

Climate Change and Energy Security: Information Session for Local Government Action

Climate change and energy security are growing issues that impact very directly upon our local governments. With TWO "once in a century" floods in the past 4 years I think it's becoming clear these are not singular events and there will be more to come.

The four municipalities that comprise our County realize that doing nothing is not an option. They also recognize the urgency to assess these eventualities and how to deal with them. To this end, each of the Municipalities have formed committees to address these issues. The Minden Hills, "Climate Change and Action Committee" is one such committee.

With respect to our Committees, a few things have become obvious, i) we are dealing with some of the same issues (redundancy) and ii) some of the issues require authority not in our purview. (ie) flood mitigation and energy generation) That is to say, none of the committees, nor the respective Municipalities, have the autonomy/authority for planning and decision making for what are County-wide initiatives... Only the County can do that.

Climate change and energy security issues are not limited to Minden Hills. We all need to work together; County Government, Municipalities, and residents, to create solutions.

Tackling these issues as a collective can realize additional benefits;

- i) we can draw ideas/solutions from a broader base
- ii) we can avoid the redundancies of costly duplication of efforts and resources
- iii) the collective approach provides for a more efficient and effective approach
- iv) AND by acting as a collective we will, by extension, have a stronger rural voice.

As a result of the afore mentioned considerations, this information session was conceived with the objective of encouraging a County initiative.

We are going to need an *action plan* and we are going to need funding. The good news is that there are resources available to aide in dealing with these challenges. There is money available to local governments for planning and action through The Federation of Canadian Municipalities and through various Provincial Ministry Programs.

This information session will include presentations by *Ian McVey* of the Ontario Climate Consortium Secretariat, (on behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities), *Josh Shook* from the Ministry of Energy. As well as representatives *James Scott and Patrick Fancott* from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

They are here to present information on programs for funding opportunities and to provide assistance for a viable Action Plan.

Thank you.

We hope you enjoy the session.