



Bulletin – Oct 2016 from pete.lovering@southgrow.com

South Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership (SAAEP)

We are currently working on plans for some website updates (www.saaep.ca) as well as moving the partnership forward to reach out to companies interested in Renewable Energy builds in Alberta. Some of our studies date back almost 10 years and we would also like to update them as well, given the current push towards renewables. Our team of Economic Development Lethbridge, Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance and SouthGrow will be meeting shortly to develop some terms of reference for moving forward. We understand that there will be an announcement during the first week of November from the Alberta Government and we would like to maintain this region as a leader in the Renewable Energy field along with the economic benefits that come as a result of existing projects and new projects.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

In partnership with Calgary Regional Partnership and Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance, SouthGrow is looking at options about the deployment of charging stations in the region. As electric vehicles become more popular, especially in high urban populations, we find there is currently no way to attract owners of these vehicles to our popular southern tourism sites and festivals. Plans are currently underway to map a grid of charging stations and to seek Federal funding for a deployment of these units.

Broadband

On the last day of October, we signed a contract with the Province of Alberta to embark upon a project for Regional Broadband Preparedness. We expect this program to start shortly so stay tuned for more announcements as we move forward.

In the SouthGrow region of the province, we now have 6 fibre communities with AXIA serving their urban areas and two communities with Telus serving their urban areas. The next steps are to work toward more builds and making this region of the province the most connected. Access to fibre is a great economic benefit for new and existing businesses.

Investment Attraction

Unfortunately, our AMA application for Investment Attraction was declined. Fortunately, we have been granted some funds under the new CARES program that will allow this program to go forward. We look forward to contacting our members over the coming weeks to embark upon Investment plans for each of them and to continue our work on Business To Business matching with other regions of the world

Chinese Business to Business

During the first part of October, we were happy to host a delegation of Chinese businesses to Southern Alberta. This was made possible with some cash from each of our partners and with some funding from the Federal ICCL program. Our partnership included Economic Development Lethbridge (EDL), Lethbridge County, Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance and ourselves. This would not have been possible without a lot of help from EDL. Heather and Max, and the whole team helped to pull this all together and we are grateful for their support that included the whole South Central and South West part of the province. Our Chinese business friends were very impressed with the exposure that they got to our food processing, renewable energy/fuels, land opportunities and tourism operations. We look forward to creating more opportunities like this in the coming months.

CARES Funding

As you might be aware, REDAs have received \$100,000 per year over the next two years to work on projects that enhance our economic development efforts. We referred to that above in the Investment Attraction paragraph. The SouthGrow board has made plans and submitted a work plan to Economic Development and Trade for their consideration. These funds are in addition to the Provincial CARES funding which allows communities, registered non-profits, and others to apply for funding. REDAs can also apply for funding and these programs do not inhibit a member's application under the partnership rules of the program. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Lovering, Manager