

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY CLUSTER

### – Uniting Excellence and Knowledge to achieve “Step” Energy Improvement

Creating an Energy Efficiency Cluster that is co-ordinated and managed with others, as a ‘virtual’ centre of excellence, will help Ontario advance its competitive position within the global economy and contribute to a ‘Conservation Culture’. Energy efficiency is a proven solution across sectors and a foundation to the three elements of sustainability,

– economic prosperity, environmental performance and social responsibility

- Economic: Increasing productivity; reducing operating costs; increasing profit opportunities.
- Environment: Reducing environmental emissions and mitigating effects of climate change.
- Social: Improving health, increasing participation and ensuring greater equity.

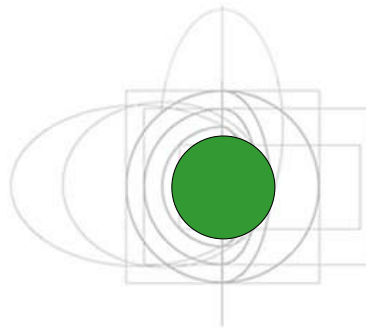
An added benefit is enhanced security.

Enhancing these through energy efficiency increases Ontario’s competitive position. The Energy Efficiency Cluster’s transparent approach will ensure these benefits are shared across sectors – public/private/NGO and residential/commercial/institutional/ industrial.

The goal is to identify ‘Global’ best practices, drawing experience, contacts and knowledge into the Cluster, and facilitating new partnerships that work to enhance innovation. Building on the individual strengths of multi-stakeholder groups can produce synergies, helping to achieve the maximum:

Sum is greater than the parts: 1 + 1 can equal 6; If we build on each other’s strengths!

The Energy Efficiency Cluster will serve as an open portal, allowing interested stakeholder and interest groups to tap into resources and innovative practices. The figure below serves as a conceptual illustration, with the Cluster represented by the green sphere.



The Cluster will act as the virtual ‘**hub**’ for energy efficiency; beginning with three functions:

1. **Magnet** – attract and identify global best practices to capitalize on proven knowledge / methods (represented by the external circles being drawn into the sphere/Cluster);
2. **Portal** – link/unite stakeholders, serving as a focal point to share and receive knowledge (represented by the internal circles);
3. **Synergistic Platform** – facilitate new partnerships, such as industry/education mentoring (represented by the square that surrounds the entire sphere/Cluster).

To achieve step improvements for an innovative economy, the Cluster must be *implemented in a transparent and creative manner*. This will facilitate and complement the opportunities developed by companies, government, NGOs and academia. The Cluster *will not copy or replace the work of others*. It will serve as the unifying agent for what is already provided – complementing and linking global knowledge, practices and programs. This in turn will lead to new synergistic partnerships, paving the way for greater collaboration in the pursuit of innovative practices; e.g. combining the latest advancements in IT knowledge with energy management strategies.

Moreover, the creation of an *independent* Energy Efficiency Cluster, *linking private / public / political partnerships* will lead to the “step” improvements; e.g. U.S. DOE working with universities, industry and NGOs to perform research, audits and other energy efficiency applications.

As it stands, Ontario can enhance the benefits of energy efficiency. The Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) insists energy efficiency can play a larger role. In its recent report entitled, Energy and Climate Change - A Canadian Engineering Perspective, the CAE declares that, “to accommodate the large increase in the demand for energy without major environmental problems, it will be necessary to...increase efficiency of energy use.”

By helping to advance energy efficiency within Ontario, the Energy Efficiency Cluster can provide a promising solution of uniting excellence and knowledge to achieve step energy improvements. The Cluster will help to unleash Ontario talent, and to recognize and reward professionals and practitioners in a field that is destined to flourish in the near future.

## **Conclusion**

Energy efficiency is a proven solution to benefit the ‘triple bottom line’ – economic performance, environmental performance and social responsibility. The Energy Efficiency Cluster is a perfect way to increase Ontario’s competitiveness.

An Energy Efficiency Cluster will spark innovation and help share the benefits of energy efficiency by performing several tasks: 1) sharing knowledge, information and lessons learned; 2) providing network contacts to facilitate new partnerships; 3) fostering mentoring within private and public organizations to transfer knowledge to the next generation; 4) forming a resource library and discussion channels to encourage open dialogue; and 5) creating synergies of stakeholders, sister clusters and others related directly or indirectly to energy efficiency.

This dynamic model will have at its core a mandate of continuous improvement, communication and transparency.

The Energy Efficiency Cluster will encourage cooperation and the mutual exchange of opinions, suggestions and dialogue to develop the principles of innovation and knowledge.

**Sincerely,**  
**Scott Rouse**  
**Managing Partner, Energy at Work**