

Celebrating Municipal Excellence

Nomination Form

Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021

Nominee Contact Information	
Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated: <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	Town of Wilkie
Contact Name:	Lana Gerein
Telephone #:	(306) 843-2692
Mailing Address:	2nd Ave Wilkie, Saskatchewan
E-mail Address:	wilkie.administor@sasktel.net
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Town of Wilkie Solar Panel Project
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	May 1, 2021
Date of Project or Practice Completion: <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	September 1, 2021
	Ongoing: <input type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
Name:	Helen Urlacher
Organization:	Town of Wilkie
Position:	Wilkie Town Councillor
Mailing Address:	box 778n Wilkie, SK S0K4W0
Telephone #:	(306) 438-2729
E-mail Address:	urlacherhell@gmail.com

Please remember when filling out your nomination that winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library, so be sure to include all information that may be helpful to others if it were to be used as a reference or resource.

The Practice

1. What was the issue that inspired the nominated project or practice?

2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

The three-year average cost for power at the Wilkie Saskcan Community Centre was \$68,730 per year to run the whole facility including to power the Ice Plant during the winter months. This is for only one building for operating costs; so Town Council saw the potential to reduce the costs at the Wilkie Saskcan Community Centre by wanting to install the solar panels to the roof of the community center.

Within 5 1/2 to 6 1/2 years the Town of Wilkie will start to see annual savings of \$15,000 to \$18,000 per year in its operating costs and will also take that long to recover the money that the Town of Wilkie has put into this project.

The Process

This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information so that a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice can follow your steps.

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
 Municipal Administration
 Other

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?
5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?
6. What resources were involved?
7. How was the project or practice developed?

The main push for this project came from the Municipal council, with a start of topic on possible solar panels put in and where to put them. Wilkie Town Council determined that we would benefit more if the solar panels were placed on the roof of the Wilkie Saskcan Community Centre as this facility is the hub of our town and as it was first in line for costly operation costs. Our Administrator and Recreation Director/Community director had a big part in helping with this project. Their time and efforts in this project should be recognized as excellent.

We heard that the Town of Biggar, Sask had taken on a solar panel project in their town and so we did some investigating and found out that the company that installed them was more than qualified to do the job. This was intriguing to Wilkie Town Council. We then decided that this was the project we would like to add to our town and put out a Tender to see who would be the perfect contractor for the job. Prairie Solar Sun won the bid to do the work on the Wilkie Saskcan Community Center and work commenced at the start of the summer of 2021 and was finished by Fall of 2021.

The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?
9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed?
10. Describe any challenges faced.

believe that the effect of this project on the community of Wilkie will be yet to be seen. In the Winter of 2021, the Wilkie Saskcan Community Center stood empty once again due to the pandemic. We pulled the ice out of the Wilkie Saskcan Community Center on February 1, 2021. There were some upset people all over town that did not want the ice out, but we couldn't keep it running with the operating costs and no income coming in from the active clubs at the community center. There were no challenges faced while starting the project to the very end of the project. Everything went quite smoothly and in a timely manner. There were no hiccups or setbacks. This contracting company really knew what they were doing when it came to this project. The engineering company did its due diligence before, during and after the project.

Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?
Remember, all nominations will become part of the Best Practices Library, so be sure to include specific information.

There was nothing that we would have done or would do differently on this project. As stated above everything went to plan with nothing but completion.

Now on the roof of the Wikie Saskcan Comunity Center, there is a brighter light on top of it. This light is illuminating the solar panels and will help with any finances in the near future.

Here is to the Future in Wilkie, Saskatchewan.