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on behalf of Alex Benzie [on.caucus@questcanada.org]  
**Sent:** 2017-05-30 11:01:02 AM  
**To:** Tam Wagner [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=70ad853871354761a98848de59c4c792-Tam Wagner]  
**Subject:** New Growth Plan Reflects Municipal Working Group Recommendations

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It's been another busy month here in Ontario - we've seen the release of a new Budget, an updated Growth Plan, and the introduction of the Fair Hydro Act. Find out what this all means for Smart Energy Communities, along with new ways to showcase your project success stories!



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*Alex Benzie, Lead, QUEST Ontario Services*

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## Updated Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Reflects QUEST's Recommendations

On May 17th, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs released its updated **Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**. We're thrilled to see many of our Municipal Working Group's recommendations incorporated, including:

- implementing a land use planning agenda that prioritizes compact mixed use communities across all settlement types to enhance the viability of public transportation options
- Encouraging municipalities to advance the development of Community Energy Plans as part of a complete community
- Supporting urban design patterns that promote energy efficiency, demand reduction, and opportunities for integrated energy systems such as district energy

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## 2017 Provincial Budget Highlights

Ontario's **latest budget** also includes several considerations for the development of Smart Energy Communities, such as:

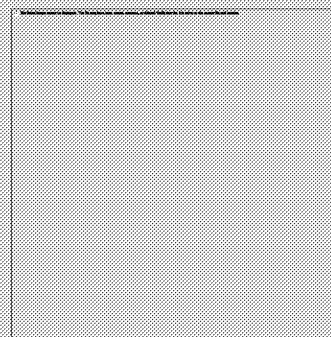
- \$100 million to expand the natural gas grid to under-served rural, remote and First Nation communities
- Over \$600 million in programming to help schools, households, businesses, and social housing units improve energy efficiency
- Increasing the share of revenue municipalities receive from gas tax, to allow municipalities to improve and expand transit systems



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## Other Upcoming Events

*In Ontario:*

**May 29-June 1 EV 2017,  
Markham**

**May 30 The Energy  
Roundtable, Toronto**

**June 1-4 FCM's Annual  
Conference and Trade**

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## Financial Accountability Office (FAO) on the Fair Hydro Plan (FHP)

The FAO released their **assessment of the FHP** (to be enacted via Bill 132, *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017*) last week. According to the report, the program will result in a net cost to Ontarians of \$21 billion.

Over the next few months, we'll be monitoring the relationship between the FHP, the IESO's Conservation Framework Mid-Term Review, and the upcoming Long Term Energy Plan. Stay tuned!

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## Electric Vehicle Charging Ontario (EVCO) Gains Momentum

Congrats to the Town of Caledon and the County of Wellington - who are among the latest municipalities to add EV charging infrastructure to their communities as part of the EVCO program!

Though the Province-wide program is behind schedule, 40% of the charging network is now in service. An updated map of installed (and soon to be installed) stations is found [here](#).

We'll be discussing this, along with other advances and challenges in transportation, at our upcoming Caucus meeting - *tentatively set for June 28th (details to come soon)*.

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## Nominate your project for a Smart Energy Communities Award!

Good news for those of you looking to showcase your exciting new projects - nominations for QUEST's annual Smart Energy Community Awards are **now open!**

The Awards are presented annually to recognize leadership and innovation in advancing Smart Energy Communities in Canada.

Show, Ottawa

June 12 IESO Stakeholder Summit, Toronto

June 28 Tentative QUEST Ontario Caucus Meeting, GTA

September 22-24 Green Energy Doors Open (GEDO), Various Locations

*Across Canada:*

May 17-19 Renewable Cities Global Learning Forum, Vancouver

May 30- June 1 CaGBC's Building Lasting Change Conference, Vancouver

June 17-21 Building Resilience 2017, Calgary

Sept 18-20 Livable Cities Forum, Victoria

Oct 1-5 AGM of World Energy Cities Partnership, Halifax

October 24-27 Renewables in Remote Microgrids, Whitehorse

View the **QUEST Calendar** for a full listing of Events.

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Winners will be announced at the QUEST2017 Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony on November 7th, 2017.

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### **New Funding Opportunity for Community Initiatives**

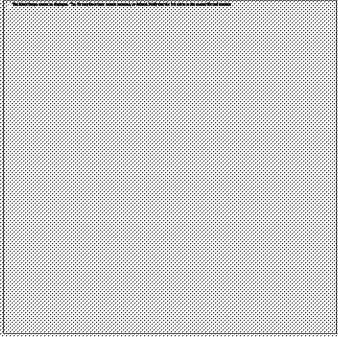
Environmental Defence is soliciting proposals from organizations and communities across Ontario undertaking projects related to community energy planning, improving building energy efficiency, and local transportation solutions. Proposals are due June 5th, and details can be found [here](#).

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### **Join the conversation on LinkedIn!**

Looking to chat about the developments above while connecting with peers across the country? Join our new, national [LinkedIn Group](#) to share your thoughts, stories and successes as we work together to advance Smart Energy Communities in Canada.

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