



COMMUNITY AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Seaforth Storage Project

August 15, 2023



Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	2
1.1	PURPOSE OF THE PLAN	2
1.2	ABOUT BLUEARTH.....	2
1.3	CONTACT INFORMATION.....	2
2	PROJECT CONTEXT	2
2.1	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	2
2.2	IESO EXPEDITED PROCUREMENT.....	3
2.3	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE	3
3	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK	4
3.1	PRINCIPLES.....	4
3.2	STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION.....	5
3.3	ENGAGEMENT METHODS.....	5
3.3.1	Direct Mail Outs	5
3.3.2	Email	5
3.3.3	Newspaper Notifications.....	5
3.3.4	Dedicated Project Website.....	6
3.3.5	Personal Consultations	6
3.3.6	Public Information Sessions	6
3.4	ENGAGEMENT LOG	6
4	CONCLUSION	6
	APPENDIX A – PROJECT LOCATION MAP	7
	APPENDIX B – MASTER STAKEHOLDER LIST.....	8
	APPENDIX C – MASTER ENGAGEMENT LOG	9

Revision History

Date	Description of Update(s)	Author(s)
November 4, 2022	Initial Draft	A. Rieseberg
August 15, 2023	Updated Sections 2.1-2.3	A. Rieseberg

Note to Readers: This Community Engagement Plan is intended to be a living document that will be regularly updated to ensure alignment with the stakeholder expectations, engagement priorities, regulatory requirements, and the overall project schedule.

1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

This Community Engagement Plan (CEP or the “Plan”) has been developed by BluEarth Renewables Inc. (“BluEarth” or the “Proponent”) to provide stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and Indigenous Peoples with information on the community and stakeholder engagement activities that will be undertaken throughout the development, construction, operations and decommissioning phases of the proposed Seaforth Storage Project (the “Project”). The CEP also fulfills the Long-Term Request for Proposals (the “LT1 RFP”) submission requirements related to community engagement (see Section 2.2).

This CEP is intended to be a living document that will be regularly updated to ensure alignment with the stakeholder expectations, engagement priorities, regulatory requirements, and the overall Project schedule. BluEarth is committed to maintaining open communication channels with stakeholders and ensuring that feedback received from the local community is thoroughly considered and addressed.

1.2 About BluEarth

BluEarth is a leading independent power producer that acquires, develops, builds, owns, and operates wind, hydro, storage and solar facilities across North America. BluEarth’s renewable energy portfolio includes over 1 gigawatt (GW) of projects in operation, under construction and contracted pre-construction, and over 7 GW of high-quality development projects that are actively being advanced.

BluEarth prioritizes collaboration with stakeholders throughout the Project development process and places high value in forging long-term relationships and helping build strong communities. As a result, BluEarth has a strong, reputable, and established track record in the communities where BluEarth’s existing and proposed facilities are located.

1.3 Contact Information

We welcome feedback from interested parties and encourage stakeholders to reach out at any time to ask questions, share their thoughts, and learn more about the Project. Contact information for the Project is provided below:

Qualified Applicant: BluEarth Renewables Inc.

Email: Projects@bluearth.ca

Mailing Address: Suite 400, 214 – 11 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB, T2R 0K1

Project Website: www.bluearthrenewables.com/seaforth/

Toll-Free Project Number: 1-844-214-2578

2 Project Context

2.1 Project Description

The Project is located on leased land within the Municipality of Huron East, approximately 4 km from the Town of Seaforth (see Appendix A - Project Location Map). The Project will consist of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure including inverters, collector lines, fencing, access roads and a substation. The Project is anticipated to have a capacity of up to 200 megawatts (MW)/800 megawatt hours (MWh) and will interconnect to the existing Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) transmission system. By storing surplus electricity

drawn from the grid during off-peak periods of high supply or low usage and providing electricity during critical peak times, the Project will contribute to increasing the overall reliability and stability of Ontario's electricity system.

Technical assessments currently being completed and/or planned to inform the Project design and layout configuration, as well as fulfill regulatory requirements, include baseline environmental field studies, archaeological surveys, noise modelling, and various engineering and design studies. Feedback received from stakeholders as part of the consultation and engagement activities undertaken for the Project will also be considered and factored into the overall Project design (see Section 3.4).

2.2 IESO Procurement

The Project is being developed in response to the Independent Electricity System Operator ("IESO") Long-Term Request for Proposals ("LT1 RFP") which is expected to competitively procure up to 2,200 MW of effective capacity. BluEarth was selected as a Qualified Applicant under LT1 RFP in August 2022 and intends to submit a proposal for the Project in accordance with the LT1 RFP requirements in December 2023. Should the Project be successful in this procurement, the Project will be awarded a contract in Q1/Q2 2024.

The Project previously participated in the IESO's Expedited Long-Term Request for Proposals (E-LT1-RFP) and initially completed engagement activities for the Project in Fall/Winter 2022. However, the Project location has since changed to meet the interconnection requirements prescribed within LT1 RFP, as well as reduce the length of the proposed transmission line route.

2.3 Community Engagement Schedule

The below community engagement schedule is comprised of two parts: (1) Activities leading up to the submission of Project in response to the IESO procurements (E-LT1 RFP and LT1 RFP) and (2) Activities related to obtaining the various local, provincial and federal approvals that are necessary for the construction and operation of the Project. The target dates and timeframes outlined in the schedule are to be considered tentative and subject to change based on the outcome of the LT1-RFP, permitting requirements, preferences of the local community, and the overall development progress of the Project.

Table 1 - Community Engagement Schedule for the Seaforth Storage Project

<i>Milestone/Activity</i>	<i>Target Date(s)</i>	<i>Status</i>
Meeting with Municipality of Huron East	October 20, 2022	Complete
Launch of Project Website	October 25, 2022	Complete
Public Community Meeting #1 Notification	November 3, 2022	Complete
Public Community Meeting #1	November 21, 2022	Complete
Municipality of Huron East Council Meeting	December 6, 2022	Complete
Meeting with Huron County	June 27, 2023	Complete
Notice of Commencement for Class Environmental Assessment	July 2023	Complete
Public Community Meeting #2 Notification	August 2023	Planned

Indigenous Engagement Meeting with Ministry of Energy (MOE)	August 2023	Planned
Public Community Meeting #2	September 2023	Planned
Municipality of Huron East Council Meeting	October 2023	Planned
Follow-Up Meeting Municipality of Huron East	October 2023	Planned
LT1 RFP Submission	December 2023	Planned
LT1 RFP Contract Award	Q1/Q2 2024	Planned
Post LT1 RFP Award		
Milestone/Activity	Target Date(s)	Status
Council Meeting with Municipality of Huron East	Q3 2024	Planned
Public Information Session #1	Q4 2024	Planned
Council Meeting with Municipality of Huron East	Q2 2025	Planned
Public Information Session #2	Q4 2025	Planned
Construction	Q3 2026	Planned
Commercial Operation	Q2 2027	Planned

3 Community Engagement Framework

3.1 Principles

BluEarth's community engagement activities are guided by the following principles:

- **Focused and Inclusive Planning:** Encourage stakeholder and Indigenous Peoples participation in the decision-making process through productive, project-specific consultation activities that are catered to the needs and interests of the local community.
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** Develop relationships with stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples through collaboration and working towards shared goals.
- **Transparency and Trust:** Earn the trust of stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples through open and meaningful communication. Maintain documentation of all consultation activities to ensure all feedback is recorded and considered.
- **Respect:** Actively listen to the feedback from stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples and obtain trust from participating stakeholders that their feedback will be heard and considered.
- **Timely:** Be thoughtful and deliberate in the timing of engagement activities to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to participate and provide feedback.

- **Intentional:** Prioritize a solutions-focused approach by listening to stakeholder concerns, respecting diverse opinions, and acting on participating efforts. Be transparent with participants as to how their input and concerns will be considered and incorporated into Project planning.
- **Sustained Engagement:** Engage with the local community throughout the entire Project lifecycle, from development through to decommissioning. Regularly evaluate engagement activities for effectiveness.

These principles are continually being refined and updated based on learnings from previous projects to ensure optimal participation and engagement from local stakeholders.

3.2 Stakeholder Identification

Identification of stakeholders potentially impacted by the Project is an essential component of the community engagement process. The following preliminary list of stakeholder groups has been identified for the Project based on regulatory requirements and BluEarth's past experience conducting engagement activities within this region:

- Local residents and landowners;
- Indigenous Peoples;
- Municipality(s);
- Conservation Authority(s);
- Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources, and Forestry;
- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries;
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change;
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);
- Economic development offices; and
- Local organizations.

A detailed Master Stakeholder List (see Appendix B) will be updated and maintained throughout the planning and development process based on feedback received from regulatory agencies, local community members, and other interested parties that come forward as part of the ongoing engagement efforts for the Project.

3.3 Engagement Methods

Stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples will be informed of the proposed Project through a variety of methods including direct mailouts, email communications, newspaper postings, personal consultations, open houses/public community meetings, and a dedicated Project website. A short description of each of these methodologies has been outlined in the below subsections.

3.3.1 Direct Mail Outs

Initial Project notices and Project update newsletters that provide general information about the Project, upcoming public meetings or open houses, and schedule updates will be delivered through direct mail to stakeholders within 2000 m of the Project and Indigenous Peoples located within close proximity to the Project and/or identified through consultation with the Ministry of Energy.

3.3.2 Email

Stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples who request to be contacted by email will be provided notification of upcoming public meetings/open houses and general Project updates through this communication method.

3.3.3 Newspaper Notifications

Notices will be placed in a local newspaper or community publication that inform stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples about upcoming public meetings or public information sessions/open houses.

3.3.4 Dedicated Project Website

BluEarth will maintain a website where stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples can view up-to-date information the Project, including permitting documentation, schedule updates, contact information, and upcoming engagement opportunities such as open houses. The website will also include a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that will be regularly updated based on feedback and questions received from stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples as part of the engagement process.

3.3.5 Personal Consultations

BluEarth will conduct personal consultations with residents living adjacent to the Project to address any questions or concerns that they may have. These consultations may take the form of in-person meetings and/or telephone calls, depending on the preference of the landowner(s).

3.3.6 Public Information Sessions

A minimum of two Public Information Sessions will be hosted by BluEarth in the Municipality of Huron East to provide an opportunity for local community members and other interested stakeholders to learn more about the project. These informal sessions will also be an opportunity to interact with representatives from BluEarth, ask questions, and provide feedback.

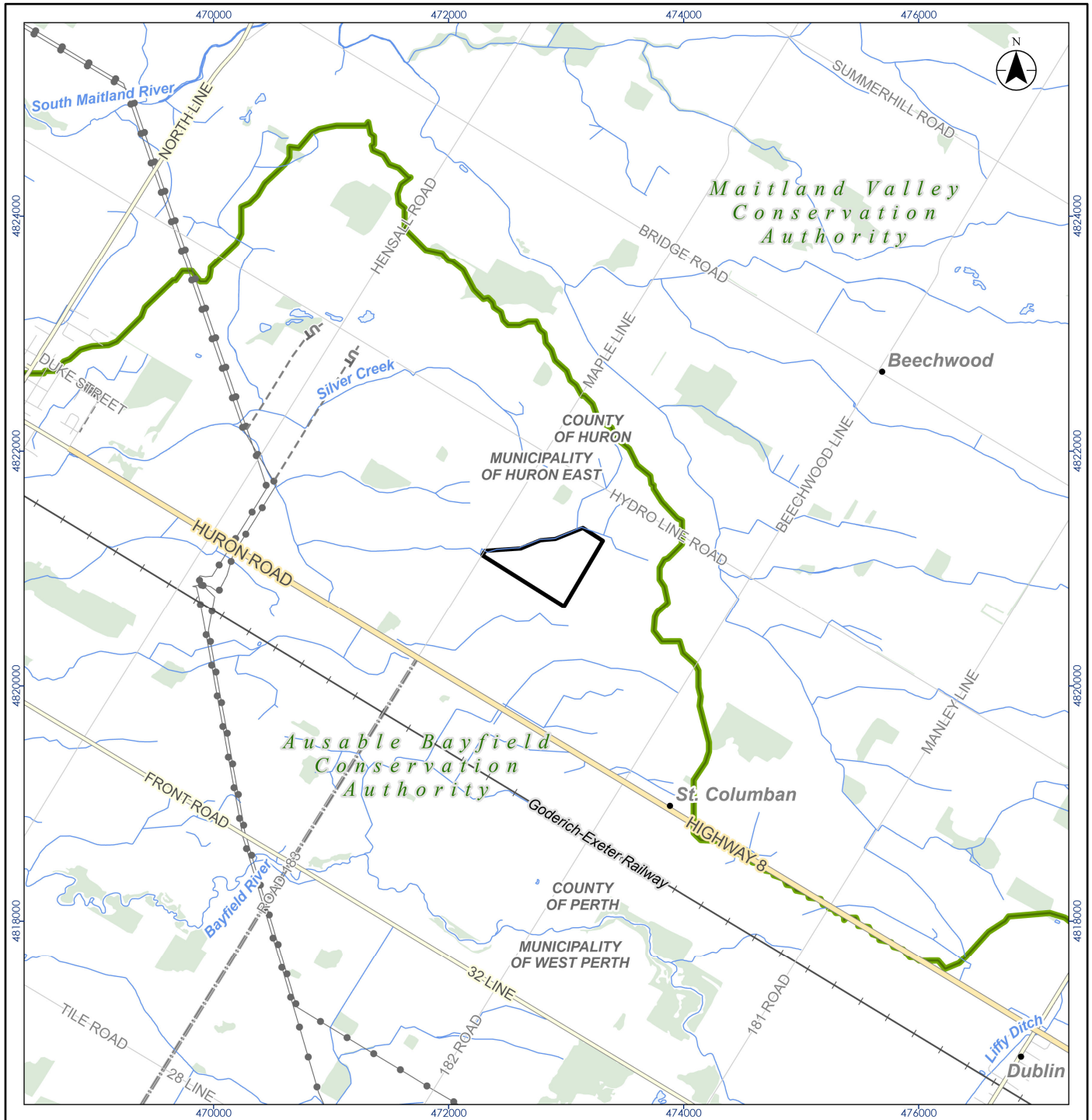
3.4 Engagement Log

BluEarth will maintain a Master Engagement Log (see Appendix C) for the Project that summarizes the consultation activities that take place for the Project and the feedback received from each engagement. The Master Engagement Log will provide a mechanism for BluEarth to track stakeholder concerns and ensure that these have been considered and incorporated into the applicable decision-making process for the Project (i.e., design, operations, decommissioning, etc.).

4 Conclusion

The goal of this Plan is to provide a strong framework for the Project to effectively reach out to stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples and forge long-term relationships with these parties through a collaborative and community-specific approach. The Plan will be regularly updated based on changes to the Project schedule, feedback received from stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples, and regulatory requirements.

APPENDIX A – PROJECT LOCATION MAP



Notes
 1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 2. Base features produced under license with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry © King's Printer for Ontario, 2023.

Legend

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Project Area | Watercourse (Permanent) |
| Hydro Line | Waterbody |
| Unknown Transmission Line | Wooded Area |
| Watercourse (Intermittent) | |

0 500 1,000 metres
 1:50,000 (at original document size of 8.5x11)



Project Location
 Municipality of Huron East
 Client/Project
 BLUEARTH RENEWABLES INC.
 BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM
 MTF CLASS EA
 160901082 REV1
 Prepared by bfonseca on 2023-07-12
 Technical Review by AW on 2023-06-29

Figure No.
 1

Seaforth Storage Project Project Location

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APPENDIX B – MASTER STAKEHOLDER LIST

[Placeholder for future versions of the Community Engagement Plan]

APPENDIX C – MASTER ENGAGEMENT LOG

[Placeholder for future versions of the Community Engagement Plan]