

# “Reconciliation and Decarbonization Policy Integration: Opportunities in the Haida Gwaii energy transition”

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# Overview

Haida Gwaii "Islands of the People"  
An Indigenous territory managed and protected by the Haida Nation  
(Haida Constitution 2010).

Pop: 4200

Primarily diesel generated electricity:  
~10,000,000 L annually  
~ 24,000 (T CO<sub>2</sub> e)

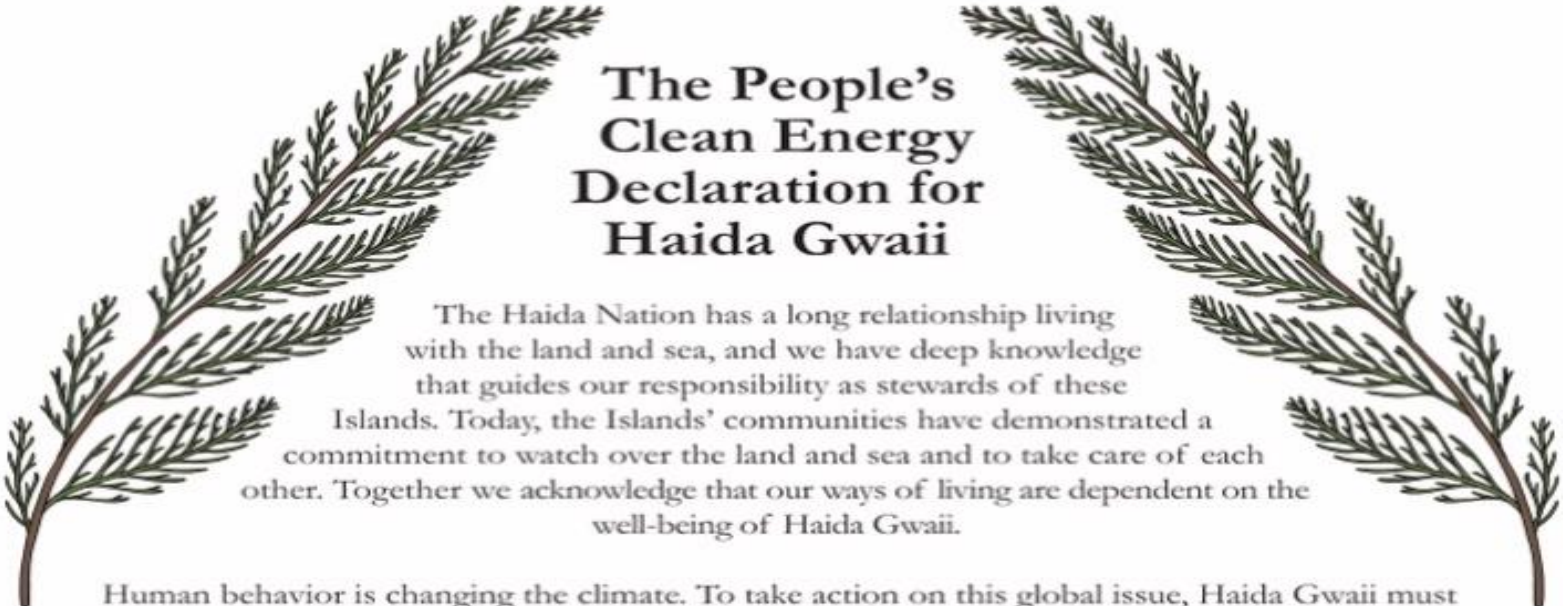


# Overarching Methodology & Holding Dual Roles

*“For people who have lived in reserves and have been viewed as species to be studied and exploited, research has left distaste in our mouths.” Haida scholar and SFU graduate, Kii’iljuus Barbara Wilson (2019)*

- While the analytical methods in each study will vary (i.e., literature reviews, energy-economy modelling, focus groups), I consistently employ the overarching methodology of an Indigenous Research Paradigm (Wilson, 2009).
- And through my IRP approach I seek to demonstrate Participatory Action Research (PAR). Shawn Wilson has referred to PAR as “a complimentary framework for accepting the uniqueness of an Indigenous research paradigm”(Wilson, 2009, p. 16). O’Brian provides an early definition of PAR as:

*a dual commitment in action research to study a system and concurrently to collaborate with members of the system in changing it into what is together regarded as a desirable direction. Accomplishing this twin goal requires the active collaboration of researcher and client, and thus it stresses the importance of co-learning as a primary aspect of the research process. (O’Brien 2001)*



## The People's Clean Energy Declaration for Haida Gwaii

The Haida Nation has a long relationship living with the land and sea, and we have deep knowledge that guides our responsibility as stewards of these Islands. Today, the Islands' communities have demonstrated a commitment to watch over the land and sea and to take care of each other. Together we acknowledge that our ways of living are dependent on the well-being of Haida Gwaii.

Human behavior is changing the climate. To take action on this global issue, Haida Gwaii must turn away from diesel generated energy and invest in clean sources of power. With our geography, resources, and new technology, we are in a unique position to chart a path that will take us to the forefront of ending the fossil fuel era.

Local, clean power systems will ensure our energy security while maintaining an environment that has nurtured the peoples of these Islands for millennia. Being on the frontline of this global transition is important to enhance our role as strong environmental stewards. The steps we take today demonstrate our responsibility and commitment to address climate change globally by taking action locally.

*We, the undersigned, commit to transform our Islands' electrical systems to clean and renewable energy. We will take action individually in our homes and collectively in our communities to reduce our electrical consumption, ensure healthy and energy efficient buildings, and invest in small-scale sustainable energy solutions.*

*Working together, the Council of the Haida Nation, Hereditary Leaders, Village Councils, Municipalities, Regional Districts, and Island citizens declare that we will work together to become energy sovereign by 2023.*

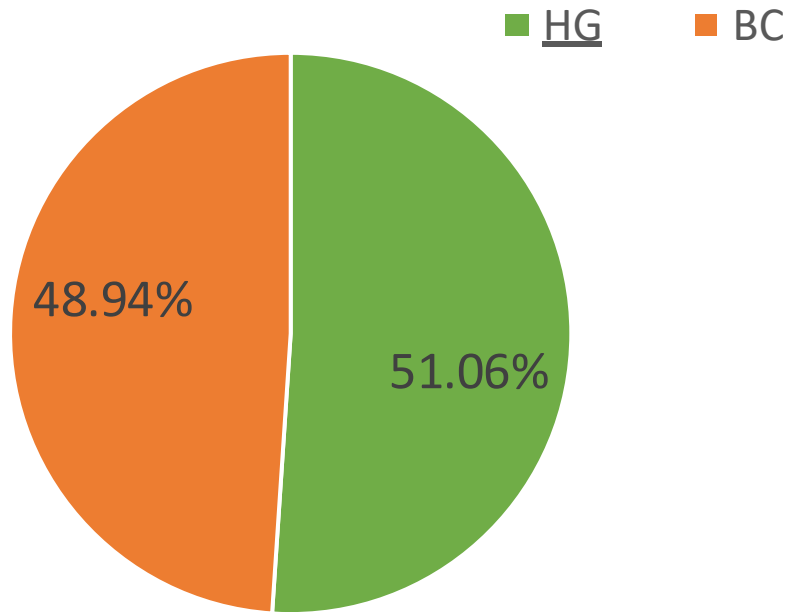
2018

## **Multilevel government commitments to both UNDRIP implementation and decarbonization targets:**

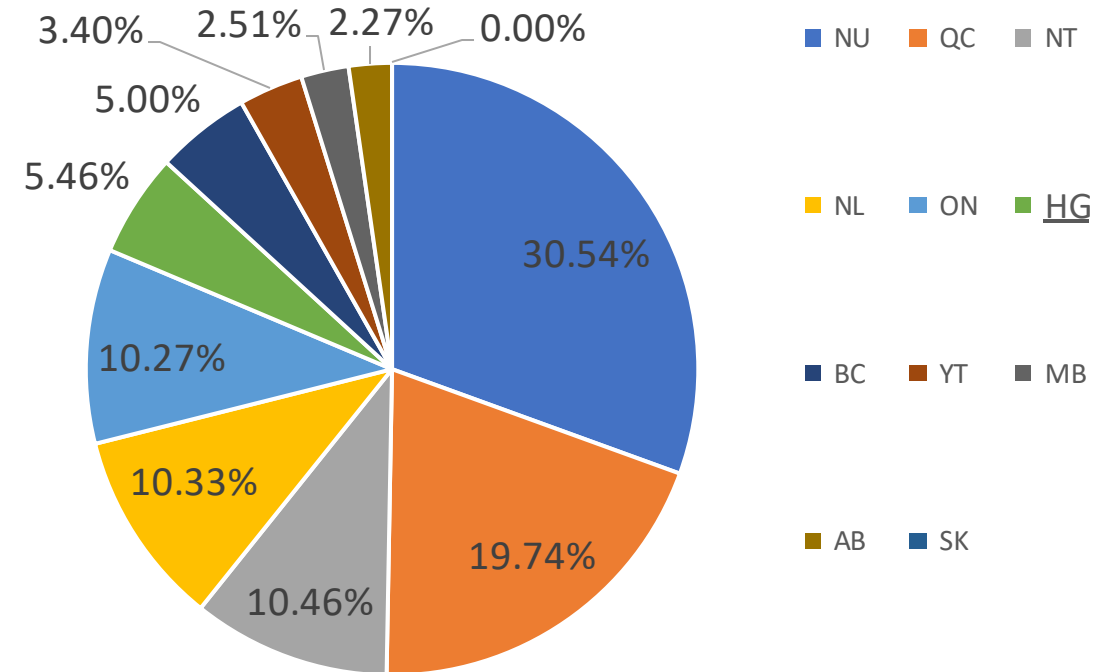
- In 2018 the provincial Clean BC plan set an 80% diesel generated electricity reduction target.
- BC passed the Declaration on the rights on Indigenous Peoples Act in 2019 (First government in North America).
- In 2019 the federal government sought to eliminate remote community diesel generated electricity emissions or “eliminate” it.
- And in 2021 Canada passed Bill C-15 their own UNDRIP Legislation.

# Haida Gwaii as a percent of remote community emissions in BC and Canada

Haida Gwaii % of Total (63 Gwh/yr) remote diesel generated electricity in **BRITISH COLUMBIA**



Haida Gwaii % of Total (611 GWh/yr) remote diesel generated electricity in **CANADA**



Source: NRCAN Remote Community Energy Database 2021

# Haida Gwaii Increasing Diesel Use

- Compared to BC's already clean energy profile...

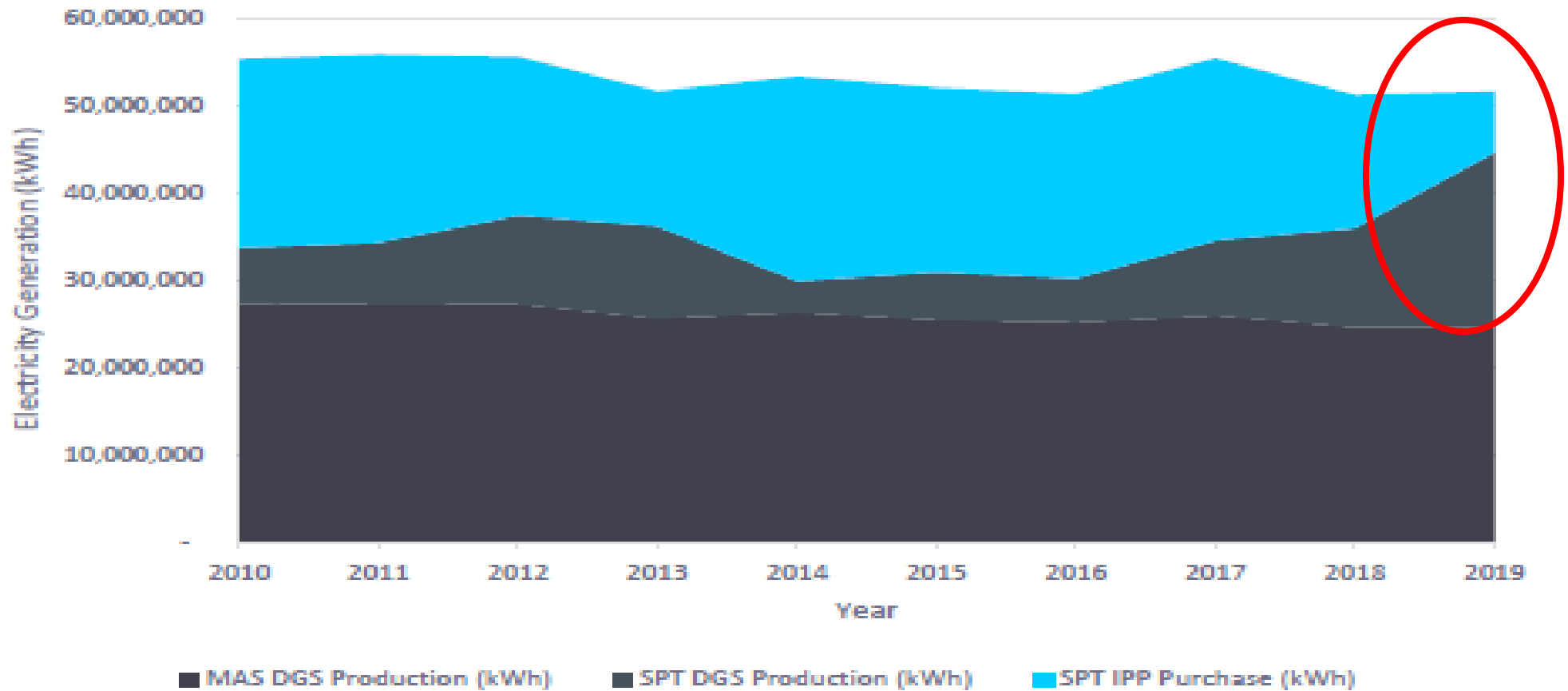
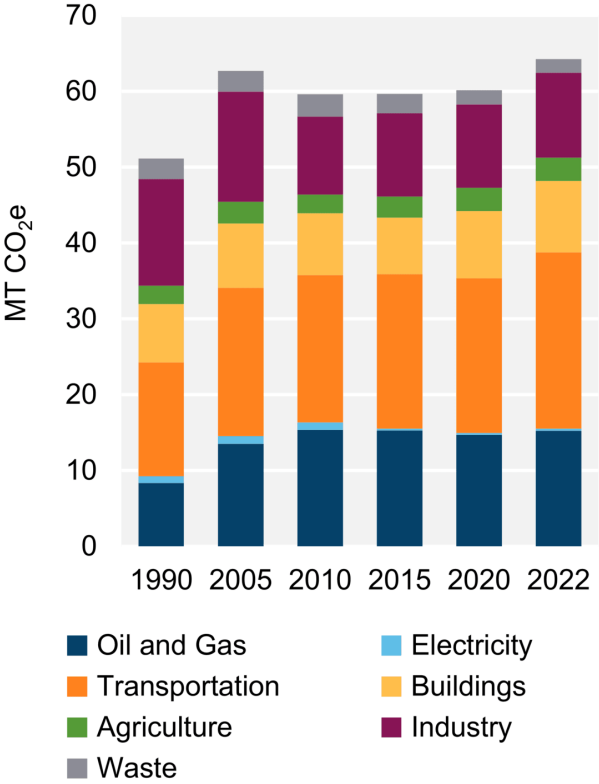


Figure 6: Electricity Generation Profile by NIA

Source: HG Draft Forecast (2021)

# Issue: Economic Viability proves challenging

## BC's emissions by sector

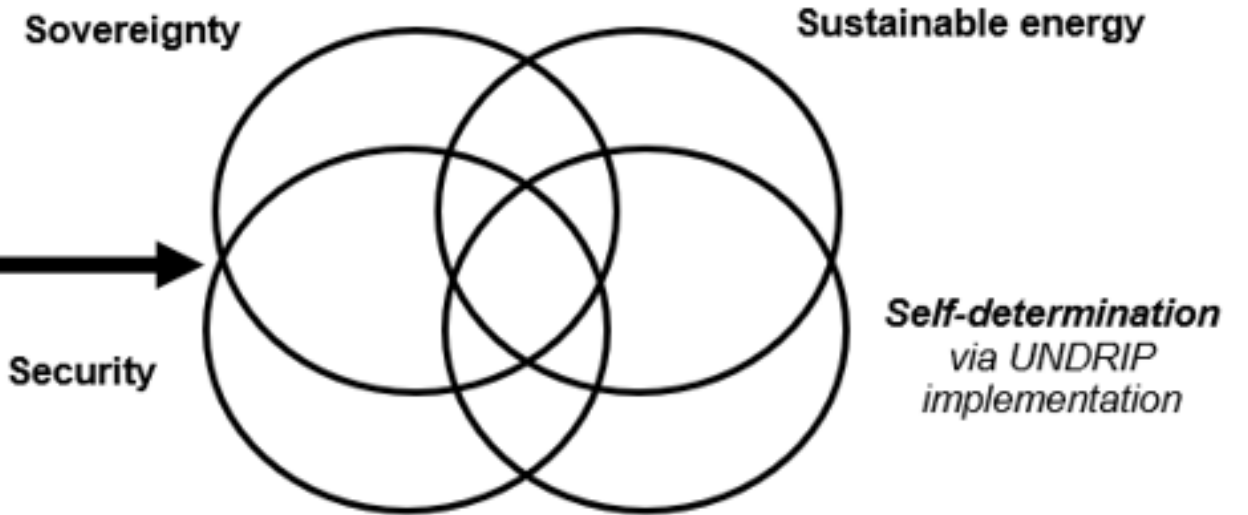
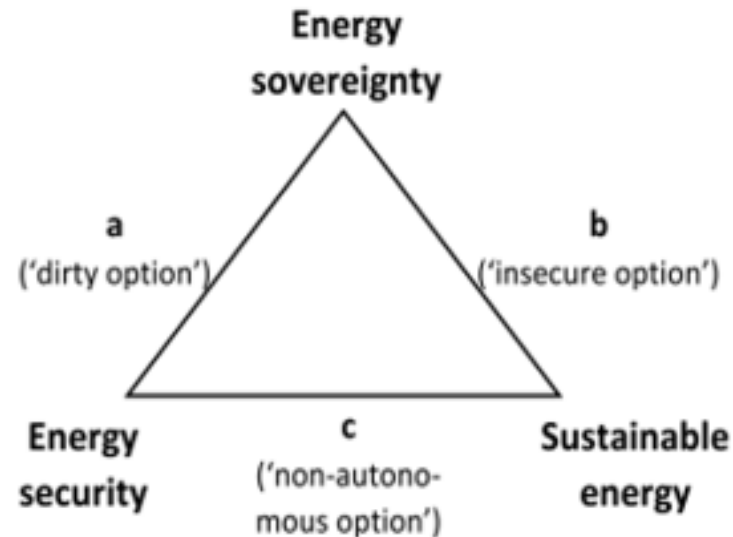


- Electricity in BC is already over 90% non-emitting (half of 1% of all emissions to begin with)
- HG emissions do not represent even a fraction of the percent of total emissions in BC.
- Electricity rates on Haida Gwaii are heavily subsidized
- A lack of utility scale battery storage meant only ~50% of solar power can actually be injected into the existing infrastructure.
- Considerable infrastructure upgrades would be required of BC Hydro to accommodate a 2MW solar PV system

Source: Canada Energy Regulator 2024

# Solutions: TII Yahda Energy can balance the trade-offs normally required of small states through government commitments to UNDRIP implementation

*Graph 1: The impossible energy trinity*



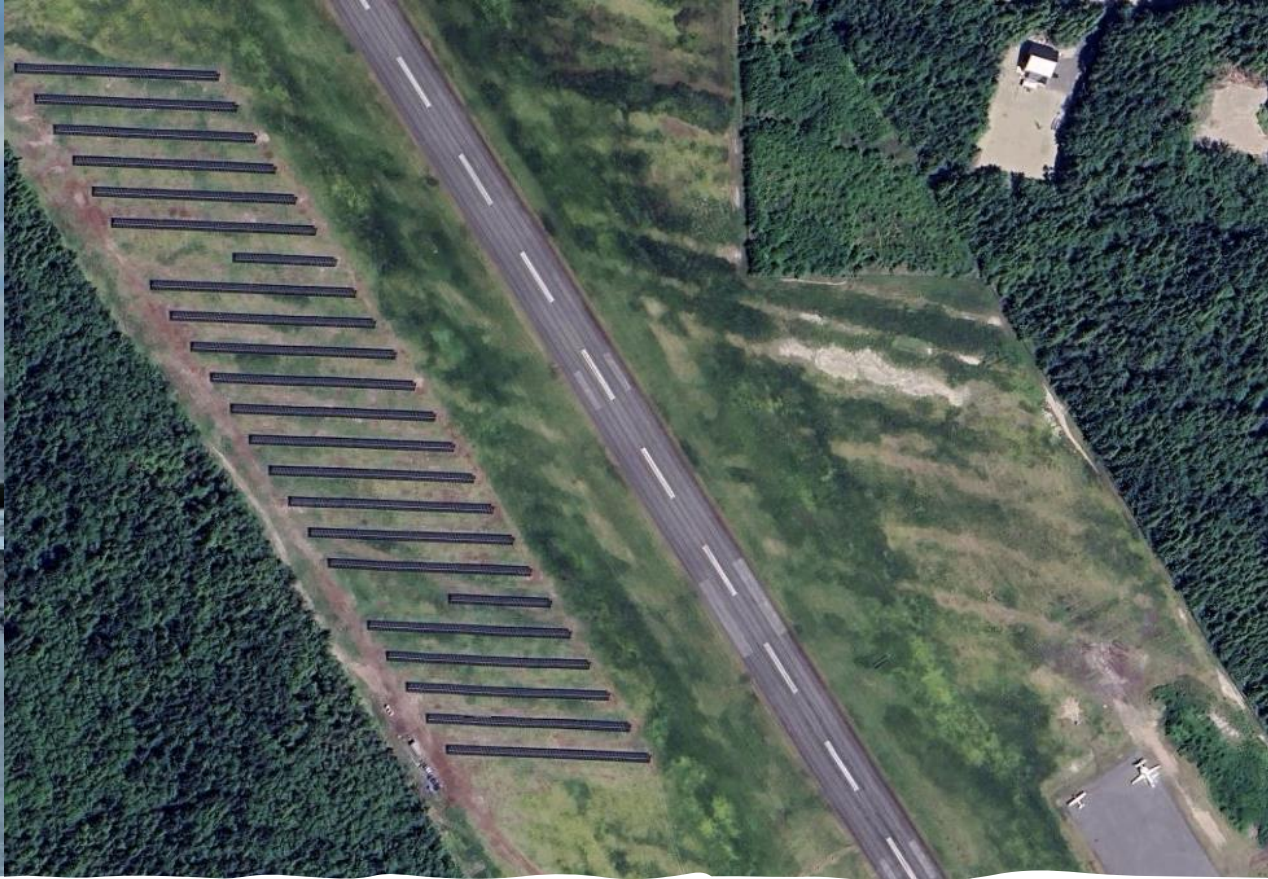
*Graph 2: A balanced Haida Energy Transition*

# Grants and Contributions

- NRCAN CleanEnergy and Remote Community Division (CERRC) created a “hub” with all other ministries to ensure ease of access to capital for new projects and upgrades for remote communities (a 6 year \$220M fund). (CERRC 2024).
- Canada also has the Indigenous off diesel Initiative (IODI) (a \$20M fund).
- BC provided the New relationship Trust (NRT) funding for the (Community Energy Diesel Reduction) CEDR program. It began at \$30M (2022) then doubled to \$60M.



Project started Fall 2021



Project commissioned Fall 2025  
(Commercial Operations achieved)

# Thank you & Questions

