

*From the Office of the Mayor*

January 29, 2021

Southern Interior Local Government Association  
PO Box 27017 Cityview PO  
Kamloops BC V2E 0B2

**RE: SILGA Community Excellence Awards Application for Environmental Sustainability**  
**One of Salmon Arm's oldest buildings becomes newest source of renewable energy**

---

In an effort to reduce the City of Salmon Arm's greenhouse gas emissions and show corporate leadership in the Community, Council directed staff to undertake a Solar Feasibility Study to determine which municipally owned building would be an appropriate location for installation of PV (photovoltaic) system.

While older buildings can pose energy retrofit challenges for communities, the flat roof, prime location and sky exposure of a beloved heritage building proved to be the perfect location to pilot and promote this City of Salmon Arm climate initiative. A 10.2 kWp PV system was installed at the Salmon Arm Arts Centre in March 2020. The flat roof structure accommodated thirty-four 310 W Mono-crystalline solar modules, each paired with a SolarEdge P340 optimizer. SolarEdge is a world leader in providing shade tolerant PV system solutions allowing harvesting during cloudy days. The system was estimated to produce 11,832 kWh/year and projected to reduce the BC Hydro grid energy consumption by 26% - 53%.

Comparing 2019 to 2020 the Salmon Arm Art Centre used 92% (11,811.06) kWh less electricity with energy harvested from the PV system. The system is in great working order and generating energy for the building however, it should be noted that due to the COVID 19 pandemic the Art Gallery was closed for a portion of 2020 resulting in less consumption than a typical year.

The City of Salmon Arm undertook this environmentally sustainable project to continue the reduction of Salmon Arm's greenhouse gas emissions and to provide an educational tool for the public. This system was designed to also provide an estimate of cost, savings and environmental impact of a PV system for a home in Salmon Arm. A kiosk is available at the Salmon Arm Arts Centre to educate visitors on the project and provide information on accumulated and real time energy savings.

We are pleased with the outcome of this important project and would encourage other local governments to explore PV technology in their community.

Sincerely,



Alan Harrison  
Mayor