

Public Consultation Meeting Summary

Meeting Location: Coaldale	
Date: May 8, 2007	
Start and end time: 6:00 – 8:30pm	
Number of Attendees from the Public: 14	
Community Features Identified	Recommendations from Community
<p>Social and Cultural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small town appeal – friendly, small schools, opportunities to become involved with local boards and service organizations • Everything you need within 15 minutes – most services are in Coaldale, the rest are in Lethbridge; no need to go to Calgary • Choice of schools – separate, public, alternative, Dutch • Communities amenities – parks, library, museum, Birds of Prey, churches • Recreation – pools, baseball, curling, soccer, hockey, figure skating, dance • Medical services – doctors, dentists, optometrists, hospital in town; specialists in Lethbridge • Proximity to research institutions – WISE, U of L, Research Station, College; can service high tech industries • Family events – parade, Festivals of Lights, Family Day events • Young population – open to change; 45% of Lethbridge County under 25 years; 75% less than 45 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and education within the community will support green growth • Coaldale could be a leader in Alberta for green growth and business development • Room for Green Growth in the community
<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse agriculture – crops already being adapted to provide bio-mass supply • Irrigation – allows flexibility • Affordable housing – cheaper than Lethbridge • Varied service sector – welders, fabricators, electricians • Manufacturing • Steady growth, less variable – due to variety of economic drivers in the community • Transportation hub – access to rail, airport, highways in all directions, including to U.S. • Skilled labour force and access to research – from colleges, research centres, university • Good labour supply – from young population • Small business community – entrepreneurial mindset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community needs to apply pressure to government to get political will to support access to alternative energy products, e.g. diesel vehicles • Review existing commercial conditions; land for development needs to be made available; consider tax incentives • Designate industrial sites in land use plan • Since there are no more water licenses available, look for ways to treat and conserve water supply, e.g. re-use waste water from one enterprise to another • Look at green options and incentives for new home construction • Government needs to ensure level playing field for all energy sources, e.g. tar sands have lower standards for polluting than other sectors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider incentives for consumers who retrofit or new installations of alternative energy options • Need standards for forms of alternative energy (e.g. diesel) to enable more widespread use and protect consumers. This also applies to biogas development to protect residents from odour. • Keep improving business accessibility
<p>Environment and Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent Irrigation Structure – consistency in production; potential for electrical generation on canals, and also a source of local demand. • Land – 95% crop land, 75% is irrigated • Manure – asset for biofuels opportunities • Cellulose based ethanol – area provides good opportunity for this technology • Agricultural Community – opportunity to sell byproducts to this big market • Soil – area has #1,2, and 3 soils – some of the best soil in Canada • Ridges – areas of marginal agricultural land, but could provide good location for wind energy such as Chin Ridge. Grazing land would be compatible with wind development, but not crop land. • Special Areas – Old Man River Valley, Scabby Butte by Nobleford, the Sundial at Picture Butte, Milk River Ridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations regarding energy production through biofuels need to be revised. The need to locate production within one mile of the market to avoid having to put electricity into the grid and build pipelines for gas is an economic disadvantage to these development opportunities.
<p>Other Issues Raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need legitimate sources of information about alternative energy options, implications, where to locate green growth. • Need information and perhaps regulation changes with respect to “reverse electricity” opportunities. • Very important for individuals to be able to make a difference. • Questions around corn based ethanol and how efficient an energy source this is. There is also concern that Southern Alberta does not have enough water to support this type of ethanol production along with supporting the irrigation structure. 	<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Community Learning Council to support education of community • Community could make a difference with respect to policy development in this area by forming a critical mass and lobbying municipal and provincial governments in this regard.