### **Community Engagement Plan**

**1. Project Overview**

* **Project Title and Description:**

*Wildfire Microgrid Resilience for BC*: This project aims to create a microgrid system for British Columbia to provide power supply during wildfires, particularly to rural and Indigenous communities. We plan to use existing BC wildfire datasets to identify vulnerable areas and design microgrid solutions that enhance power reliability and resilience.

* **Timeline:**

*start*: November 2024

*Milestones*:

* + Data Analysis Completion: December 2024
  + Initial Microgrid Design: January 2025
  + Community Engagement: February 2025
  + Final Implementation Plan: April 2025

*End*: May 2025

* **Community:**

Rural residents, including Indigenous communities affected by wildfire such as Secwepemc and Okanagan

**2. Engagement Goals**

* **Main Goal:**

Ensure the community understands the benefits of the microgrid system and actively involves them in the design process to meet their specific needs during wildfire events.

* **Additional Goals:**

Build relationships with local communities to gather feedback and understand their specific power requirements.

Increase community awareness regarding power resilience during wildfires.

**3. Who Are the Stakeholders?**

* **Key Stakeholders:**
* Local residents (particularly those in rural and Indigenous areas).
* BC Hydro (power utility company).
* Local government authorities.
* Indigenous community leaders.
* *Researcher*
* *Media*
* **Roles:**

*Residents*: Provide input on power needs and issues faced during wildfires.

*BC Hydro*: Collaborate on technical requirements and implementation feasibility.

*Local government*: Help in coordination and policy advocacy.

*Indigenous leaders*: Ensure that Indigenous community needs and priorities are met.

*Researchers:* Provide data on wildfire risks, power needs, and effective safety measures. Help guide decisions on power resilience based on scientific insights.

*Media:* Inform the public about wildfire developments, safety protocols, and critical updates. Amplify voices from affected communities, highlighting urgent needs and promoting awareness.

**4. Engagement Methods**

* **How Will You Engage Them?**
* Conduct community meetings (in-person/online) to gather feedback and understand needs.
* Surveys to capture detailed input from residents regarding their power usage and concerns.
* Collaborative workshops with BC Hydro and community representatives.

**5. Communication Plan**

* **Key Messages:**

We are working to ensure a stable power supply for rural and Indigenous communities during wildfires.

Your input is crucial for us to design a resilient and effective system.

* **How Will You Communicate?**

Both online and in-person meetings will be conducted to reach different segments of the community based on convenience.

* **How Often?**

Updates will be provided at key milestones, such as initial analysis, microgrid design completion, and community input sessions.

**6. Timeline**

* **Engagement Phases:**

*Awareness*: Introduce the project to the community (November 2024).

*Feedback*: Conduct meetings and surveys (February 2025).

*Follow-up*: Share design updates and gather additional feedback (March 2025).

* **Key Dates:**

Initial Community Meeting: November 30, 2024

Survey Distribution: February 1, 2025

Follow-up Workshops: March 15, 2025

**7. Success Criteria**

* **How Will You Measure Success?**

Number of community members participating in meetings and surveys.

Quality of feedback received and incorporation of community input in microgrid design.

Community satisfaction as measured by post-engagement surveys.

**8. Resources**

* **Budget & Materials:**
* Printing flyers for awareness.
* Online tools for surveys and virtual meetings.
* Budget for in-person workshops.
* **People:**
* Project team members.
* Volunteers to assist with community engagement events
* BC Hydro representatives for technical support.
* Scientists such as UBCO researcher
* Media

**9. Challenges & Solutions**

* **Potential Challenges:**
* Low community engagement or interest.
* Technical challenges in explaining microgrid systems to residents.
* **Solutions:**
* Offer incentives for survey participation (e.g., gift cards).
* Simplify technical information using visuals and community workshops.
* Utilize multiple communication channels to reach a broader audience.