

CASES PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY APPROPRIATE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SECURITY

CASES Webinar Series: CRE Projects and sustainable development in Northern communities December 13th 2023 12-1pm CST



Rural Northern communities often struggle to build and maintain sustainable economies. The current models of economic development often do not provide paths to long-term sustainable communities. Concurrently, the concept of human development and wellbeing in the Arctic is being reimagined beyond traditional economic indicators, which drives the need for new projects and industries that can support local economies and contribute to overall community wellbeing. Community renewable energy (CRE) projects have been proposed as a driver of sustainable development in the Arctic and globally. Research on CRE projects has highlighted many hypothesized socio-economic benefits. However, there is a limited understanding of the mechanisms that generate these socioeconomic benefits. This thesis seeks to identify the mechanisms that make CRE projects drivers of sustainable development in rural Northern communities by advancing a CRE model, called the community renewable energy framework, informed by a nation building approach and the concept of creative class. The nation building approach highlights the importance of self-governance, competent governing institutions, cultural match, and strategic orientation are instrumental. These factors provide the foundation for deriving socioeconomic benefits from CRE but it is not sufficient to catalyze a new future in Northern communities. The creative class concept, with critical adaptations, can be applied to CRE projects to extend their impact beyond the direct benefits and catalyze sustainable development through the creation of a local creative class. Finally, this conceptual framework is applied to a community in Northern Norway. This thesis contributes to the body of research highlighting the potential of CRE projects to catalyze sustainable development in Northern communities.

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PRESENTED BY: Josie Ward

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Josie is a graduate student in the School of Environment and Sustainability. Her current work focuses on the potential of community renewable energy projects to build sustainable and enduring communities. Prior to attending Usask she earned a Master of West Nordic Studies, Governance and Sustainable Management from the University of the Faroe Islands, awarded in 2020. Her undergraduate studies were completed at the University of Missouri, from which she was awarded a Bachelor of Economics in 2018. While studying in the Faroe Islands, Josie developed an interest in Arctic studies and sustainable development of the Arctic region. This interest inspired her to complete a semester-long exchange at the University of Greenland and an internship at the UArctic Thematic Networks and Research Liaison office at the University of Oulu in Finland.



**The presentation will be live through Zoom
December 13th, 2023 12-1pm Saskatchewan**

Meeting link: [https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/95037121277?
pwd=UjdKTKk5kdExkV0hNb1JVYllvWG02QT09](https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/95037121277?pwd=UjdKTKk5kdExkV0hNb1JVYllvWG02QT09)

Meeting ID: 915 1895 6142

Passcode: 62369704

All are welcome to attend

A recording will be made available on the CASES website:

<https://renewableenergy.usask.ca/events/cases-webinar-series.php>

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