

Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands Community Electricity Plan



*Summary Report on the First Round of Public
Meetings
February 26 – March 3, 2007*

DRAFT 1



The Sheltair Group

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Island-Wide Summary

Introduction

The Council of the Haida Nation (CHN), together with The Sheltair Group, of Vancouver, hosted public sessions during the week of February 26 – March 3, 2007, to discuss the Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands Community Electricity Plan (CEP). The CEP is being sponsored by BC Hydro and a representative of BC Hydro was present at most locations to answer questions related to current supply.

The purpose of this first round of public sessions was to solicit input from island residents on their vision for the island community in 2027. This kind of information helps us to plan for electricity supply and demand side management (DSM) options, given different growth scenarios for the future. Data currently available to us are based on growth patterns over the last ten years on the islands. After hearing from residents, we will refine these scenarios to make them consistent with islanders' plans, dreams and hopes for the future of their community. This process builds on previous, and on going, planning activities such as the Land Use Plan and the Community Viability Strategy.

Many factors affect economic growth of communities. One intent of the plan is that it be flexible enough to accommodate different growth projections and scenarios and that these not be constrained by the supply of electricity.

Workshop sessions were held in the following six communities:

- Sandspit, at the Sandspit Inn
- Queen Charlotte, at the Community Centre
- Skidegate, at the Homemaker's
- Port Clements, at the Community Centre
- Old Massett, at Tluu Xaada Naay
- Masset, at the Community Centre

Workshop sessions were held in the evenings, from 6:15 – 9 pm, except for the Skidegate workshop, which was held on Saturday afternoon, from 1:15 – 4 pm. Workshop participants discussed questions in a small or large group format, depending on their preferences.

In addition to the workshop sessions, the consultant team was also available at designated times, at local coffee shops. These sessions were planned to facilitate meeting with people who were otherwise unable to attend the workshops or who would prefer to meet with us on a one-on-one basis. Attendants at the coffee shop sessions responded to the same questions as those who participated in the workshop sessions, but did so in an individual survey format.



Public Meeting, Port Clements

Coffee shop sessions were held in the following seven communities:

- Sandspit, at Brady's Bistro
- Queen Charlotte, at Queen B's
- Skidegate, at the Purple Onion
- Port Clements, at the Gas Plus
- Tlell, at Dress for Les
- Old Massett, at Tluu Xaada Naay
- Masset, at the Seabreeze



At Dress for Les, Tlell



At The Purple Onion, Skidegate

The public sessions were well attended, with just over 100 residents attending both the workshop and coffee shop sessions throughout the islands. Eighty-six people attended the workshops and 15 attended the coffee shop sessions. Although attendance at the coffee shop sessions was lower than the workshop sessions, we believe that these provided an important avenue for additional input from the public. For discussion purposes, the results of the workshop sessions and the coffee shop sessions have been combined. Results of the Tlell coffee shop session were incorporated into the results from Port Clements. Figure 1 shows attendance at the workshops and coffee shop sessions in the individual communities.

This report provides a summary of discussions held during the public sessions. The first section discusses the general results on an island-wide basis. The second section provides a summary of the discussion in each community.

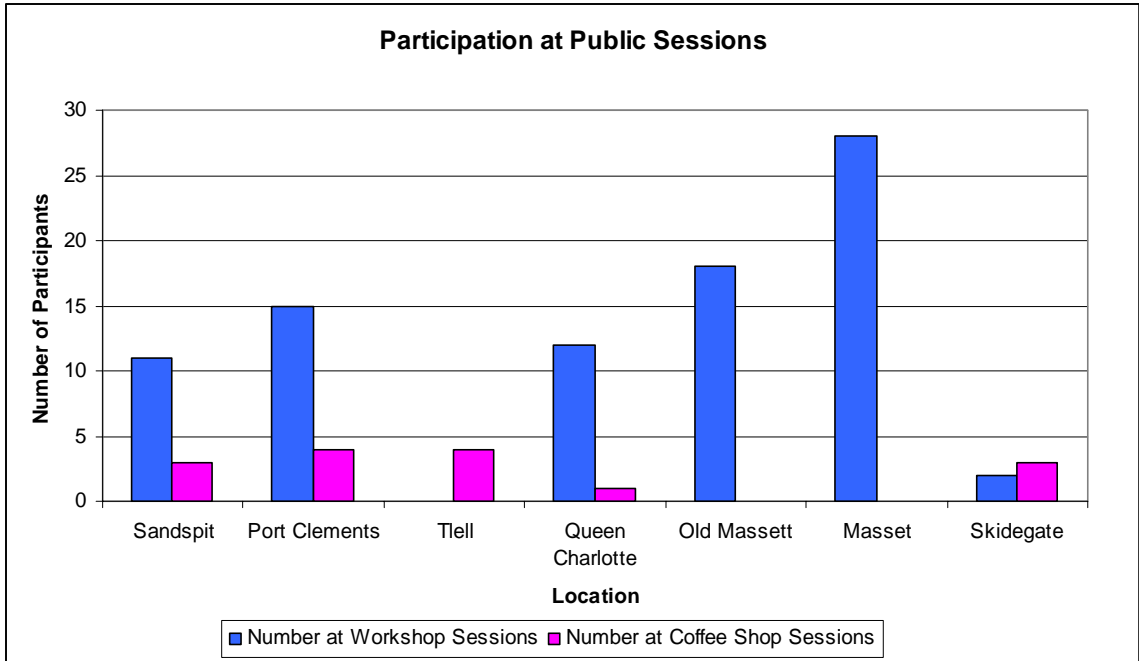


Figure 1: Participation at Public Sessions

Materials available

Several materials were available at the workshop sessions, including:

- Posters with information on different technical options, including Tidal, Wind, Diesel, Biomass, Run-of-River Hydro, Hydro with Storage, and Geothermal Heat Pumps, and a high-level assessment of potential environmental, economic, social and technical impacts
- All-islands map
- Map of individual community



Public Meeting, Old Massett



After the Public Meeting, at Tluu Xaada Naay

Purpose and format

The first part of the workshop session was designed to elicit residents' views on what they would like their community to look like in 2027. This was primarily a brainstorming exercise, intended as a

'hopes and dreams' session. Residents shared their ideas regarding population growth, desired percentage of year-round residents, types of housing preferred, and the kind of employment, industry and service facilities that they wished to see on the islands.

In previous discussions and in other initiatives, island residents have expressed an interest in exploring alternative electricity supply options; therefore, the second part of the workshops was devoted to identifying community issues, as these relate to electricity supply. In our preliminary work, we identified a number of issues related to electricity. Participants were provided with three stars and asked to place them on our list of issues, to reflect the three issues that were of highest importance to them. Participants were also given the opportunity to identify issues that were not on our initial list. Some communities responded primarily through a survey and indicated issues of importance to them through that forum.

At locations where time permitted, participants were asked to place stickers on the map of their community, identifying areas where they would like to see different kinds of development. This occurred in two communities only. Results of this exercise will be reported separately.



Coffee Session at Brady's Bistro, Sandspit

Vision for 2027

Population

At all locations, residents told us that they expect that the population on the islands will increase by more than the 1-2% forecast figure that has been used in forecasting demand. Current population figures for island communities, using 2006 Census data, are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Population of Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands

Location	Population
Masset	940
Old Massett	841* (694)
Port Clements	440
Queen Charlotte	948
Skidegate	885* (781)
Electoral Area D	607
Electoral Area E	402
Total Island	5063

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census; SNDS Labour Market Census, 2006
 Note: * source for these figures is Skeena Native Development Society, Labour Market Census, 2006
 Numbers in parentheses are data from Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

For Old Massett and Skidegate, the population figures used were obtained from the 2006 Census carried out by the Skeena Native Development Society (SNDS). The population figures from the Statistics Canada Census on the two reserves are shown in parentheses, and are lower. The SNDS use the ‘Proxy Method’, which is considered more accurate, given the small sample size on reserves. There is also no random sampling or rounding off of numbers.¹ For the purposes of this report, the SNDS data were used.

Several communities had dreams of growing into a much larger community. For example, participants in Sandspit (represented as Electoral Area E above) dreamed of a thriving community of 800-1,200 people. Port Clements dreamed its population would reach 1,000 in 20 years; participants in Queen Charlotte thought it reasonable to plan for 10,000 - 12,000 full-time residents on the island as a whole but for a population of 1,200-1,500 in Queen Charlotte; Old Massett dreamed of an increase in their population to 2,500 residents, meaning 500-600 additional homes in the community; and workshop participants in Massett thought their community could increase by 1,000-2,000 homes. In Old Massett, participants dreamed of a thriving community that would enable all Haida people who have left the islands, to return. Two-thirds of Old Massett members and half of Skidegate members are currently living off-island. Residents spoke about the importance of thinking about what kinds of economic development and related jobs would bring people back to the islands.



Public Meeting, Queen Charlotte

All communities spoke about wanting their children to have reason to stay on the islands or, if they left for a while, to be able to come back to Haida Gwaii, to live. Filling the school emerged as a goal for the residents of Sandspit (would like 220 children in full-time school), Port Clements (120 children), and Old Massett (need more schools). Participants recognized that it is difficult to predict just how much growth is possible, but they would like to plan for growth.

¹ Personal communication, Zeno Krekic, SNDS, Terrace, B.C. March 28, 2007

While communities dared to dream big, they also spoke about wanting to maintain the character and the ‘smallness’ of the island communities and especially, the wide-open spaces. Some people were afraid of too much growth and admitted that they would like the islands to stay ‘small’. In Queen Charlotte, participants spoke about a little bit of growth as being advantageous (i.e. an increase to 1,200-1,500 people), but more as potentially being undesirable. In Masset, some of the participants talked about needing more jobs and more incentives for economic diversification in their community, but not necessarily more residents.

Housing

The number of dwellings in island communities, as per the 2006 Census, is shown in Figure 2. The figure also shows the number of dwellings occupied by the usual residents, which we have assumed to mean full-time residents.

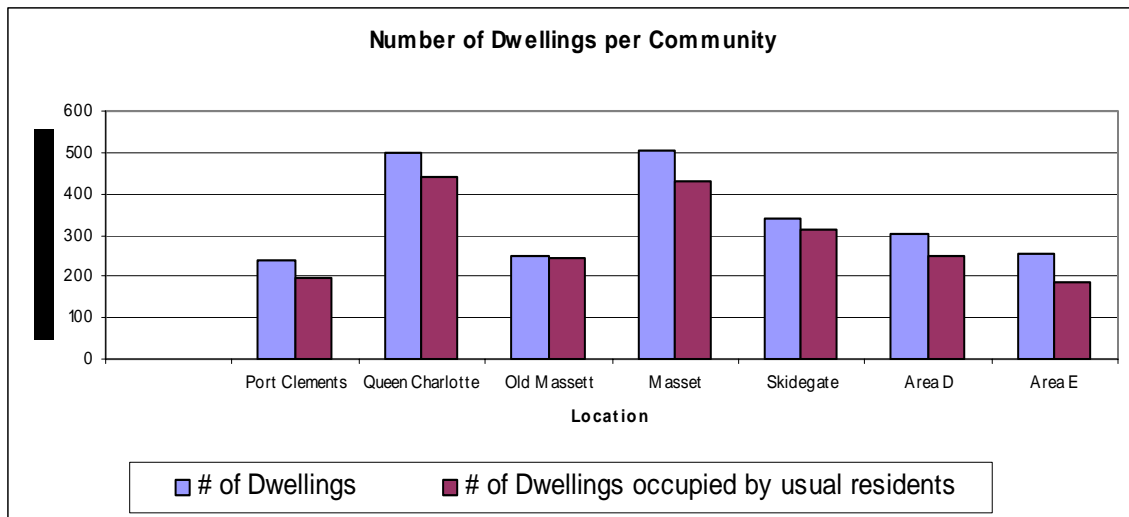


Figure 2: Number of Dwellings per Community

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Workshop participants in Old Massett preferred to house the future expanded population in single-family homes; residents in Sandspit could envision some walk-up apartments and affordable housing for seniors. There was recognition that in some occupations, (for example, logging) workers are on the islands while working and then leave for a period of time. These workers may not necessarily want a house and yard to look after and may prefer to live in an apartment, if this were an option. Participants in Port Clements could also foresee apartments in their community, especially for retirees. Discussion in Queen Charlotte focused on the single family dwelling as being more desirable but thought that some of the dwellings could be time-shared with part-time residents. This was consistent with their prediction that the population could double within the 20-year planning period, although not all residents would live in the community year-round. Some multi-family or multi-residential areas could also be desirable. There was some discussion around the inevitability of the arrival of big condominium units on the islands for time-share purposes.

Facilities

Most communities recognized the need for additional facilities, both in their particular community and for the island-wide community. Participants in most communities wished to see an improvement in services provided, including educational institutions (more schools, colleges and trade schools), health services, long-term care facilities and small-scale businesses such as stores, post offices, improved banking facilities, hotels and restaurants, all of which would support both local residents and tourists to the area.

Residents in Port Clements spoke specifically about the need for a health clinic with a resident doctor or nurse in their community. Old Massett would like a new recreation centre with swimming pools and a skating rink; Queen Charlotte would like improved leisure opportunities for golf and skating; many spoke about the need for one or more greenhouses, community gardens, and recreation and banking facilities. In Port Clements, there was discussion about developing the commercial harvest of wild cranberries for potential export market.

In Port Clements and in Sandspit, participants discussed their desire to develop value-added wood products industry, including, for example, music wood, pellets and other finished products. Workshop participants in Sandspit spoke of developing a seafood-based industry and in Old Masset, speakers spoke about preserving the food resources, both on land and on water.

Issues related to Electricity Supply

The list of Issues tested was as follows:

- Impacts to Air
- Impacts to Land
- Impacts to Water
- Impacts to wildlife/birds/aquatic life
- Adaptability – incremental
- Employment on-island
- Regional diversity of electricity supply
- Consistency with other plans
- Regional equity
- Ownership of supply
- Innovation/leadership
- Time frame
- Technological diversity



Public Meeting, Skidegate

Several communities added issues to our list, for future consideration. These included the following:

- Visual Impact (aesthetics)
- Sustainability of supply
- Funding sources
- Impacts on food production
- Impacts on food harvesting
- Noise generated

After testing our initial list of issues in the first meetings, we combined several issues, added those that were brought up by workshop participants, and generated the following revised list:

- Environmental sustainability (Clean air, water, land and healthy wildlife, protection of the food and food harvesting resource)
- Economic sustainability (permanent, long-term jobs, local employment, entry level and higher level jobs, cost and sources of funding)
- Social Equity (Control of resources)
- Innovation and Leadership

- Diversity of Supply (and sustainability of supply)
- Timely Implementation
- Quality of Life (visual aesthetics, noise levels)

At the end of the week of meetings and coffee sessions, all of the above issues had been highlighted by participants throughout the island as being important. However, the top three issues that emerged as being most important, across the communities, were:

- Economic sustainability
- Environmental sustainability
- Social equity

Specifically, participants identified on-island employment of long-term jobs with good pay and benefits as a way of attracting new and past residents back to the islands. Impacts to the environment (including the food and food harvesting resource), was highly significant to participants in all communities. Social equity, including ownership of supply and adaptability was also very important across the islands. All other issues were also mentioned at various communities and the importance attributed to each depended somewhat on the direction of the discussion.

Individual Communities

Sandspit

Vision for the Community in 2027

Population

Participants dreamed of a thriving community of 800 - 1,200, which would be large enough to support additional commercial development. There was general agreement that the school is the anchor for the community, and residents would like to see 220 children in the school for the full school year.

Currently, approximately 80% of residents are full-time residents. In the future, residents felt that there will likely be an increase in seasonal and part-time residents (20-40% summer homes). Some residents some felt that the majority (over 50%) would be year-round residents; others felt this figure would be under 50%. All agreed that there are significant water constraints to increasing the population.

Housing

Some participants preferred single-family housing; others thought that apartments would work well for the community, especially as affordable housing for seniors and low-income families. Apartments were felt to be a good idea for seasonal workers (i.e. loggers) who leave the island when they are not working and don't necessarily want a home and yard to look after. There was general agreement that more housing would require additional and improved facilities for drinking water and sewage treatment.



Public Meeting, Sandspit

Facilities and Employment

There was a long list of facilities that participants felt their community needed. These included a long-term care facility, a college, a greenhouse, community gardens, recreation and banking facilities, and additional hotels and restaurants to support increased tourism.

In addition to current employers on the islands, participants in Sandspit would like to see a value-added wood products industry such as pellet manufacturing, other wood-based industries and seafood products.

Participants dreamed of developing a co-op to produce ethanol to replace on-island gasoline use and to use wood waste as feedstock (the logging industry leaves much hemlock and spruce behind). Many would like to have an industrial site in the community, with three-phase power.

Issues

Discussion at the Sandspit workshop sessions centered around issues of importance from the initial list presented and additional issues that the participants thought to be of significance. The issues that emerged as being most important included:

- Environmental sustainability²
- Ownership of Supply,
- Innovation/leadership,
- Long-term jobs, and
- Adaptability.

Other issues that were discussed as being very important included:

- Technological diversity
- Consistency with other plans,
- Time frame,
- Visual impact,
- Sustainability of supply,
- Funding, and
- Regional equity (links/back up)

Port Clements/Tlell

Vision for the Community in 2027

Population

Participants discussed the possibility of the population in the community reaching 1,000 in 20 years and filling the school to capacity with 120 students. Residents felt that the quality of the environment is important. They like the way the community is at present but recognized the need to change somewhat, to make Port a viable, sustainable, 'green' community into the future, with a stable lifestyle.

Housing

Participants spoke of 80% figure for permanent residents as being most desirable, with some apartments, especially for retirees.

² Participants stated that environmental sustainability was a given and "goes without saying", therefore, although this issue did not appear on the above list, it was clearly important.

Facilities and Employment

There was widespread agreement that, if the community is to grow, there is a need for additional services to support this growth, including:

- A multiplex centre incorporating the school, a senior centre, daycare and library
- A health services clinic with a resident doctor or nurse
- Additional banking services
- A trades and technical school

For additional facilities on an island-wide basis, participants dreamed of a swimming pool and ice rink, a theatre, and public transit.

In general, participants would like to increase employment in the community, especially as it pertains to secondary manufacturing of forest products, and increase commercial-based enterprises such as greenhouses and the commercial harvest of wild cranberries for potential export. They also mentioned that they would possibly like to see a small cogeneration facility in the community.

Residents spoke about a current lack of diversity of labour and their desire to see other types of labour in the community. A value-added wood products industry such as music wood (spruce instruments, red/yellow cedar guitars) would be desirable.

Issues

Residents identified the issues of most importance to them from the initial list presented. The three top issues identified were:

- Ownership of supply
- On-island employment
- Impacts to wildlife/birds/aquatic life
- Regional diversity of electricity supply and technological diversity

Other issues were also highlighted by participants as being very important, including:

- Regional equity
- Adaptability
- Time frame

Participants generally felt that a biomass project would make sense in their community and would make use of the non-saleable fibre that has historically gone to waste. Using waste wood island-wide would also significantly increase the job potential. There was some discussion about wanting both short-term (construction) jobs and longer term, higher-level jobs. One concern that was raised related to the amount of training required to perform jobs related to new electricity supply. Jobs requiring a very high level of technical education could act as a deterrent to hiring islanders. There was general agreement that impacts of growth must not limit accessibility to, and health of, fishing and hunting areas.

Queen Charlotte

Vision for the Community in 2027

Population

Discussion at the QC meeting was varied and animated. Some speakers spoke of growth as inevitable, especially given the global population increase. While growth of up to 1000 times was discussed, there seemed to be general agreement that for planning purposes over the next 20 years, a doubling of the population could be expected, that is, 10,000-12,000 full-time residents on

the islands as a whole. Some thought that plans should accommodate a seasonal population of up to 24,000 during peak tourism periods. Participants recognized that there are barriers to economic growth at present – that there is a need for more hotels, restaurants and tourist opportunities such as bus tours, as well as improvements to water supply.

Some people talked about a little bit of growth as being desirable for their community (for a total population of 1,200-1,500) but that more growth would not be desirable.

Housing

Participants preferred single-family housing but acknowledged that these could be timeshared to accommodate the increased need to house people on the islands on a seasonal basis. While residents did not particularly want large condo time-share complexes in their community, they felt that growth of this type is inevitable. Some people talked about multi-family/multi-residential complexes as being desirable for the community.

Facilities and Employment

Discussion centered primarily on increasing service-oriented jobs and possibly developing a car cooperative on the island (replace SUVs with electric cars?). There was some discussion on creating pellets for use as fuel for export and on developing the value-added wood products industry.

Issues

Participants questioned the value of visioning the future in terms of population given all the potential constraints to growth. They were more comfortable focusing on those factors, which would bring people into the community first. Community members also emphasized the need to ensure that there is coordination with all of the community processes currently underway, i.e. the Land Use Plan/Official Community Plan, the Viability Strategy and the Haida Gwaii Heritage Strategy.

For the Issues exercise, participants wanted to add the following issues to the list for consideration:

- Livability (Quality of life)
- Noise

The issues that emerged as most important were:

- Impacts to environment
- Consistency with other plans

Other significant issues that were identified included:

- Adaptability – incremental
- Ownership of Supply
- Technological diversity
- On-island employment
- Time frame



At Tluu Xaada Naay, Old Massett

Old Massett

Vision for the Community in 2027

Population

Participants in Old Massett stated that they are accustomed to planning more long term than 20 years; in fact some current processes include planning for 1,000 years. For the purposes of this CEP, the community can see planning for a total population of 2,500 people (i.e. 500-600 more homes).

Residents stated that 2/3 of Old Massett people and 1/2 of Skidegate people are currently living off-island. Residents would like all Haida people to return to Haida Gwaii. Therefore, there is a need to think about what would bring people back (i.e. economic development initiatives – fishing/technology/food gathering, technical jobs and sea-faring and fishing jobs). Residents spoke of the desire to repatriate all Haida people and provide a healthy community for families and children to live here and retire here. There was some recognition that many people leave the island for their education, but the community would like them to come home to work, raise families, and retire.

Housing

The general feeling was that people prefer to live in single-family homes. There was some discussion around the fact that there are 26 reserves on the island, not all of them populated; the community would like to see all of these populated and supplied with electricity.

Facilities and Employment

The community would like to have its own stores, a post office and a Co-op store. To accommodate growth, a new school would be required for elementary school-aged children. There was also some desire for a new recreation centre, with swimming pools and a skating rink.

The community is interested in supporting local businesses and would like to inform youth now on potential employment opportunities in the professions and trades.

Issues

Interest was expressed in the Haida looking after their own electricity supply, possibly by putting windmills on land (on top of Telus Hill?).

For the Issues session, participants wished to add the following issues to the original list:

- Food production
- Food harvesting

The issues that emerged as being most important were:

- Environmental sustainability
- Maintenance of food supply
- Haida Ownership of the power supply

Other issues that emerged as being very important to the participants were:

- Economic Sustainability
- Social Equity
- Local Economic Equity
- Diversity of Supply
- Location of the 'Wind Farm'

Masset

Vision for the Community in 2027

Discussion at the public meeting in Masset did not follow the workshop style of previous meetings. Participants preferred a general discussion about issues of relevance to their community as it is now.



Public Meeting, Masset

Participants discussed the population projections for Masset as being in the neighbourhood of 1,000-2,000 more houses in the next twenty years. Some of the residents spoke about liking the community as it is now and that plans for the future would need to include more jobs for current residents, but not necessarily for additional people coming into the community. There was general agreement that there are few jobs for new families who relocate to the islands and that there should be processing of raw materials on-island.

Discussion centered around the barriers to major growth in the community, including an assured supply of energy. There was general feeling that, while there are personal choices to be made, the Island still needs a reliable, clean, power source. Participants shared their dreams of being a completely *green* community in twenty years, which would support a larger population. By *totally green*, participants meant no organic fuels at all, including fossil fuels. *Green* was used to relate specifically to air impacts. Some residents thought that a biomass project would be o.k. for secondary waste disposal (but did not agree with the argument that this would be a carbon-neutral initiative), or manufacturing pellets in Haida Gwaii for export to Prince Rupert. At present, there is high unemployment on the islands and there is a need for assured power in order to produce employment.

Residents spoke about needing 11 MW to supply all communities on the islands. Residents stated that there are approximately 6-30 power drops, or bumps, per day and this is not desirable. Participants would like to see alternatives to overhead lines. There was much discussion about a 'cap' of electricity use at the new hospital, and on the various technical problems with geothermal heating pumps (being improperly installed). Other topics discussed included:

- Grid tie-in – discussion was held about the feasibility and logic of tying the two island grids together. As it is, with two grids, participants felt that the each grid would be too small to provide an incentive for and IPP to submit a proposal. It was felt that the market would not be big enough to provide a profit and, therefore, there would not be much of a market
- Having a hydrogen fuel cell in every house so each home is self-sufficient for energy needs
- Electric cars – would be a desirable option but only if electricity generation was not dependent on diesel

Issues

Participants were very interested in locally owned, sustainable sources of power, and in becoming a world leader as a sustainable, green community. They expressed the desire to be an example and to become an attraction for tourists from around the world who are interested in sustainable communities.

Participants added the following issues for consideration:

- Noise (livability)
- Aesthetics

The issues that emerged as being most important to the participants, were:

- Environmental sustainability
- Diversity of supply
- Ownership of supply

Residents discussed wanting a 'shutdown date' for diesel generation and had a preference for tidal technology (blue energy – turbines), and hydro with storage. They also expressed the desire to explore the possibilities of net metering (potential partnership between large and small power producers). The concerns of the crab fishers with regards to the proposed windmills in Hecate

Straight were acknowledged. Residents asked about the feasibility of siting windmills on land. Some also asked about the possibility of pumping and storing power since both the wind and tidal options are intermittent forms of electricity supply.

Skidegate

Vision for the Community in 2027

Population

There were three attendees at the coffee shop session and three at the workshop session but the latter were not residents of Skidegate. Results were incorporated into the community where the individuals reside. Therefore, results for Skidegate were based on the completed questionnaires from the coffee shop session.

Participants from Skidegate articulated a vision for the population of their community to increase by 500 – 1,000 people in twenty years, with most (over 50%) being year-round residents. For the island as a whole, one participant envisioned a much larger community (around 50,000), while another envisioned the population staying pretty much as it is now. One participant could also foresee that only some (under 50%) would be year-round residents.

Housing

The vision for housing included primarily single-family houses, although one participant could envision some row houses and apartments, to accommodate the increased population.

Facilities and Employment

Additional commercial developments, as well as technical and office jobs, were also desired for the island as a whole.

Issues

There were no issues added to the original list. Participants identified the following issues as most important:

- Resource potential
- Technical feasibility
- Reliability
- Capacity factor
- Capital costs
- Operating and maintenance cost
- Impacts to air
- Employment on island
- Regional diversity of electricity supply
- Consistency with other plans
- Regional equity
- Ownership of supply
- Innovation/leadership
- Time frame
- Technological diversity

Other issues of importance were:

- Impacts to land

- Impacts to water
- Impacts to wildlife/birds/aquatic life

There was less agreement among participants about the importance of the following issues:

- Regional diversity of supply
- Capacity factor
- Resource potential

There was not much discussion around these specific issues since residents participated individually by completing the questionnaire.

Conclusion

This first round of public sessions was an important forum to hear from residents what their vision for their community would be in twenty years. Over 100 people attended, island-wide, and spoke about their vision for 2027, how many people would live on the islands, how many of these would be year-round residents, the type of housing they would like to see in their community to accommodate the increased population, and the types of employment and facilities they felt that the islands needed.

There were workshop sessions in six communities: Sandspit, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte, Old Massett, Masset and Skidegate. In addition, coffee shop sessions were held in each of the above communities, as well as in Tlell. These provided an opportunity for residents to provide input through one-on-one discussions with the consultant team. Residents attending the coffee shop sessions were asked to complete a questionnaire with the same questions as were discussed at the workshop sessions.

There will be another round of public meetings in May, at which residents will be presented with data and options outlined by the consultant team, and asked to provide feedback.