GETCHARGED
SOUTH MARCH

South March Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Community Engagement

MAY 2025 REPORT

Evolugen | Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation

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Project Overview

Project Name: South March Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Location: West Carleton, Ottawa, Ontario

Developer: Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn in partnership with Brookfield Renewable

Status: In development

Battery Technology: Lithium iron phosphate (LFP)

Capacity: 250 MW / 1,000 MWh of energy storage

Grid Connection: Direct connection to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)

Ottawa's electricity demand is set grow by over 166% over the next 20 years. More homes, more schools, more businesses, all needing energy. Battery storage improves local grid resiliency, reduces outages, and keeps costs down.

Right now, Ontario generates surplus power that we sell to the US at a loss because we have nowhere to store it. Battery energy storage systems (BESS) leverage the lower costs of renewables and keep our power here at home.

The South March BESS is a proposed 250 MW lithium iron phosphate (LFP) energy storage facility expected to be completed by late 2027.

Developed by the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn and Brookfield Renewable, the project supports Ontario's growing electricity needs while enhancing grid stability, integrating renewable energy sources, and reducing carbon emissions.

Utilizing lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery technology, the South March BESS will store energy during low-demand periods and dispatch it back into the grid during peak demand.

Beyond its technical merits, the project will benefit the community in several ways, including providing grants for local organizations, creating job opportunities for residents, and reducing energy costs.

Project Purpose and Community Benefits

The South March BESS aims to:

Enhance Grid Reliability

Stabilize the local electricity grid by storing energy during off-peak hours and supplying it during peak demand.

Support Renewable Integration

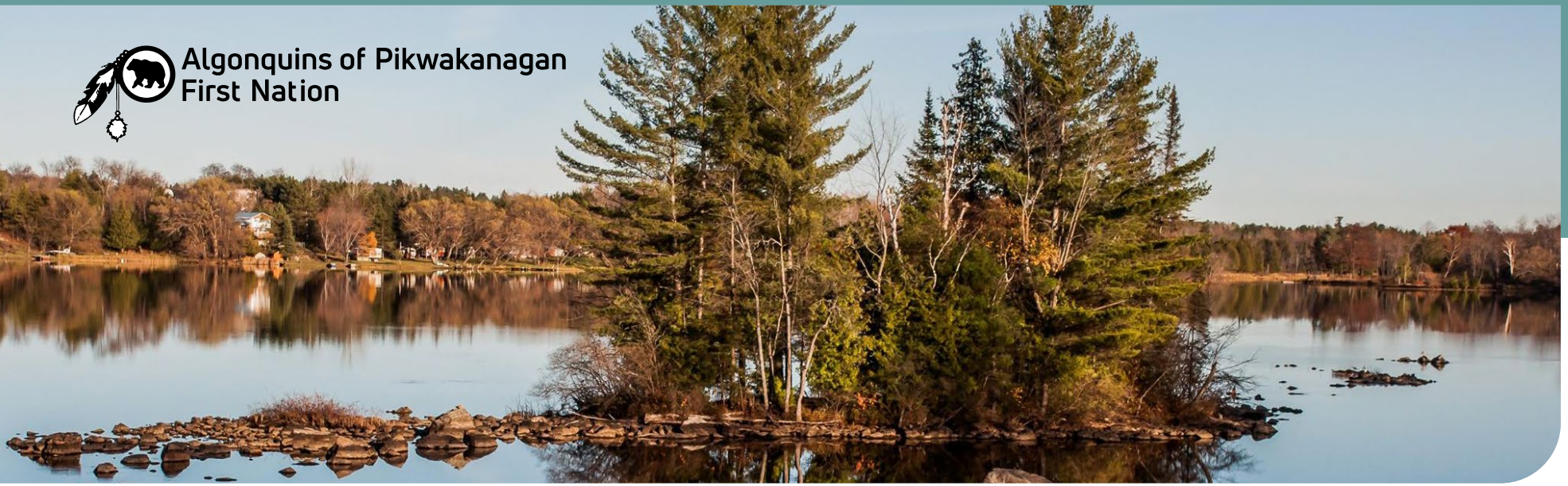
Facilitate the incorporation of renewable energy sources like hydro, solar, and wind from across Ontario and maximize those resources for Ottawa residents.

Reduce Energy Costs

Lower electricity prices for consumers by leveraging the cheaper cost of renewables and other sources that generate energy around the clock.

Promote Economic Growth

Stimulate the local economy through job creation and community investments.



Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn

The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan are the original caretakers of the Ottawa Valley, the traditional, unceded, and unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

As part of our long journey to reconciliation and economic empowerment, we are proud to have partnered with Evolugen to develop the South March BESS project.

Co-developed through our equal equity partnership, **this project represents the single-largest Indigenous investment in the City of Ottawa's history** and a milestone on our long journey to economic reconciliation.

This collaboration process has centred the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation's Indigenous knowledge and understanding of the land and its resources to inform our site selection and project development process, leading to a transparent and collaborative engagement that will create hundreds of jobs and improve the lives of residents in West Carleton and across Ottawa.

Summary of Engagement

Community engagement has been at the heart of the South March BESS planning process.

Since project initiation, we have implemented a robust, multi-channel engagement strategy to inform, consult, and collaborate with residents and interest holders.

Engagement highlights include:

- Hosting a public open house
- Virtual and in-person firefighter training sessions
- One-on-one meetings with residents
- Door knocking at the homes within 3 km of the project site
- Informational podcast episodes
- Digital billboards
- Digital feedback forms
- Answering over 100 questions submitted by residents
- Guest lectures at uOttawa (completed) and Algonquin College (upcoming)
- Regular project updates through GetChargedOttawa.ca

85+
doors knocked

200+
Open house visitors

3M+
impressions across campaigns

Site Selection

After consultation on our original site, we went back to the drawing board to find the most suitable site in Ward 5. Our approach was informed by direction from the IESO and Hydro One to address the rapidly growing energy needs in West Ottawa.

We conducted months of due diligence – assessing maps, topography, proximity to residents, and proximity to transmission lines; meeting the City of Ottawa's stringent requirements, and seeking opportunities to minimize environmental impacts. Our team knocked on doors, talked to local leaders, and consulted landowners.

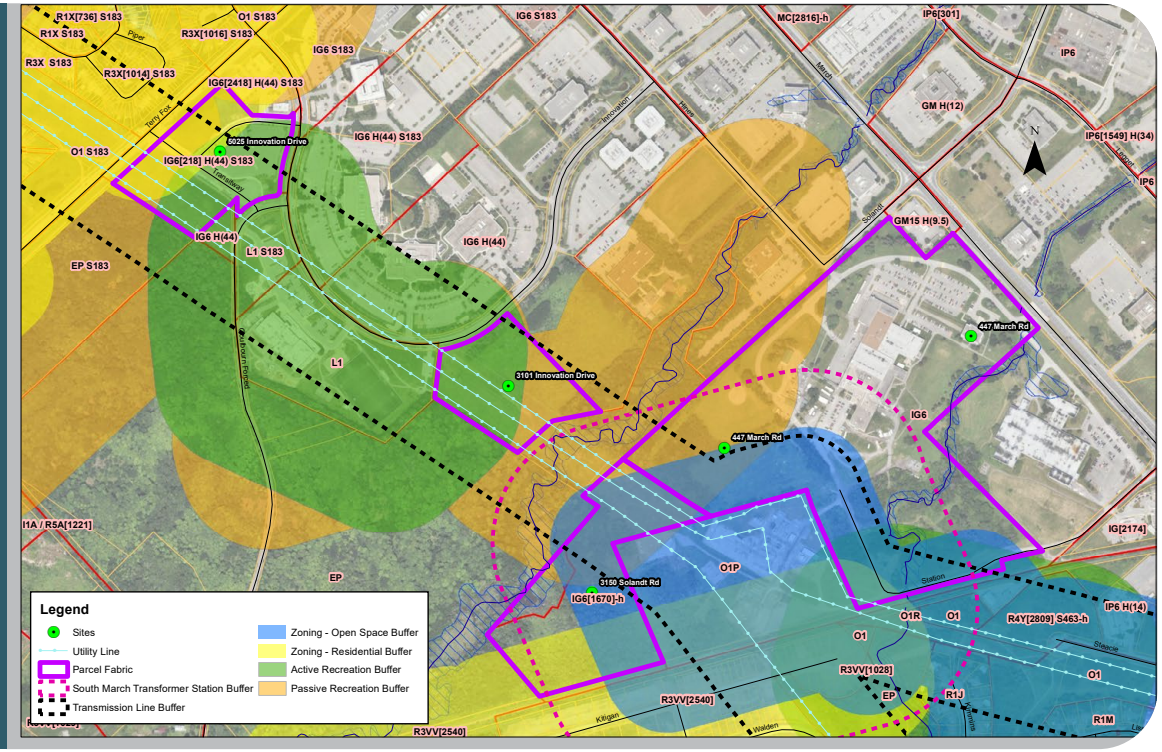
The South March site checked all the boxes.

Key Features:

Reduced Impact on Residents
A critical advantage of the South March site is its physical features. A heightened ridge leading to the site from Marchurst Road shields the open area where the project will be situated. The facility will not be seen or heard from the road.

Extended Setbacks
The South March site is ideally positioned away from residential areas. It far exceeds setbacks set out by the City of Ottawa's requirements..

Adjacent to Existing Electricity Infrastructure
By building next to the transmission corridor along Marchurst Road, we will not have to impact the tree line. Large setbacks and existing electrical infrastructure separates the project from the Carp Hills and other properties.



Assessment of Alternative Sites

Along with the dozens of locations our team assessed, several alternative sites have been mentioned by community members, including at committee. We took the time to review each site. To the right, see an overview of each site and why it is not a feasible option.

1. **3150 Solandt Road | 6.32 ha (15.61 acres)**
   - Does not meet Hydro One minimum setback requirements
   - Within the City of Ottawa's Open Space Buffer to high-voltage infrastructure

2. **447 March Road | 16.77 ha (41.44 acres)**
   - Does not meet Hydro One minimum setback requirements
   - Within the City of Ottawa's Open Space Buffer and Passive Recreation Buffer to high-voltage infrastructure

3. **3101 Innovation/5025 Innovation Dr | 3.35 ha (8.27 acres)/4.11 ha (10.15 acres)**
   - Does not meet Hydro One minimum setback requirements
   - Within the City of Ottawa's Active Recreation Buffer to high-voltage infrastructure

4. **Shirley's Bay (off Cameron Harvey) | DND Land**
   - Home to the Canadian Joint Warfare Centre and primarily serves as training ground for military personnel – not available for development

South March BESS
Consultation and Engagement Timeline

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation

Brookfield Renewable

1
Sep 29, 2023
IESO releases deliverability test results; Fitzroy site identified.

2
Nov 1, 2023
Fitzroy open house; some residents opposed to site location

3
Dec 6, 2023
Council votes against Fitzroy but approves Trail Road

4
Apr 22, 2024
Email with Councillor Kelly's office to schedule meeting to discuss contract awards, engagement, location, etc.

5
May 10, 2024
IESO awards contract for Fitzroy & Trail Road

6
Summer 2024
Preliminary door knocking to engage public on potential alternative sites

7
Jul 26, 2024
Evolugen team & Councillor Kelly staff discuss possibility of alternative site, interest from both parties to start fresh

8
Aug 6, 2024
Started booking 1v1 meetings with community leaders & residents in West Carleton

9
Aug 29, 2024
Meeting with Councillor Kelly

10
Sep 18, 2024
Announce fire safety workshop, hand deliver letters to local fire

11
Oct 10, 2024
BESS fire safety workshop

12
Nov 5, 2024
BluWave-AI panel discussion

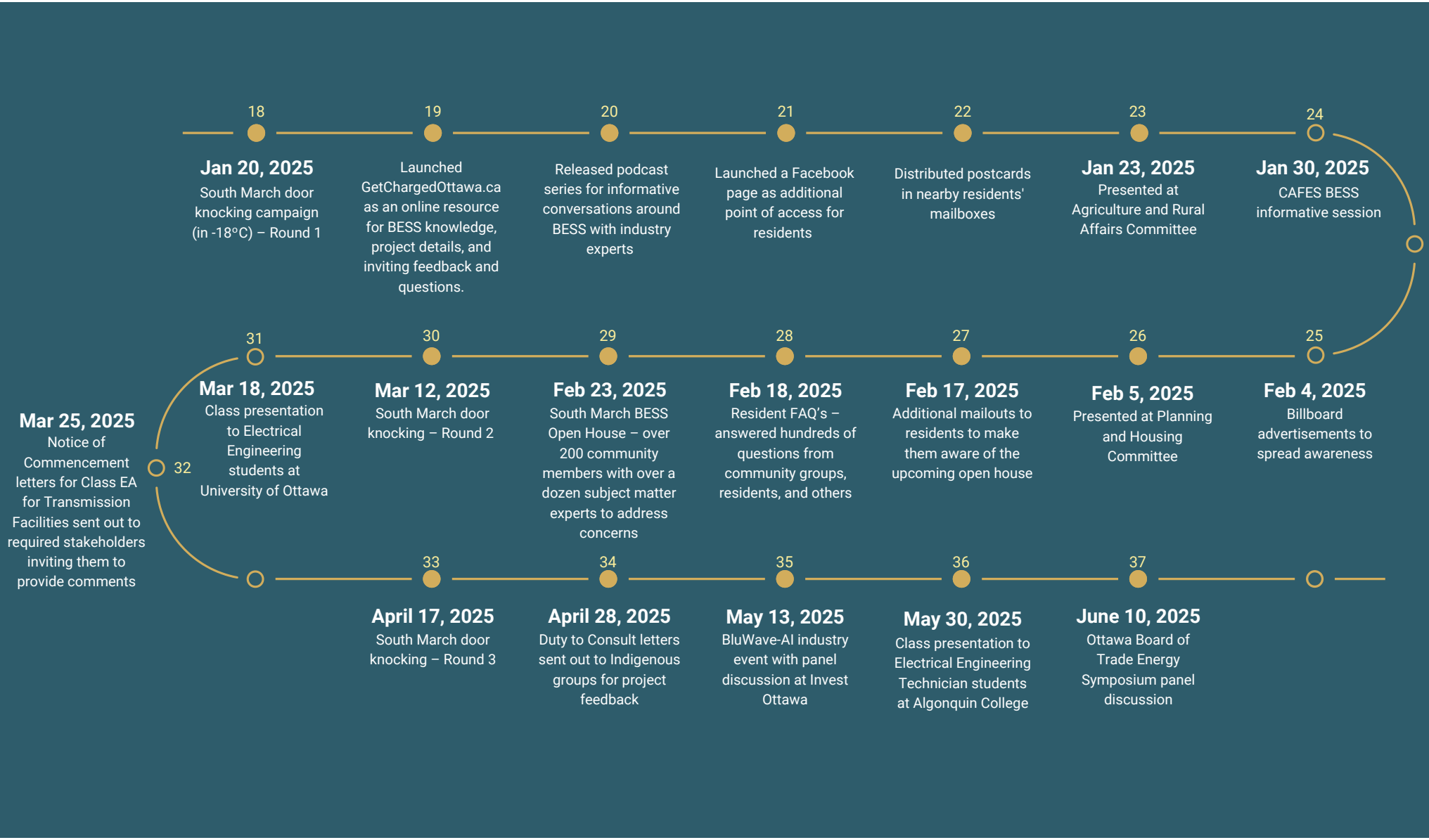
13
Nov 21, 2024
Engage with local contractors to discuss opportunities for construction

14
Nov 26, 2024
Discussion with Rural Woodlands Ottawa on projects and offsetting measures

15
December 2024
Started developing a meaningful and robust community engagement plan

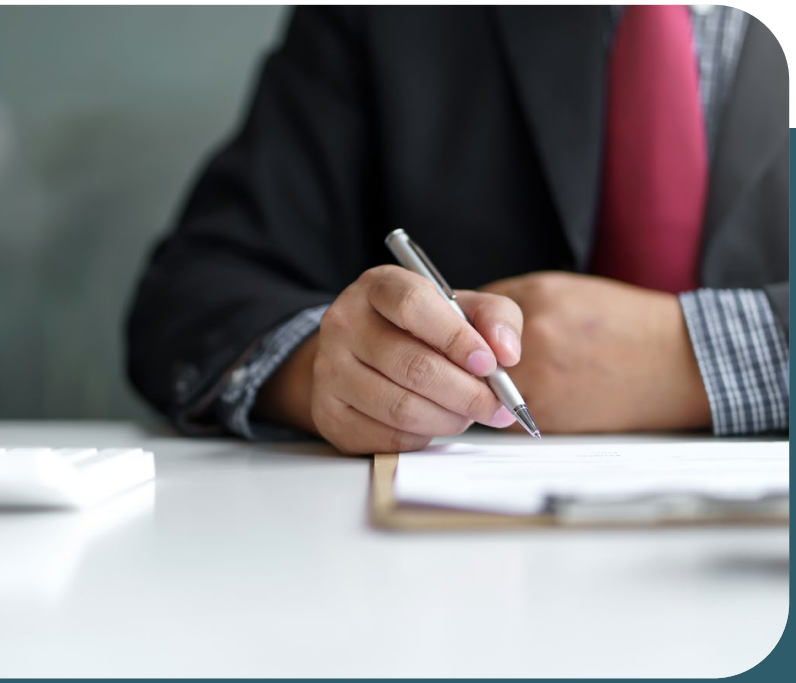
16
Jan 10, 2025
Evolugen & supportive residents meet with Councillor Kelly on the project and potential site change

17
Jan 20, 2025
Announced new South March BESS project


18
Jan 20, 2025
South March door knocking campaign (in -18°C) – Round 1
19
Launched GetChargedOttawa.ca as an online resource for BESS knowledge, project details, and inviting feedback and questions.
20
Released podcast series for informative conversations around BESS with industry experts
21
Launched a Facebook page as additional point of access for residents
22
Distributed postcards in nearby residents' mailboxes
23
Jan 23, 2025
Presented at Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
24
Jan 30, 2025
CAFES BESS informative session
25
Feb 4, 2025
Billboard advertisements to spread awareness
26
Feb 5, 2025
Presented at Planning and Housing Committee
27
Feb 17, 2025
Additional mailouts to residents to make them aware of the upcoming open house
28
Feb 18, 2025
Resident FAQ's – answered hundreds of questions from community groups, residents, and others
29
Feb 23, 2025
South March BESS Open House – over 200 community members with over a dozen subject matter experts to address concerns
30
Mar 12, 2025
South March door knocking – Round 2
31
Mar 18, 2025
Class presentation to Electrical Engineering students at University of Ottawa
32
Mar 25, 2025
Notice of Commencement letters for Class EA for Transmission Facilities sent out to required stakeholders inviting them to provide comments
33
April 17, 2025
South March door knocking – Round 3
34
April 28, 2025
Duty to Consult letters sent out to Indigenous groups for project feedback
35
May 13, 2025
BluWave-AI industry event with panel discussion at Invest Ottawa
36
May 30, 2025
Class presentation to Electrical Engineering Technician students at Algonquin College
37
June 10, 2025
Ottawa Board of Trade Energy Symposium panel discussion

Letters of Support

The South March BESS has received strong support from local leaders, businesses, and residents who recognize the long-term benefits of reliable, clean energy infrastructure.



Letter: Thoughts on the anti-BESS petition

Letter to the Editor

August 19, 2024

(Editor's note: the following letter is in relation to last week's story in West Carleton Online headlined APWC submits BESS opposition petition)

To the Editor,

In situations where new technology is proposed it is human nature to oppose the change.

In the case of BESS, we suggest that the benefits outweigh the risks. Independent Electricity System Operators (IESO) electricity planning experts have determined Ontario needs a substantial increase in electricity capacity to achieve the goal of a sustainable electricity supply by 2050. They have placed an interim target of 4,000 additional Megawatts by the end of the decade. They have deemed that a large fraction of this should be provided by large scale Battery Energy Storage Systems – BESS.

In Ontario several large projects are either underway or have been identified by IESO as suitable to help achieve their goals. These include a 250 MW BESS in Napanee approved by IESO in 2023 and 380 and 390 MW sites identified in May 2024 in the same decision that gave the go ahead for the Trail Road and Fitzroy sites.

The proponent for the Fitzroy site has indicated they will be using batteries composed of lithium iron phosphate largely because of their safety compared to other lithium-ion battery chemistries. A perusal of the internet using LiFePO4 will let you find information like the following:

How are LiFePO4 batteries safer than other lithium batteries?

"Phosphate-based batteries offer superior chemical and mechanical structure that does not overheat to unsafe levels. Thus, providing an increase in safety over lithium-ion batteries made with other cathode materials. This is because the charged and uncharged states of LiFePO4 are physically similar and highly robust, which lets the ions remain stable during the oxygen flux that happens alongside charge cycles or possible malfunctions.

"Overall, the iron phosphate-oxide bond is stronger than the cobalt-oxide bond, so when the battery is overcharged or subject to physical damage then the phosphate-oxide bond remains structurally stable; whereas in other lithium chemistries the bonds begin breaking down and releasing excessive heat, which eventually leads to thermal runaway. Lithium phosphate cells are incombustible, which is an important feature in the event of mishandling during charging or discharging. They can also withstand harsh conditions, be it freezing cold, scorching heat or rough terrain. When subjected to hazardous events, such as collision or short-circuiting, they won't explode or catch fire, significantly reducing any chance of harm.

If you're selecting a lithium battery and anticipate use in hazardous or unstable environments, LiFePO4 is likely your best choice. It's also worth mentioning, LiFePO4 batteries are non-toxic, non-contaminating and contain no rare earth metals, making them an environmentally conscious choice."

Underwriters Laboratories is another good source for information. One particular test conducted on all batteries proposed by new suppliers is known as UL9540A. This test entails subjecting BESS battery elements and modules to extensive heat conditions until they catch fire and then analyzing the fumes that are emitted. When lithium iron phosphate batteries go through this procedure, they show ignition temperatures far higher than other lithium-ion battery chemistries and non-toxic fume emissions when they do catch fire.

Rigorous zoning and environmental hurdles must be cleared before sites can be used for BESS.

Recently West Carleton Online reported on the release of a position paper on BESS by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). This was a thoughtful description basically in support of the introduction of BESS to achieve IESO's long term goals with the recommendations among others, for increasing distance setbacks and not allowing BESS on land zoned for agricultural use.

In situations where new technology is proposed it is human nature to oppose the change. In the case of BESS, we suggest the benefits outweigh the risks. The large-scale benefits of BESS are a reduction in the need for natural gas plant construction and hence a reduction in the fossil fuel footprint of Ontario's electricity production combined with an elimination of transmission line build out to support any new production site. In way of comparison of risk/benefits trade off, there are approximately 5,000 fires at gas stations in North America in a typical year, yet these are risks that people who drive vehicles with internal combustion engines find to be at an acceptable level. We live with risk of accidents during transportation and many other things in our lives filled with technical apparatus – often not even thinking about them compared to the benefits we derive. We feel BESS will eventually be perceived like this.

If one was to be built in our neighbourhood, we would feel that we were doing our bit to help eventually alleviate the risk of forest fires and floods at home and elsewhere.

As residents of Ward 5 for 40 plus years, we would like to fully support the concept of using BESS on our electrical grid. Furthermore, we don't want Ward 5 to become known as the place where good ideas die.

Barrie and Laurie Ashworth,
Dunrobin.

Letter: Algonquins of Pikwakanagan pleased to partner with BESS

Letter to the Editor

January 22, 2025

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, we are proud to express support for Evolugen's 250-megawatt battery project located in West Carleton.

As a joint venture partner, we see this project as a unique opportunity which balances our Nation's desire for progress, with our commitment to tradition. By participating in this energy project, we are creating green jobs for our people, strengthening our community, and playing an important role in Ontario's transition to cleaner energy.

These battery energy storage systems are a critical part of the province's strategy to reduce emissions and build a more resilient energy future. They enable the storage of energy during times of low demand and release it when it's needed. **Importantly, these projects are heavily regulated to ensure the highest levels of safety, something which we are focused on, not just for ourselves. but for our traditional lands and waters.**

Both of Evolugen's battery projects in the Algonquin traditional territory are a step toward a sustainable future, and we are proud to be part of it. Our community is taking an active role in building a solution that benefits our people, our lands, and our waters for seven generations to come.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to continuing this vital work.

Sincerely,
Greg Sarazin, Chief
On behalf of the Council, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation.

Letter: BESS project 'a bold step forward'

Letter to the Editor

January 30, 2025

To the Editor,

I have been a long-time resident of West Carleton and have always taken a keen interest in responsible local area development activity.

In recent months, I have had several meetings with the proponents of a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and have been impressed with this project that provides an energy solution, one that is a bold step forward in paving the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future for our community and our province. As such, I am pleased to support the BESS initiative.

This project is a gamechanger. By storing energy during off-peak hours and redistributing it when demand is high, the BESS will reduce blackouts, support energy independence and drive Ontario's transition to clean, renewable power.

The South March BESS is designed with safety, reliability, and responsibility at its core. These facilities are highly regulated, backed by rigorous safety measures and developed in close collaboration with Ottawa Fire Services. The advanced lithium iron phosphate batteries are among the safest technologies available, reflecting Evolugen's (a Brookfield Renewable company) commitment to protecting both our community and our environment.

Beyond its environmental and energy benefits, the South March BESS also promises to be a good corporate citizen by supporting West Carleton through a generous Community Development Fund. This fund will provide critical resources to enhance local programs; support community projects; and build a stronger, more vibrant West Carleton. It is a chance for us to invest in ourselves, ensuring that future generations can thrive in a community that values progress and sustainability.

The BESS can be a source of pride for all of us. By embracing innovation over hesitation and collaboration over resistance, we can lead by example, showing how local action can drive provincial and national progress.

Sincerely,
Greg LeBlanc,
Carp.

Letter: Carp reader excited about BESS announcements

Letter to the Editor

January 21, 2025

To the Editor,

This is very good news! The new location appears to answer community concerns about proximity to the village of Fitzroy Harbour, and I extend my appreciation to our Coun. Clarke Kelly for his role in negotiating this new location. Connecting directly into the local power supply is also a very significant improvement, rather than feeding into the provincial grid.

I am excited by the prospect of a community benefit fund of $250,000 annually for 20 years, as this would provide funds that are badly needed by many local organizations serving Ward 5 residents.

The stated commitment to open communication is very encouraging, and I sincerely hope this will allow for closer and ongoing collaboration with the community.

Nevertheless, I expect there will still be a need for education regarding this new technology, and hopefully there will be opportunities to ask questions and receive answers from trusted experts. In the meantime, the website referenced in the article looks to be a good place to start – https://www.getchargedottawa.ca/

Judy Makin
Carp, Ontario.

Letter: Reader's thoughts on Evolugen's open house

Letter to the Editor

February 24, 2025

To the Editor,

Yesterday, Feb. 23, Evolugen hosted an open house to brief the public and answer any questions about the South March BESS project. It was a super event. Very open, very honest, and very informative.

First, the turnout was impressive. The event was open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and, at mid-afternoon the room was pretty well packed, implying a lot of community interest. And they were there to learn, to ask questions, and to get honest, frank answers.

Second, Evolugen had brought in several of their and other experts to talk about specific aspects of the project – the plan, the why and where, design and build factors including environmental and safety considerations, and the benefits to West Carleton.

It was an excellent information session, one that could easily serve as a model as to how to properly inform and involve the public on similar issues.

I don't have any connection with Evolugen or with any of its partners or others associated with the project. I had gone there as a supporter of BESS and when I left, I was even more convinced that I'd made the right decision. I'm all for BESS – it's certainly right for our community.

Areas of the world have been storing energy for thousands of years, going back to the ancient Egyptians and Romans, with their water storage lakes, dams, and aqueducts. BESS does the same thing, only it stores electrical energy. At Niagara Falls, water is routinely pumped back upstream during nighttime to be reused later to generate more electricity. And, across North America, thousands of residences have chosen to be independent of the grid by opting for solar or windmill-generated power. The principle they follow using batteries to store energy when it's available, and using that energy when it's needed, is exactly the same as the BESS principle.

We need this technology, and we need it now. For the naysayers, I'd say just go back some 40 years or so when much of society was pooh-poohing the personal computer. Today, 40 years later. and even long before that, it's become a necessity in our lives. Same will be true for BESS.

Only a few years ago there was a shortage of electricity in this area, and hydro customers were converted to "time of day" metering. BESS will help alleviate that shortage, rain or shine, wind or no wind. It'll give us more energy during the day, when we need it most.

Rather than arguing with entrepreneurs like Evolugen, we should be welcoming them into our community. They're here to offer their expertise to help us circumvent future electrical shortages.

This is a win-win opportunity for West Carleton and the greater Ottawa area. Let's do it.

Ken Bowering,
Woodlawn.

PAGE 1 & 2

Letter: Gas Plants in West Carleton?

Letter to the Editor

January 27, 2025

To the Editor,

The writer claims that: "In Ontario, gas plants are doing a good job of balancing electricity demand." I would ask "at what cost"?

If natural gas is a better alternative to growing demand for electricity, imagine the outcry if instead of a BESS installation, IESO was awarding the building a gas plant in Ward 5, Ottawa. Natural gas is a fossil fuel and burning it emits greenhouse gases, mainly CO2 and NOx. These GHG's are the leading cause of global warming. While natural gas creates fewer emissions than burning coal (2.2x reduction), it has 110 times the emissions of nuclear. Not only is burning natural gas bad for global warming, but there are also negative health effects. For example, the death rates attributable to burning natural gas for electricity are 93 times that associated with using nuclear as a energy source [source: Our World in Data https://ourworldindata.org/safest-sources-of-energy%5D.

Finally, IESO is introducing BESS into the grid because BESS installations are cheaper, hence better for the Hydro rate payer, than their natural gas alternative.

Yes, BESS installations are typically sized to provide four hours at full discharge rate. They could last longer if the need is smaller or conversely, they could drain dry very quickly in a large-scale outage. One could also add more batteries to increase the discharge time if that made economic sense.

The primary use-case for BESS in Ontario is for frequency regulation, power factor correction and the firming of renewables. These are all use-cases where the power is delivered over a much shorter length of time than four hours.

Gas plants can provide grid services too. The worst form of gas plants are the 'peaker plants' that respond to varying demand. They very rarely operate at full power, which corresponds to peak efficiency, so most of the time we get more CO2 and NOx per kWh. A mix of BESS and gas plants allow the latter to operate more efficiently.

The absolute worst type of gas plant is the one that provides 'spinning reserve,' because gas plants need up to half an hour to stabilize before they can be attached to the grid. The IESO and other grid operators pay for the gas plants to 'spin' their turbines without connection to anything. All of those GHGs and dollars for no kWh at all. BESS replaces 'spinning reserve' gas plants.

Go to the following link to have a look at all the IESO contracts awarded under LTP1. It includes both gas plant expansions and BESS installations: https://www.ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Resource-Acquisition-and-Contracts/Long-Term-RFP-and-Expedited-Process.

Under the column heading of 'Fixed Capacity Payment' ($/MW-business day), oce can see the tremendous price differential between BESS installations and gas plant expansions. For example, under LTP1, the Fixed Capacity Payment ($/MW-business day) for:

- Fitzroy BESS is $669.60
- The Napanee Gas Generating Station Expansion is $1,674.01

For this specific comparison, the gas alternative is 2.5 times more expensive than BESS. I encourage you to have a look at the table.

Deploying BESS into Ontario's grid is catching up with what the rest of the world is doing because it's economical and because it reduces emissions that are exacerbating climate warming and endangering human health.

Don Sproule,
Ottawa.

PAGE 1 & 2

Letter: South March landowner excited for BESS project

Letter to the Editor

January 20, 2025

To the Editor,

As you may know, my family has lived in West Carleton for generations. We grew up here, farmed the land, started businesses, built homes and raised our families.

I personally am a sixth-generation resident continuing to live and work on the original land. Like you, I've seen many changes and a lot of growth in our community in my 50-plus years living here.

When I was recently approached by the Evolugen team regarding a battery storage project, it certainly grabbed my attention. I turned to my oldest son who actually works in the field of electric chemistry to discuss with him.

After gathering more information from my son, I met with the Evolugen team to learn more about the specific project, its purpose and how it would benefit our community.

As we all know, it seems power outages are becoming more common and it's apparent our current electrical grid is not keeping up with the growth and demand in our communities.

The Evolugen team took the time and addressed all my family's questions and explained their proposal in greater detail. The planned site will use approximately 10 acres of land in the back corner of our property on Marchurst Road, hidden from any homes, walking/hiking trails, etc.

Ontario Hydro built the hydro corridor in our community in the 1930s, which has allowed for the development of Ottawa and the surrounding communities for almost a century.

The added benefit of the proposed site is its close proximity to the existing transmission lines – the electrical infrastructure is already in place.

After lengthy discussions with the Evolugen team, it was clear this project was needed in our community for continued growth and development over the next century. I also learned these projects are being built across our province and around the world to transition to renewable energy sources; enhance grid stability; and supply the power we need now and in the future. Ours will hook directly into the South March substation.

What really got my attention was the $5 million Community Development Fund Evolugen is proposing. We have seniors in our community who need rides to medical appointments; volunteer organizations like the West Carleton Food Access Centre; and so many other deserving causes that need funding. The best part is the funds will stay in West Carleton and the residents of West Carleton will decide where this money goes.

I encourage you to go online at GetChargedOttawa.ca to learn more about the benefits of BESS projects in general and the community development fund. This is sure to have a significant positive impact for our community for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Wayne Carroll,
Longtime Resident of West Carleton/South March.

Ottawa's Energy Future: A Homegrown Solution

Dear fellow Ottawans,

Our city stands on the cusp of an energy transformation. As we navigate the complexities of climate change and strive for a more sustainable future, a unique opportunity has presented itself – the chance to embrace homegrown developers for our energy storage needs.

A battery energy storage system, or BESS, is the linchpin of a resilient grid. These systems are connected directly to the transmission lines, allowing them to leverage all of Ontario's existing clean energy, including nuclear by balancing supply and demand. It also allows us to harness renewable sources like solar and wind, even when the sun isn't shining, or the wind isn't blowing. It reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, lowers emissions, and helps stabilize energy costs. In short, it's a key component of a greener, more prosperous Ottawa region.

Here in Ottawa, we have a local developer, Evolugen, looking to build two BESS projects. These projects will improve reliability for rural residents and ensure these communities don't fall victim to their aging electrical infrastructure. This isn't just about embracing new technology; it's about supporting a made-in-Ottawa solution, boosting our local economy, and ensuring a reliable, clean energy supply for years to come.

Some may voice concerns about these projects, and it's important those concerns are heard and addressed. However, let's not let fear of the unknown overshadow the immense benefits this technology offers. We have the chance to be a leader in the clean energy transition, creating jobs, attracting investment, and building a more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.

Energy Storage is an emergent, some would say new, asset class – welcoming and nurturing local developers can vault such local champions to the forefront of a global sunrise industry, where credibility and track record are critical, specially when applicable to a developer's own domestic market.

I urge you to welcome this well-established technology with open arms. As Ottawans, let's reach out to our city councillors to express our support for a seminal deployment, showing our support for a made-in-Ottawa success story,

If you'd like to read about these projects yourself, go to www.GetChargedOttawa.ca

Let's seize this opportunity to build a brighter energy future for Ottawa.

Pierre Rivard
Ottawa resident
Energy technology entrepreneur and investor
Member, Canada's CleanTech Economic Strategy Table
Council Member, NRC National Research Council

KEN WHITE CONSTRUCTION
EST. 1968

South March BESS Letter of Support
Ken White Construction

May 14 2025

Dear Ottawa City Council,

Ken White Construction has been operating in this city for over five decades. We made our home in Ward 5 in 1968 and have seen our community grow immensely since then – our workers and their families here in West Carleton are behind a lot of it. We pride ourselves in supporting our communities and constructing infrastructure our residents rely on.

It's no secret that we've seen our fair share of power issues in Ward 5. The IESO is telling us we're not going to be able to keep up with demand. We need a more reliable grid, and we need it quickly. Evolugen, a Brookfield company, along with their partners the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn, have stepped up and offered the lowest cost solution for ratepayers.

This project will bring jobs, local funding, and help reduce emissions to fight climate change. Ken White Construction wants to be a part of the solution – a part of building Ontario's future. We expect that this project will allow KWC to employ a total of 20 additional local, hardworking individuals. These individuals will come from all local talent that live in and around the Marchurst area.This opportunity is a great way for a local company like ours—deeply rooted in Ward 5 and built over three generations—to grow, create local jobs, and showcase the strength of our family-run business.

We kindly ask that councillors support this project and help us prepare Ward 5 for what's to come.

Respectfully,

Taylor White

Ken White Construction

THOMAS CAVANAGH CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

613 257 2918
www.thomascavanagh.ca
9094 Cavanagh Road, Ashton, ON, K0A 1B0

To Ottawa City Council,

For over 70 years, Thomas Cavanagh Construction has been proud to serve as one of the largest contractors in West Carleton, helping build the roads, infrastructure, and public projects that shape our communities. With more than 1,200 employees—many of whom live in Ward 5—we take great pride in being part of Ottawa's growth.

As demand for electricity rises across the city, we believe battery storage is a smart, forward-looking solution. Projects like the South March Battery Energy Storage System will be critical to supporting new development, ensuring energy reliability, and keeping costs down. These are the types of infrastructure projects our team is built for—and has consistently delivered.

A project like South March would not only strengthen Ottawa's power grid but also create meaningful work for local families. It's a chance for Ottawa's tradespeople to gain experience in a fast-growing sector, while helping the City meet its energy goals in a sustainable way.

We encourage Council to support battery storage initiatives in our city and move forward with the South March project. Our team is ready to build—and we're ready to help power Ottawa's future.

Sincerely

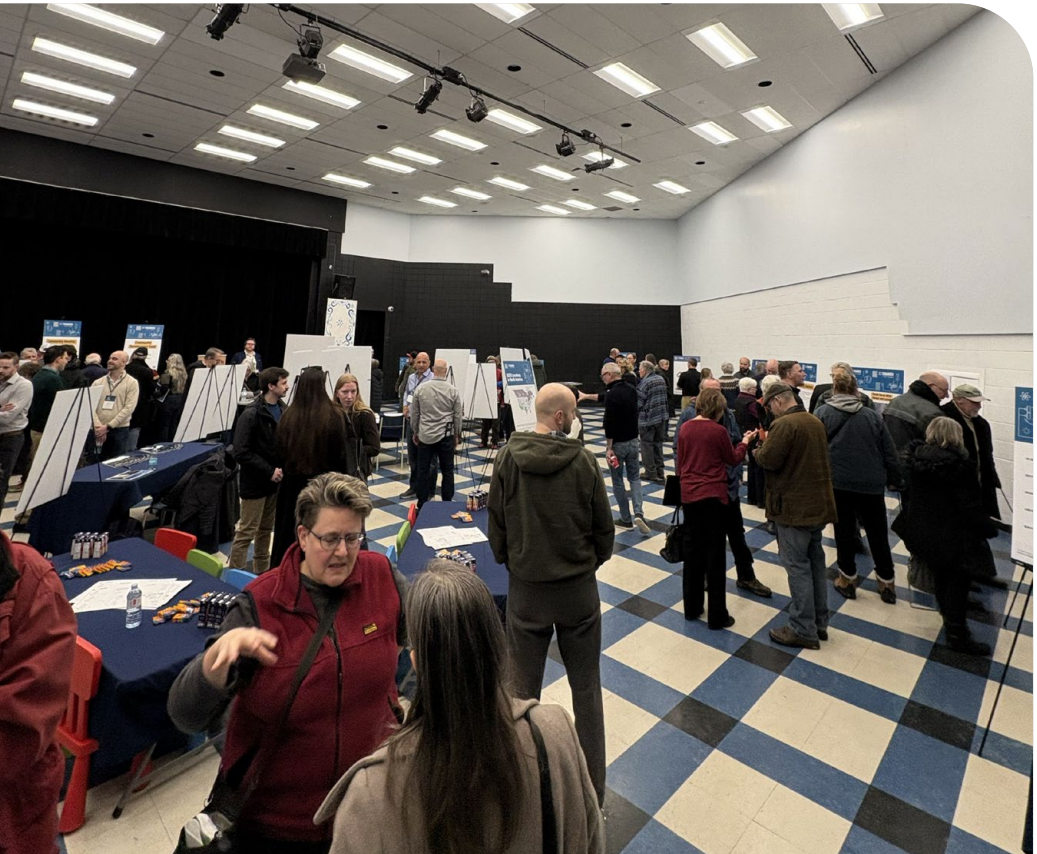
Jeff Cavanagh

BUILDING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Community Open House

On February 23, 2025, we were pleased to welcome over 200 residents of West Carleton and the surrounding area to our open house at West Carleton Secondary School, where we shared updates and information on our proposed South March battery energy storage system (BESS) project.

Designed as a drop-in from 1 to 6 p.m., the open house created an opportunity for one-on-one conversations between community members and our team of technical experts, environmental consultants, and development partners.



The event focused on key elements of the BESS project, including:

Safety and Environmental Considerations: Attendees were able to explore in-depth information about our approach to noise and light mitigation, fire safety measures, and emergency response protocols. We are committed to implementing best-in-class safety standards and ensuring the project integrates responsibly into the surrounding environment.

Community Development Fund (CDF): We introduced a $5-million Community Development Fund and invited input from residents on how this fund could best serve the needs of the West Carleton and South March communities.

The conversations at the open house were documented to ensure that resident feedback is considered throughout the development of the South March BESS project.

Ottawa's Electric Future: BESS Lunch and Learn Hosted by CAFES

On January 30, 2025, CAFES hosted a successful lunch and learn and networking event at Hub350 in the Kanata North Tech Park. About 100 attendees learned about innovation and "load shifting," which means storing energy when it is plentiful and then using it when demand peaks.

Councillor Cathy Curry, who spoke as a Kanata North Councillor and an acting Deputy Mayor, opened the session.

The event also featured the launch of the latest Dunsky Energy Report and brought together residents, community leaders, not-for-profits, business leaders, tech people and engineers, Ottawa Hydro representatives, and Ottawa councillors.

Advertising

Evolugen created and launched **GetChargedOttawa.ca**, a website designed to inform, educate, and dispel misinformation regarding battery energy storage systems.

To ensure a dynamic user experience, the website features:

Podcast series

Recent articles

BESS educational animation

FAQ and resident questions

Show your Support submission page

Evolugen launched an awareness campaign on Meta that has earned over 1.9 million impressions within the Ottawa area and received 2,500+ clicks to the Get Charged Ottawa landing page to date.

Efforts have focused on brand awareness through a video campaign that featured an animated explainer of BESS, reaching over 20,000 people.

Powering the Future Podcast

The Powering the Future Podcast explores battery energy storage with host Catherine Clark.

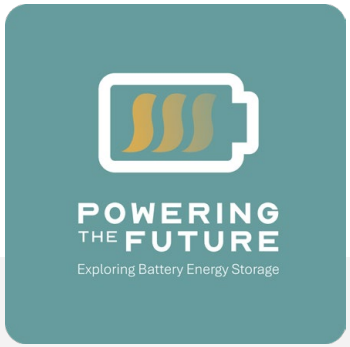
Clark speaks to local leaders and industry experts on the impact BESS has on the Ontario power grid, and the potential cost savings it could bring to Ontario ratepayers.

What is Battery Energy Storage and Why is it Needed?

Hosted by Catherine Clark, with Alex Simakov and Travis Lusney

Leading the Charge - How Municipalities are Integrating BES Systems into Local Grids

Hosted by Catherine Clark, with Jeff Graham and Sean Nicholson



Decarbonizing the Future - The Critical Role of BES Systems in Reducing Carbon Emissions

Hosted by Catherine Clark, with Judy Makin and Jennifer Gautreau

Energizing Progress - How BES Systems Meet Demand and Drive Economic Growth

Hosted by Catherine Clark, with Harneet Panesar

Community Development Fund ($250,000/year)

The South March Community Development Fund supports local projects that foster inclusivity, sustainability, and community growth.

It funds:

- **Infrastructure improvements**
- **Youth programs**
- **Cultural events**
- **Environmental sustainability initiatives**
- **Community wellness projects**

$250,000 will be contributed each year, for 20 years, to support the South March community, ensuring a substantial, lasting impact on local initiatives and sustainable development. This total investment of $5 million will help strengthen the foundation for a vibrant, healthy community for years to come.

A committee of local leaders, volunteers, and small business owners will make funding decisions.




GETCHARGED
SOUTH MARCH

South March Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Community Engagement

MAY 2025 REPORT