



CASES PARTNERSHIP INTERNATIONAL FORUM REPORT MAY 10TH & 11TH, 2022



ACEP
Alaska Center for Energy and Power

SSHRC  **CRSH**
Partnership Project 895-2019-1007



CASES Partnership



The Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security (CASES) Partnership is hosted by the University of Saskatchewan and jointly led by an international team of researchers and partners from Canada, the United States, Sweden, and Norway. The partnership is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC, Partnership Project 895-2019-1007) and public and private sector partners.

International Forum

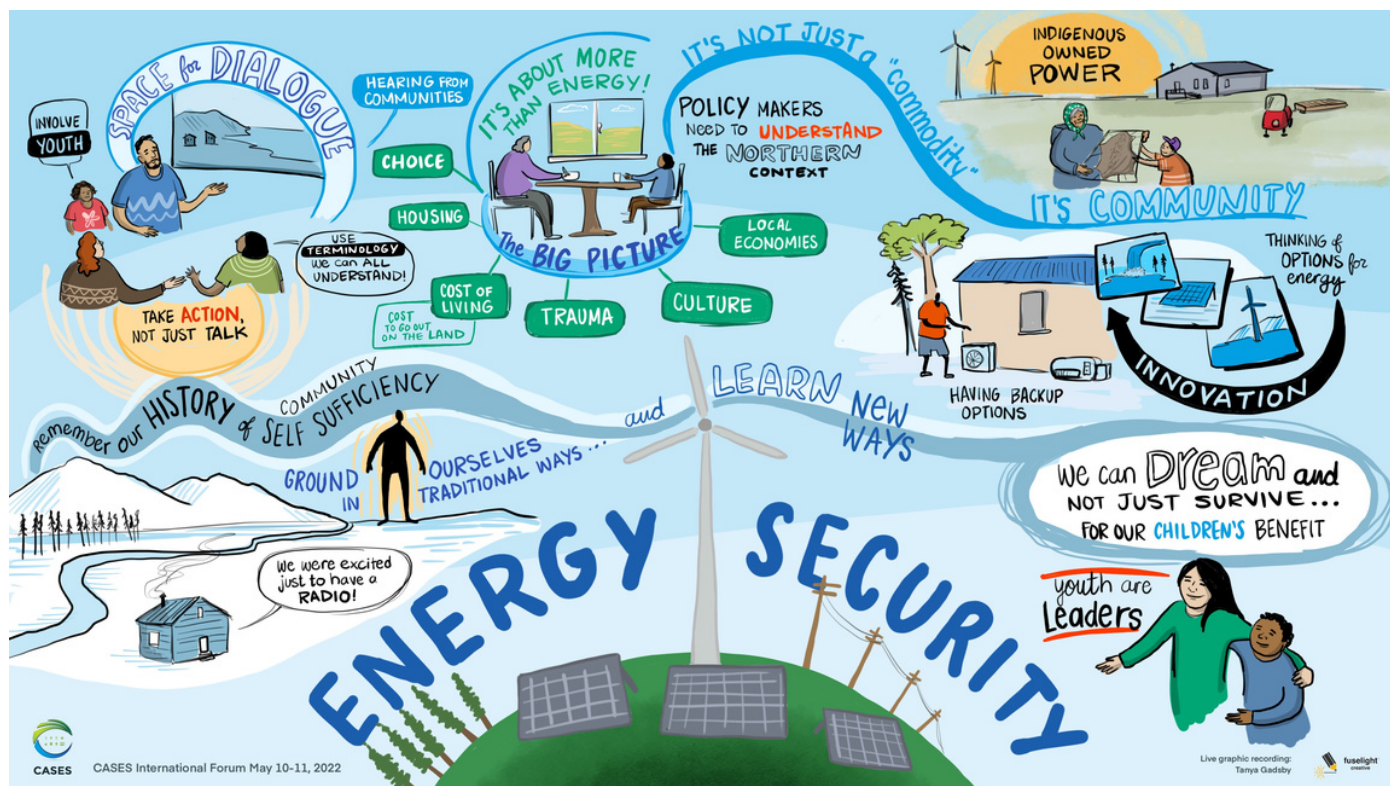
After a lengthy delay due to the global pandemic, the CASES Partnership project was able to hold our first International Forum on May 10th and 11th, 2022. The University of Saskatchewan and the Alaskan Center for Energy & Power (ACEP) co-hosted the event, which combined both virtual group sessions and local in-person events in both Saskatoon, SK and Fairbanks, Alaska.

The forum allowed for the sharing of preliminary research results from the CASES Partnership project, presentations from experts, and opportunities for partners from Alaska and Canada to connect and build relationships for future collaboration.



Forum Themes

The in-person events were joined together virtually over two days and focused on the following themes: **Energy Security** and **Energy Futures**.



Forum Participants



Participants included researchers from the UofS, University of Alaska Fairbanks' (UAF) ACEP and the University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) Institute for Social and Economic Research; representatives from CASES communities Deschambault Lake (SK), Southend (SK), Fort McPherson (NWT), Aklavik (NWT), Inuvik (NWT), Galena (AK), Arctic Village (AK), and Kotzebue (AK); and elders and other community members from the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN), Yukon and Fairbanks regions. Additional participants also joined the event virtually.



Map showing CASES communities in Canada, Alaska, Norway and Sweden.

Virtual Sessions



In-person sessions in Saskatoon, SK and Fairbanks, Alaska were joined together virtually for the morning sessions both days of the forum.

Day 1 presentations included:

Welcome & Overview, Dr. Terry Fonstad & Jackie Martin (USask)

Sharing Success: Community Context, Gwen Holdmann (ACEP)

CASES Partnership Project, Dr. Bram Noble (USask)

Empowering Imagination and Unleashing SE Futures, Dr. Clark Miller (ASU)

Day 2 presentations and discussions included:

CASES Video - Energy Security, CASES Partnership (USask)

Synthesis of Day 1, Dr. Bram Noble (USask) and Dr. Diane Hirshberg (UAA)

Introduction to the Energy Gateway, Dr. Vikas Menghwani (USask)

Community Profile: Galena, Alaska, Tim Kalke

Group discussion, facilitated group discussions on the Energy Gateway needs and utility

Project Next Steps, Summer Research Activities and Opportunities,
Dr. Bram Noble (USask)

Group discussions on Day 2 were held to compare and contrast the similarities and differences between the communities in Alaska and Canada. Valuable insights were shared. We thank all those that were able to participate in these knowledge sharing activities.

Future events will be held in Norway and Sweden. Please visit our website for event updates and reports.

[WWW.RENEWABLEENERGY.USASK.C](http://WWW.RENEWABLEENERGY.USASK.CA)
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Workshop Session



Following the virtual component on Day 1, the local events went off-line and conducted an in-depth workshop with forum participants. Facilitated discussions were centred around four main questions:

1. What are the biggest energy challenges faced in northern & remote communities?
2. When we say "energy security", what does that mean (e.g. dimensions, conditions, youth)?
3. What do you want your community's energy future to look like - i.e. goals?
4. What could northern communities do (more, differently) with more secure and affordable energy?



What We Heard



Responses and discussion themes are summarized below.

What are the biggest energy challenges faced in northern and remote communities?

- Technology-related challenges exist, but social challenges are often more prominent
- The use of inaccessible language by researchers and experts when discussing energy limits the involvement of community members because it creates a barrier to understanding.
- There is often difficulty in getting youth interested in energy and involved in opportunities in the community.
- Navigating the unique community contexts can be challenging. For example, historic and ongoing trauma as well as the ongoing work to revitalize language and traditions can make it difficult to get community members to become engaged in things like energy projects.
- The high cost of electricity and heating fuels continues to be a challenge for communities. In some communities electricity costs are higher whereas in others it is heating fuel that is of greater concern.
- The inclusion of Indigenous people, traditions, culture, and values in energy systems and decision making is often challenging due to the western nature of the systems.
- Poor housing quality is of concern as it contributes to inefficiency.

What We Heard

Continued...



When we say “energy security”, what does that mean (e.g. dimension, conditions, youth, etc.)?

- It means different things to different people and in different communities.
- Having reliable back up systems at the household and community levels.
- It's not just about energy but also about the additional social and economic benefits that can go along with it.
- Prioritizing youth and future generations is a key aspect, as they are the future leaders.
- Incorporating traditional values into energy projects and decisions.
- It's not just the responsibility of the utility, but also of other entities and the broader community.
- It's important to include consideration for subsistence and how it uses energy (e.g. snowmachines).



What We Heard

Continued...



What do you want your community's energy future to look like - i.e. goals?

- Blend of sources, like a northern community's economy
- Take care of vulnerable groups through subsidies
- Inclusion of youth, education programs
- Combining energy goals with community goals
- Imagination, outside the box thinking
- Developing local workforce
- Partnerships with government and industry
- Not about extraction/making money
- Indigenous owned power companies



What We Heard Continued...



What could northern communities do (more, differently) with more secure and affordable energy?

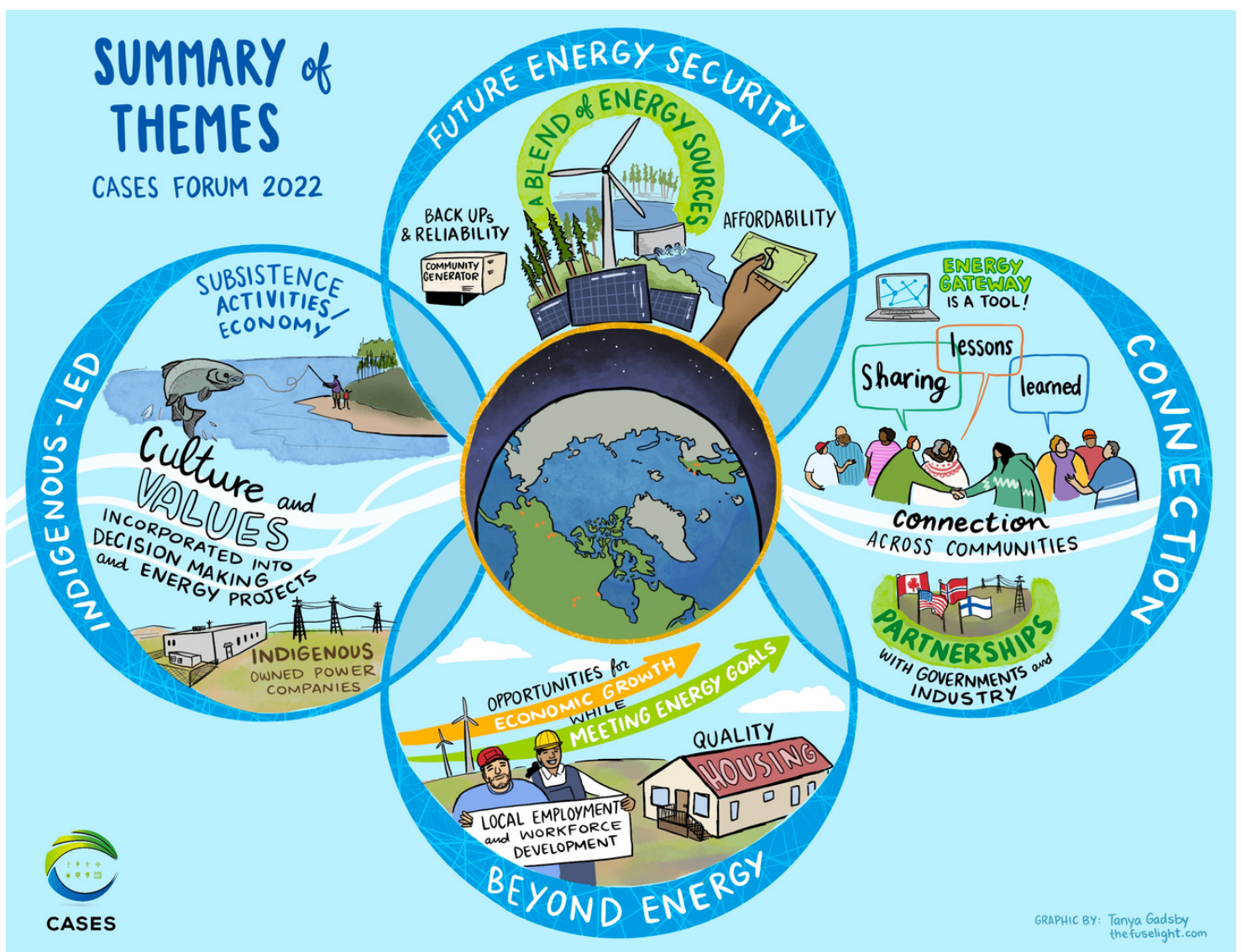
- New economic opportunities like new businesses, ecotourism and educational opportunities are needed
- Having more financial security where money stays in the communities (sovereignty).
- Support stronger subsistence lifestyle and economy if costs were of less concern



Summary of Themes



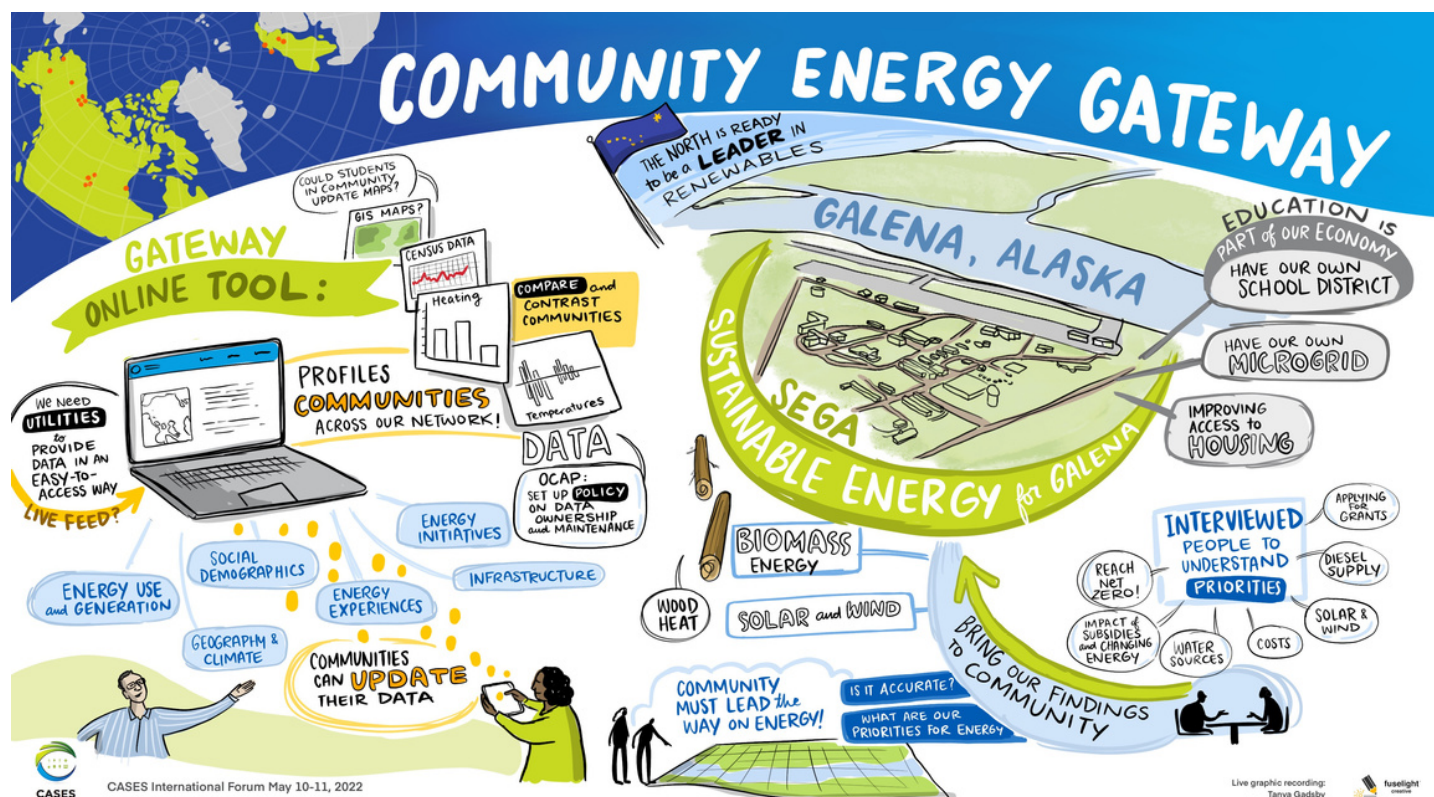
A common thread throughout the event's presentations and discussions was that energy systems and projects are not just about energy, but also about the other social and economic benefits that can go along with them. For example, when discussing the biomass system in Galena, AK, a community member said: "it's not just about making those [wood] chips, it's about making sure the youth in Galena can walk across the stage with their diploma."



Energy Gateway



Dr. Vikas Menghwani (USask) is leading the development of the CASES Energy Gateway - a northern Circumpolar knowledge sharing platform, comprised of model community energy plans, energy transition tool-kits, and stories from international experience for communities, utilities and researchers to network, exchange knowledge, and facilitate long-term capacity building. The preliminary platform was introduced and the form and function was discussed with the group.



Access to the Gateway, and a link to provide feedback, can be found on the CASES website: www.renewableenergy.usask.ca

Next Steps



The CASES Partnership is now in its fourth year of a seven year project. Important next steps will include:

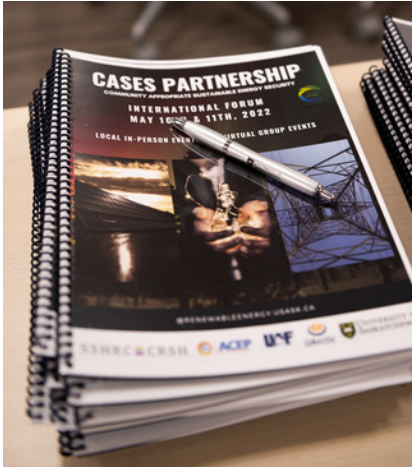
- Continued community engagement
- CASES Event - Sweden
- CASES Event - Norway
- Validating energy profiles with utilities for accuracy
- Launching the Energy Gateway Platform



Photographs



Photographs



Photographs



CASES Partners



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