

# SESSION 4: PROJECT PLANNING

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2021




I would like to acknowledge:

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Where I live and work is in Newmarket, a town that sits on the traditional territories of the **Wendat, Haudeno-saunee** and the **Anishinaabe peoples** (my Ancestors) and treaty land of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous people

But also, the lands of the Nations where you live, play and work.

We thank Mother Earth for her gifts



# CARA SANDERS

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- I am an independent, First Nation, small business owner. I have focused my work on rural and remote First Nations because I believe they could use the most help and also need the most advancements and savings.
- I am a member of Curve Lake First Nation.

While preparing this I heard a teaching that states EACH OF US HAVE TWO DRUMS, one in our Ears and the other beats in our Heart.

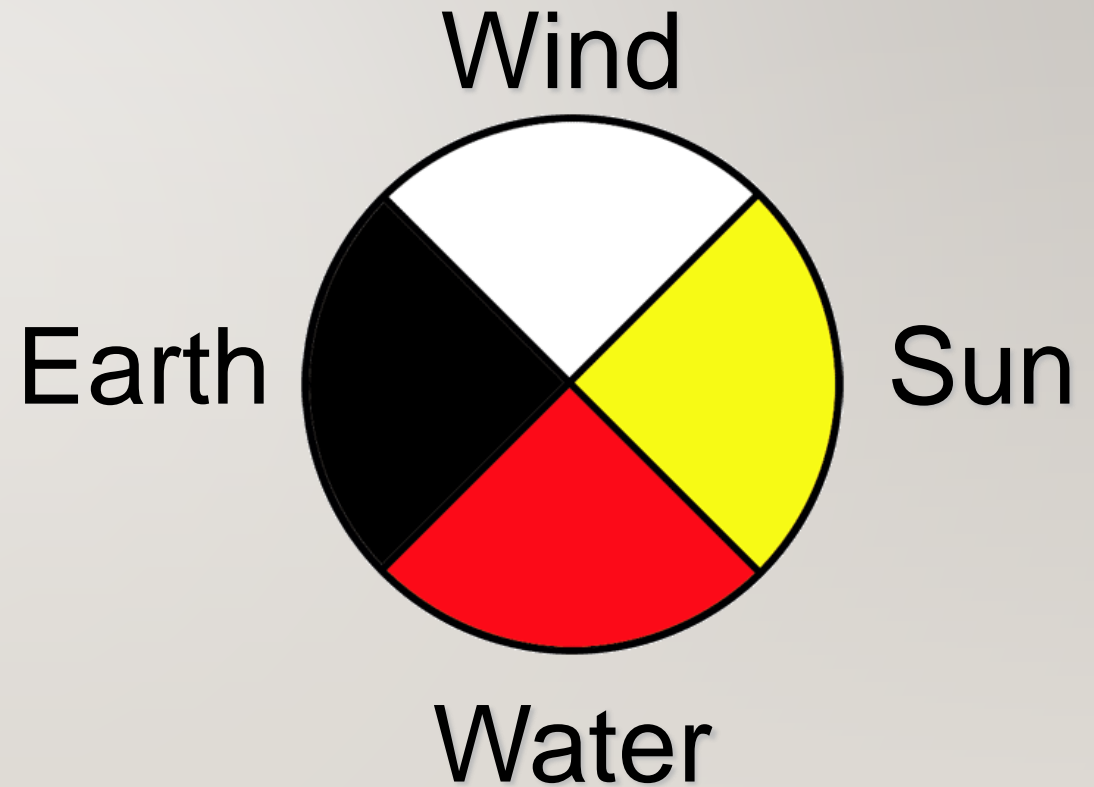
- I believe this and try to incorporate the drums in my life and how I do things.
- Let us work together with each of these drums and do the best we can to protect our Mother Earth and all of us who walk upon her.



# RENEWABLE ENERGY

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- The premise of my work is Using the Gifts from our Mother Earth.
- I do believe we all can do better in what we do and how we use the gifts we are given.
- All of us here today are looking and learning about the solid gifts that sprout from the earth and how these gift can be used, protected and regenerated in a good way.



# FIRST STEPS

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- The first step we took forward was completing Community Energy Plans (CEP), with the support of IESO.
- A CEP is a full analysis of the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY'S of the Nations energy profiles, (okay not all but a lot).
  - After I finished the report I realized and learned how much more could be added.
- So now I know (well I think I know) what is needed.
- As part of the CEP, we examined many types of renewable energy, this is where the seed of biomass was planted, and also solar (we are working on two – 100 kW systems).

# MY CLEAN ENERGY JOURNEY

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- I spent many years working in a smallish consulting firm (150 people) working on all aspects relating to environmental assessment , I learned and did a lot. The people who I worked with were great, but I really wanted to work with First Nations.
- I felt that as a First Nation woman there were so many great things that I could do.
- This First Nation clean energy journey for me has been an amazing adventure:
  - In 2016 I quit my jobs and started researching, reaching out, speaking with Chiefs, Nations, Funders, advocates, and “do-ers”
  - In 2016 I also found Indigenous Clean Energy, this program opened so many doors and gave me the confidence to do what I knew I could do
- I began to reach out to off grid First Nation communities in northern Ontario:
  - Three Nations liked what I had to say, and we began a clean energy journey



# HOW TO PREPARE

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- Research, make calls
  - What do you want?
  - What do you not want?
  - Ask “What works?” “What does not, or has not worked?”
- What was learned
  - How would you do it differently

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# FAIL TO PLAN - PLAN TO FAIL

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- This is not true when working in an off-grid (remote) situation
- I think the biggest thing I learned from this journey is there is room for a firm plan.....BUT
  - As an advisor you need to be super flexible and patient.
  - You need to accept that things do not always go as you hoped.
  - Be open and honest, transparent.
  - Ask questions and learn from other.
- Something I do not say to others is
  - “It is easy just do this .....
  - You need to be more “How can I help?” “Okay, so this did work, let’s try.....?”



# CERRC PROGRAM

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- Askii and Biometric Wood Energy Systems completed a CERRC proposal with the support of three remote First Nations.
- We requested three - 300 kW systems, so we need approximately 300 cubic metres of fuel to chip to operate per year
  - What does that mean to a non-forester?
  - How many trees is that? – so me I research, read, and ask questions
    - A big obvious is that trees are different sizes – I get that
    - We need 3 piles 10m x 10m
    - But for me I need more - So – for me this is my math to aid
      - A tree of 40 cm (16") DBH has, very roughly, one **cubic metre** or one ton of wet wood in it
      - I know all the foresters are cringing but for a non forester I need a number to start from
      - For me – we need at least 300++ trees drying



# NEEDS ANALYSIS - SUPPLY

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- Okay, so we need “300++ trees”.
- The estimated savings is \$100,000 – this will be diverted towards labour.
- There are options:
  - Hire people and pay a value per-tree, and have a boiler crew
  - Hire part-time team all year and the 2 do it all

What we are working on is two small-scale sawmills:

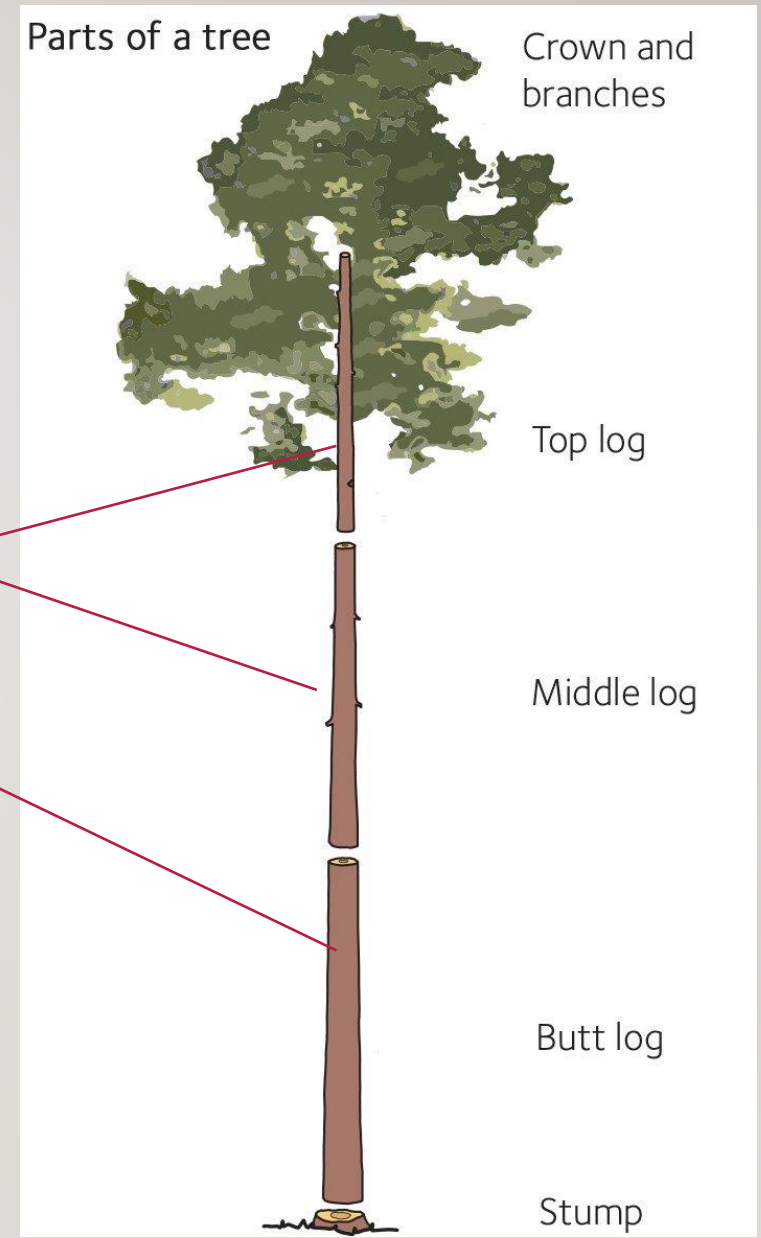
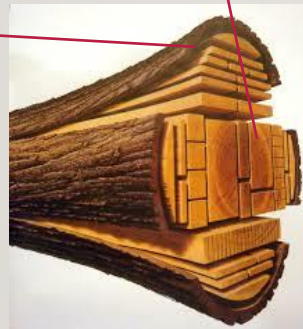
- For the two projects that I am working on the path we sought changed, we are operating two separate sawmill programs.

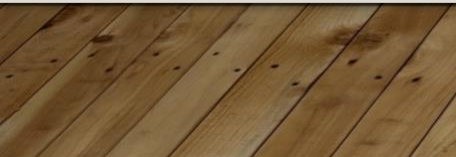


This approach is also virtually wasteless, each aspect of the tree is used

The program has four product streams:

- Cut and split Firewood sales
- Lumber sales and
- Value Added - dog houses, picnic benches, sheds etc.
- Wood chip fuel to heat the school (and future heating projects)





# MY APPROACH TO PROJECT PLANNING

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When planning a bioheat project, or planning to plan a project, there are two things that need to be CLEARLY DEFINED as a first step:

1. What fuel is available? Can you access it? What hurdles are there in this process? Is there a forestry plan? Do you need a forestry plan?
  - This is the biggest challenge of this project.
2. How are you going to get it from there to where you need it?
  - This is definitely a challenge.

# NEEDS ANALYSIS - LABOUR

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- Let's create opportunity.
- Each project has a team of five.
- The focus is on building Youth capacity.
- Capacity Development:
  - Hard Skills,
  - Soft Skills.



# NEEDS ANALYSIS - EQUIPMENT

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- Harvesting trees in large volumes requires equipment and training.
- The other consideration is access to the resource.
- Skilled operators.
- When planning, consider all the needs and prioritize.
- Be sure to size the equipment accordingly – it may cost more but will save time and money – this – it costs less.

# NEEDS ANALYSIS – PERMITS, REPORTS...ETCETERA

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- Land use plan
- Facility licence
- Forest plan
- Forest permit
- Documenting usage and sales
- Harvesting areas
- Photo logs
- Quarterly reports

# AND THEN COVID HITS

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- After working close to a year with two communities building our relationship...
  - Spending a week each month
- Things are moving, training is happening, routines are settling in...
- The teams are learning to get to work on time...
- **BOOM** – lockdown – and we know this has been no fun for anyone – except Mother Earth, who is getting a rest.
- But seriously – be open minded, open to change, and stay flexible.
  - Keep the dialogue moving.

# HOW TO ADAPT

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- For one community we had to put the project on hold, we are opening up the project slowly, but there are safety and capacity concerns.
- For the other:
  - We have a Facebook Messenger group, and we talk most days,
  - We set goals and schedules,
  - I have shipped up supplies to aid in their work.

# LESSONS LEARNED

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- Keep great notes.
- Double the time you think it will take.
- Alter your plan, maintain your expectations but really, be patient.
- Remember, it is not your world, it is theirs.
- Leave your SOUTH at home.
- Offer one task at a time.

# WHAT'S NEXT

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- Deck and fencing for upcoming Safe House and Drop In Centre.
- Play area for Safe House and Drop In Centre.
- Cabins.
- Tiny homes.
- Water in homes (wood for the construction).
- ???

# ALWAYS INCLUDE ENVIRONMENT & CLEAN ENERGY

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## MAKE EVERY OUTING A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY:

- Protection of Lands & Waters
- Traditional Knowledge
- Plants & Medicines
- Fishery
- Wildlife
- Elders Guidance
- Clean Energy: Clean & Green
- Target Clear Reductions in GHG Emissions
- Forge New Partnerships

## Indigenous Clean Energy Goal:

Protect Lands and Waters, Engage Community and Build Energy Literacy, Combat Climate Change, Reduce Energy Demand and Bills, Look for New Energy Economic Opportunities, Deliver Social and Economic Results

## Next Steps:

Build Capacity, Engage Youth, Elders Council, Broaden Clean Energy Visions, Build Capacity, Strengthen Leadership, Collaborate – Across Ontario & Canada



Thank You

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