

SE ALBERTA ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY

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Southeast Alberta Energy Diversification Strategy (SEEDS)

Moving Forward

Medicine Hat, Alberta May 14, 2018.

The **Moving Forward** is the fourth report in the Southeast Alberta Energy Diversification Strategy, providing a summary of the three reports and looks at renewable energy projects planned for the SE AB region moving forward. Investing in solar and wind energy will create employment opportunities, help diversify SE AB's economy, and may also lead to SE AB emerging as a provincial and national leader in renewable energy development and innovation.

This final fourth report of the Southeast Alberta Energy Diversification Strategy explores the potential employment and economic impacts of large-scale (over 1MW) solar and wind projects planned for SE AB.

In 2016, SEEDS explored the projects listed on the Alberta Electric Systems Operator (AESO) Connection List as of December 31, 2016 in the Southeast Alberta Energy Diversification Report: Our Region, Our Jobs, Our Communities. In this Moving Forward Report we look at the planned projects on the list as of December 31, 2017 and compare them to the 2016 information.

We found that planned large-scale solar and wind projects are increasing in both Alberta and SE AB.

- Planned **large-scale solar and wind projects in Alberta** increased from 85 in 2016 to 127 in 2017.
- Planned **large-scale solar and wind projects in SE AB** increased from 35 in 2016 to 61 in 2017.
- Planned **large-scale solar projects in SE AB** increased from 16 in 2016 to 35 in 2017.
- Planned **large-scale wind projects in SE AB** increased from 19 in 2016 to 26 in 2017.

If all of these SE AB projects went ahead, over the next two decades they would equate to:

- **\$12.8 billion** in capital project investment;
- nearly **30,000** temporary FTE construction jobs;
- almost **900** permanent operations and maintenance jobs;
- **\$1.2 billion** in landowner lease payments (over 20 years); and
- **\$1.25 billion** in municipal tax revenues (over 20 years).

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“These figures are based on formulaic estimates of what the employment and economic impacts could be in SE AB from these 61-planned large-scale solar and wind projects” states Sandra Moore, Project Consultant for SEEDS and author of the report, “it is important to remember that they are estimates covering two decades and these estimates are

based on all the assumption that all these projects will go ahead as planned.”

Moore continues, “SE AB is well known for its expertise in non-renewable energy, the emerging renewable energy industries in our region present additional opportunities to build on our success as an energy leader. These planned solar and wind projects show that there is valuable employment and economic impacts for our region associated with diversification into renewable energy and clean technology.”

“Emerging renewable industries help to attract new investment, create a new labour force and generate exciting opportunities for SE Alberta.” explains Theresa Hardiker, Executive Director of the Economic Development Alliance of Southeast Alberta.

The **Southeast Alberta Renewable Energy Strategy** is comprised of four reports focused on the renewable energy industry, workforce, and related economic development in SE AB. These include:

1. Industry Report
2. Workforce Report
3. Innovation and Supply Chain Report
4. Moving Forward Report

In total for this strategy, we engaged with over 60 stakeholders from the renewable and clean energy industries and business community in SE AB, and over 20 community and government stakeholders.

All reports will be available on the SEEDS website www.seedsalberta.ca

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

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