

SE ALBERTA ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southeast Alberta Energy Diversification Strategy (SEEDS)

Workforce Report Release

Medicine Hat, Alberta March 21, 2018.

The **Workforce Report** is the second report in the Southeast Alberta Energy Diversification Strategy. This report provides an overview of the renewable energy workforce and training opportunities. **In 2016, 9.8 million people around the world were employed in renewable energy.** Renewable energy is emerging in Alberta; specifically, Southeast Alberta as numerous large-scale solar and wind projects are planned for the region.

Sandra Moore is the Project Consultant for the SEEDS group, she engaged with over 80 stakeholders from the renewable energy industry, local businesses and industry associations, and community leaders to develop the four SEEDS reports in the strategy. “One of the main challenges stakeholders identified was that limited information and resources exist in our region regarding renewable energy in general and the employment opportunities that new industries like solar and wind can bring to our region” Moore states. “Many renewable energy companies who are interested in developing projects in SE Alberta do so because of a multitude of factors including our region’s abundant solar and wind resources and the skilled energy workforce that already exists in this region”.

The **Workforce Report** states that Alberta has a well-trained and experienced oil and gas workforce, and that many of the employment opportunities in renewable energy use similar skill sets. Similarly, large-scale renewable energy projects require workers with construction and trades experience including electricians, earth moving companies, crane operators, etc... and a highly skilled construction and trades workforce exists in SE Alberta.

“This report has highlighted opportunities for individuals and local companies to diversify into the renewable energy sector.” explains Theresa Hardiker executive director of the Economic Development Alliance of Southeast Alberta (EDA) “Giving this region an opportunity to leverage our experience and expertise to develop a strong industry in southeast Alberta.”

The report states that the two recent wind farms announced for the SE AB region will create an estimated 420 full-time equivalent temporary construction jobs and 30 permanent operations and maintenance jobs. Moore states that **stakeholders identified the following seven careers they think will be in demand in SE AB** as both large and small-scale renewable energy investment and

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development in the region increases: land agents, energy efficiency advisors, solar installers, wind turbine technicians, operations and maintenance managers, project/site managers, and electricians.

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The Workforce Report also provides Career Profiles of 8 individuals working in renewable energy from the SE Alberta region including land agents, solar installers, general managers, site supervisors, and controllers.

The final two reports of the **Southeast Alberta Energy Diversification Strategy** will be released later. The **Innovation and Supply Chain Report** focuses on innovation and regional economic impacts in SE Alberta from increasing renewable and clean energy investment and development. The final report, the **Moving Forward Report**, provides an overview of planned large-scale renewable energy projects in SE AB and an analysis of the potential economic impacts these projects could bring to SE Alberta. All reports will be available on the SEEDS website www.seedsalberta.ca

If you would like more information and timely updates on this initiative, please sign up for our newsletter by visiting our website - www.seedsalberta.ca

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