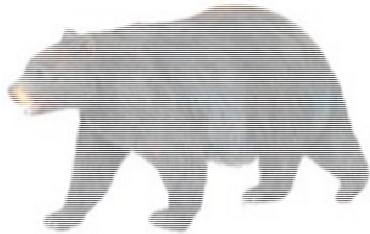




Whitesand First Nation
The Community Sustainability Initiative

Building an Indigenous Bio-Economy



SCALING UP 2017 “Making The Global BioEconomy Mainstream”
November 27 - 29, 2017, Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Canada



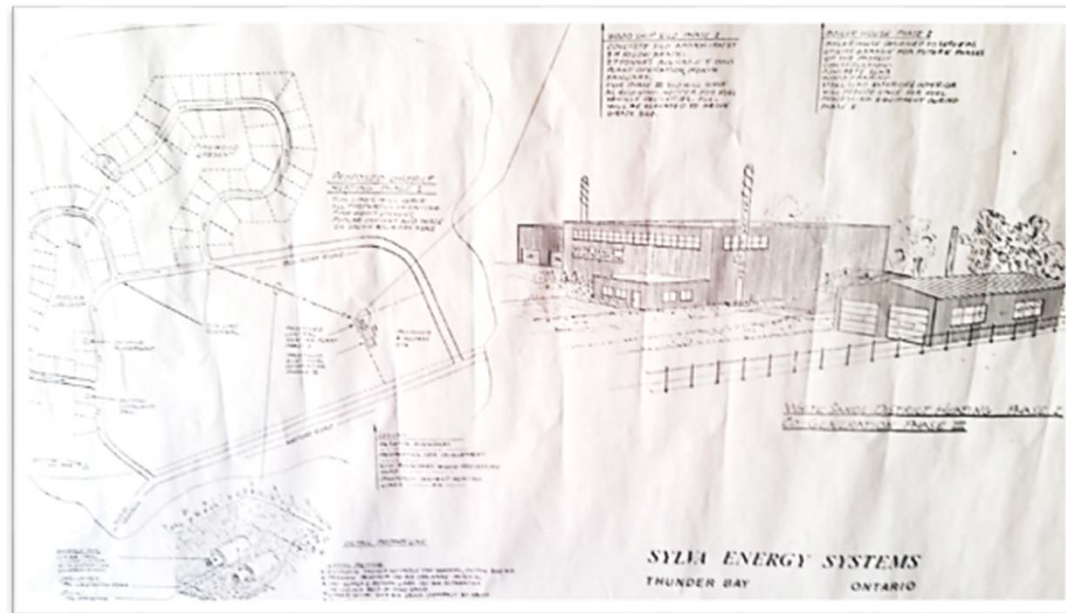
David L Mackett © Whitesand First Nation 2017

Community Sustainability Initiative

- 2009 Whitesand First Nation created the Community Sustainability Initiative (CSI) .
 - Forward Thinking
 - 5 Equally Valued Pillars of Sustainability
 - Current Reality (external influences and internal reflection)
 - Address Long Standing Systemic Problems
 - Recognizes the inter-dependencies between society, culture, the environment, education, and economic development.
- The Economic Pillar is Whitesand's BioEnergy Project which intends to;
 1. Create meaningful employment
 2. Meet core recommendations of Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan
 3. Participate within Ontario's and Canada's forest based economy
 4. Begin to address climate change directly at the community level
 5. Reinvest in the 5 Pillars of Sustainability
- This presentation provides a snapshot of the many steps, barriers, accomplishments and lessons learned from our Bio-Economy Project.

Vision & Commitment

- Whitesand's **Vision (SOCIAL CAPITAL)** of energy independence began in 1992 when the community and Armstrong, ON submitted a proposal for a community forest which included a bio-mass cogeneration facility.
- The proposal was turned down!



- **EASY TO GIVE UP!** – **Commitment** by the community and successive Chief and Councils kept the **Vision** alive.

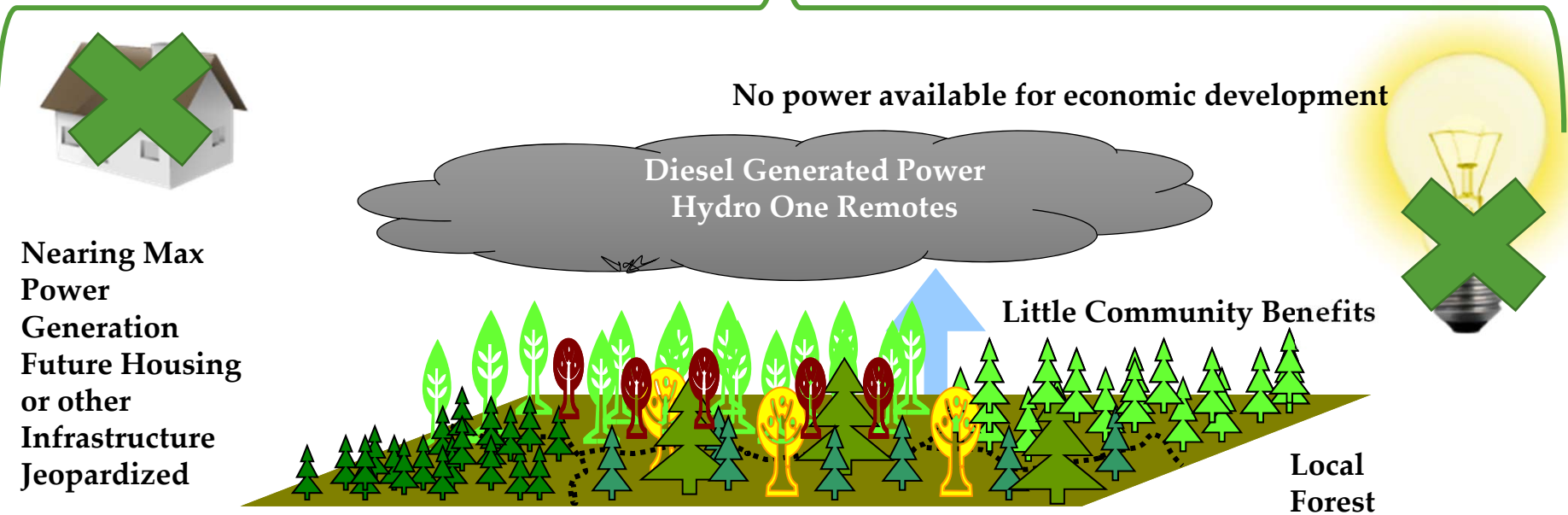
2017 The Current Reality

Internal Reflection

- * High unemployment rate with little or no chance for meaningful work.
- * High on-reserve population is in receipt of social assistance.
- * Many of social assistance recipients are without a grade twelve education. Poor secondary retention rates.

External

Influences



Local Forest was abandoned by industry and is currently managed by the Crown.

PROJECT NEEDS / PURPOSE

THE 5 PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY



CSI has the goal of improving the livelihoods of community members through sustainable use of the local forest including new management practices, capacity building, innovation and green energy production.

Society

Culture

Capacity

Economy

Ecology

Community Sustainability Initiative (CSI)
Equally valued and dependent upon each other

Strategy / Blueprint For Change

1. 5 MW Biomass Cogeneration Facility

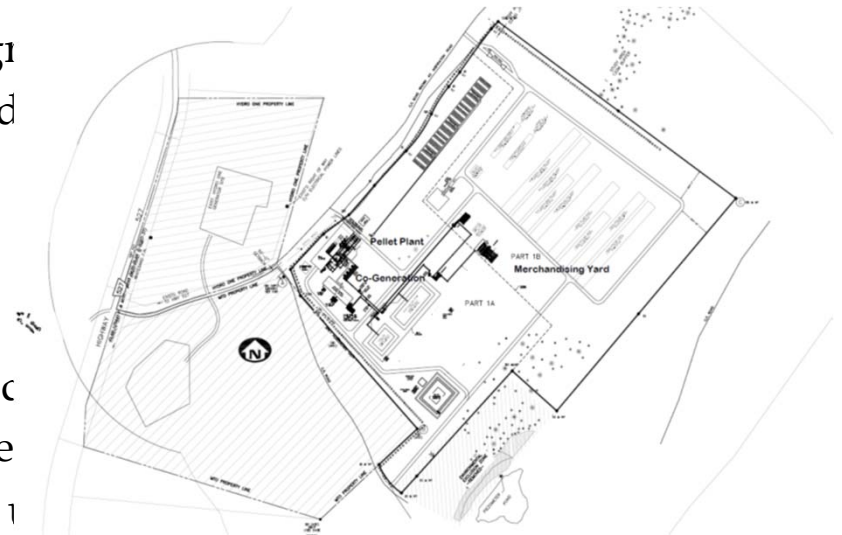
- ✓ Approximately 2.1 MWe to power the pellet plant.
- ✓ Approximately 1.1 MWe to power Whitesand, Armstrong and Collins.
- ✓ Approximately 1.0 MWe other businesses and future growth

2. Wood Pellet Plant

- ✓ 90,000 metric tons per year of residential grade
- ✓ Exploring opportunity for advanced wood

3. Wood Merchandising Yard

- ✓ Tree length passed over the weigh scale.
- ✓ Hardwood logs will be graded and sorted based on
- ✓ Non-merchantable wood will be diverted to the
- ✓ Merchantable saw logs will be sold to industry



Many Complex Steps

Renewable Energy Approval

Notice of Proposal (and Draft Project Description Report release)
Public Meeting #1
Completion of Environmental and Technical Studies
Notice of Public Meeting #2 (and release of draft studies)
Public Meeting #2
Project Layout Finalized
Reports Finalized
Submit REA Application to MOE
Notice of Filing posted on Environmental Registry by MOE
MOE Review (6 months)
REA Decision

Sept 2013

Dec 2015

Engineering Complete

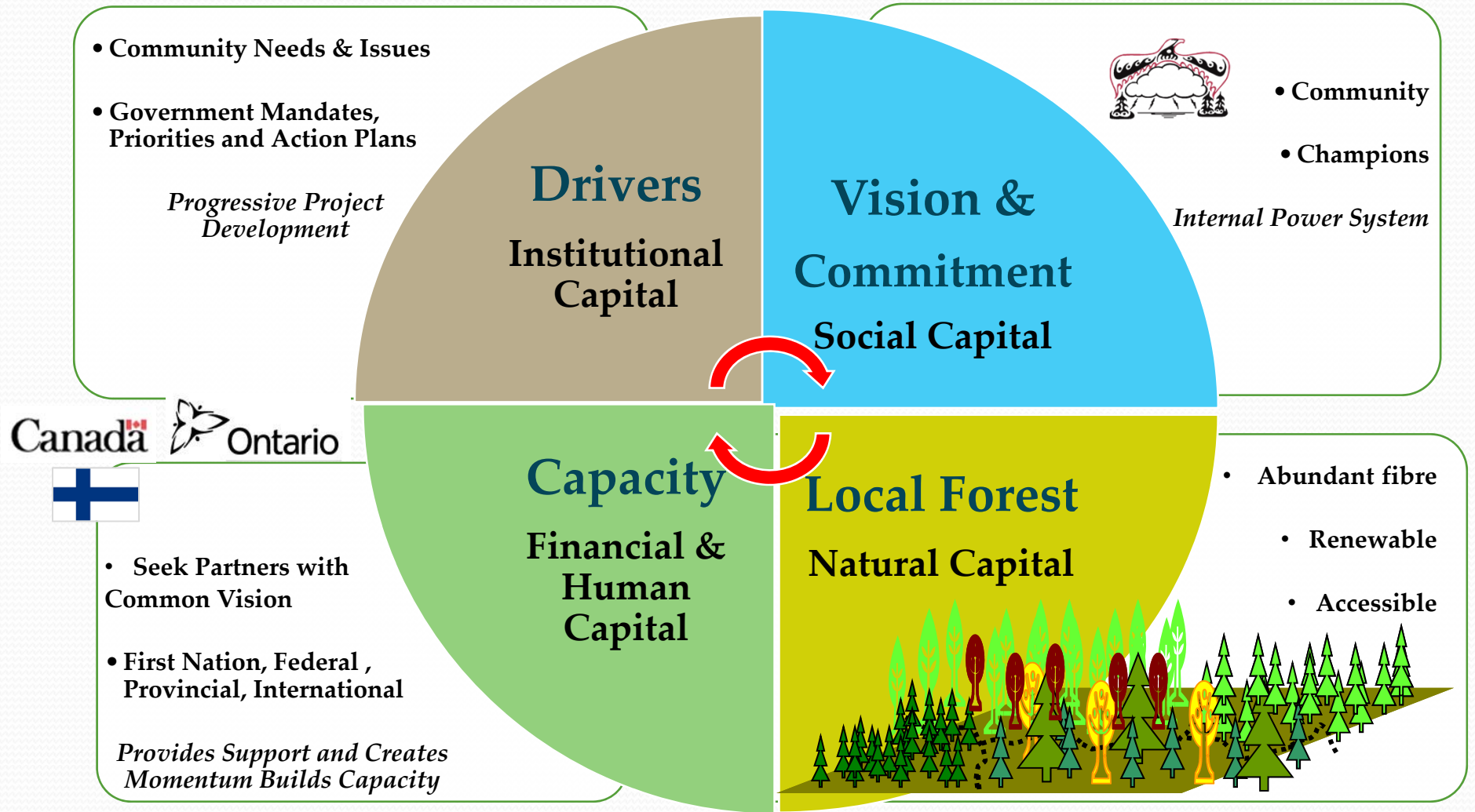
- Class 30 – Feasibility Study – 2012
- Class 20 – Appropriation Grade Study – 2013
- Class 10 – Bankable Study – 2014
- Class 10 update – 2016
- Electrical Load Modeling – 2016

Power Purchase Agreement

- A Minister of Energy Directive was issued on December 14th, 2015. Directed Independent Electricity System Operator to complete **a 20 year renewable** Power Purchase Agreement.
- The Directive is based on set of principles and instructions to assist the project towards construction.
- The directive states " *Once developed, the project will support Ontario's goal of encouraging Aboriginal community participation in the energy sector. The project will also have a number of benefits including local job creation and reduced diesel use leading to reduced green house gas emissions.*"
- **Negotiations have successfully concluded with signing date anticipated in December.**

EXPECT DELAYS & FRUSTRATION

Define Project Capital



Monitor Achievements & Celebrate Success - "Encouragement to Continue"

- ✓ Ontario Sustainable Energy Association Project Developer of the Year
- ✓ Biomass North, Community Project of the Year

Benefits Meet the Needs

- ✓ Community Owned project that will be the first to replace primary use diesel generators.
- ✓ Reduce and eliminate approximately 1,400,000 litres of diesel fuel. (diesel generators, home heating and forestry operations)
- ✓ Create approximately 60 full time and 60 seasonal jobs generating approximately \$ 3.5 million in wages.
- ✓ Better forest utilization and timber optimization, maintaining sustainable and health forest ecosystems.

Means much more to Whitesand

- ✓ Pride of Ownership
- ✓ Empowerment
- ✓ Energy Independence

Reinvestment into the 5 Pillars of Sustainability

- ✓ Society
- ✓ Economy
- ✓ Capacity
- ✓ Culture
- ✓ Ecology

Status of Poverty in Ontario

	Poverty Line (LIM-AT-2011) [1]	Annual Income 2011	Basic Income Gap
Ontario Works (OW)			
Single Adult	\$19,930	$\$621 \times 12 = \$7,452$ [2] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Needs – \$227 • Max Shelter – \$372 • GST rebate – \$22 	<p style="text-align: center;">\$12,478</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(37% of LIM-AT)</p>
Lone parent with one child (under 6 yr)	\$28,185	$\$1,455.15 \times 12 = \$17,461.80$ [3] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Needs – \$347 • Max Shelter – \$584 • Ontario Child Benefit – \$91.66 • Universal Child Care Benefit – \$100 • Canada Child Tax Benefit – \$117.08 • National Child Benefit Supplement – \$181.41 • GST rebate – \$34 	<p style="text-align: center;">\$10,723</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(62% of LIM-AT)</p>



Closing

- In the end, the *Community Sustainability Initiative* is about the long-term responsibility and accountability for Whitesand's economic, cultural, social, and environmental future which is led by a "New Bio- Economy".
- Ownership for that future can only rest with the Whitesand itself; however, Whitesand has sought and continues to seek expertise and partners to help us accomplish this vision.

Thank you



Thank you

- For more information on the Community Sustainability Initiative please contact:

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