

Background: Renew Saskatchewan

A plan to help Saskatchewan homeowners, agricultural producers, businesses, developers, industry, municipalities and reserves to participate in the clean energy transition by providing loans for clean energy installations, energy efficient retrofits, and electric vehicles, with the loan to be repaid out of the savings realized.

Details:

- Investments from the fund are not tied to any particular technology. The specific work would be based on individual consultation to find the best fit for the property or organization, but would consider solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, hydroelectricity, electric vehicles, energy efficient retrofits and new buildings. Qualification for the program would be based on an assessment to determine projected savings and payback time.
- Excess power produced by renewables would be fed back into the grid (net metering) with power produced over the end users consumption to be purchased by SaskPower.
- Cost of the technology and installation would be repaid through an assessment on the property's power or energy bill that would not exceed the amount saved through usage reductions or net metering.
- Revolving fund model: as the fund replenished by payback, the next generation of projects would be funded.

Benefits:

- Good new jobs in manufacturing, assessment and planning, installation, and maintenance. Natural Resources Canada has found that every \$1 invested in energy efficiency programs yields \$5-\$8 in GDP activity, and that every \$1 million invested supports 30-52 job years of employment.
- A revenue opportunity for participating individuals and organizations.
- Increased property values for owners and property tax revenues for municipalities.
- Pays for itself: loans and revolving fund allow massive investment and increased economic activity with little to no further government expense.
- Speeds transition to clean power, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and reducing need for SaskPower to invest in further generation.
- Saskatchewan takes advantage of abundant renewable resources, shows leadership on the national stage on how to reduce emissions, and broadens energy production, all while increasing local wealth and resilience.