

Opportunities and Challenges Introduction

Objectives:

- Gather observations from the group on challenges and opportunities facing your community with respect to energy. When you combine all the perspectives and experiences of your energy committee members, you may discover you know more than you think about your community's energy needs.

Roles and Supplies Needed:

- *Opportunities and Challenges* worksheet
- Note-taker to record ideas on the worksheet as the group discusses

Suggested Duration: 30 minutes

Instructions:

Complete the *Challenges and Opportunities* worksheet together as a team. Try to make one or two observations about energy use for each group in your town (residents, businesses/institutions, municipality/schools). You don't need to have an observation in every box of the chart. A few guiding questions and a sample chart are included on the first page of the worksheet.

Take notes on your worksheet as you go so the group can have a record of this conversation.

Tips:

- It's easy to get carried away with this one, so if you've got a lot of other business on your meeting agenda, set a timer and stop this exercise at 30 minutes even if you're not done. If you're deep in conversation about local energy use when the timer goes off, GOOD! The activity is working, time to MOVE ON! You can always circle back later if you want to continue the conversation.
- If you feel like you're getting off track, ask everyone to pause the conversation and re-focus on a section of the chart you haven't discussed yet.
- Feel free to ask the note-taker to briefly summarize what you've got so far.
- We're asking you to make a lot of assumptions about the energy needs of many stakeholders in your community. Consider assigning a volunteer to follow-up by going right to the source and asking residents, businesses, or town leaders what their energy challenges and opportunities are. Then report back to the group at your next meeting.