performance through activities such as research and design modifications

Timeframe:

June 24 rd , 2009	Request for Submission posted on MERX
September 22 th 2009	Submission Deadline
Fall 2009	Project Selection
Early 2010	Announce finalists

To stay informed...

- Visit ecoACTION.gc.ca for updates

OR

- E-mail your contact information to Equilibrium.Communities@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca



Credit: Canadian Pacific Railway



Credit: Gordon Howell

THANK YOU