

# BEES



**Backcountry Energy Environmental Solutions**

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## **BEES: A New Initiative to Develop Sustainable Energy, Water, and Waste Technologies in Off-grid Mountainous Regions of Canada**

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A new initiative has been organized to develop sustainable energy, water and waste technologies in off-grid mountainous regions of Canada. It is called BEES (Backcountry Energy Environmental Solutions).

There are considerable challenges in managing off-grid, backcountry facilities in mountainous regions of Canada. Many of these huts, lodges, teahouses, and toilets are not located near power lines or roads, nor do they have access to municipal water purification or wastewater treatment systems. Some facilities are located in National and Provincial Parks, others on private or crown lands. Many are located in ecologically sensitive environments. Most are subject to extreme cold conditions, heavy snowfall, turbid water supplies, and receive little sunlight during winter solstice. Energy, water and waste management technologies with proven track records do not always work at high elevation and under such harsh environmental conditions. Backcountry facility operators have been trying to make the transition to more sustainable energy, water and waste management practices, but with limited success.

It was felt that through pooling resources and expertise, considerable progress could be made towards environmental protection and economic savings. The Alpine Club of Canada, Parks Canada, and BC Parks (Kootenay Region) came together to initiate BEES. Backcountry facility operators, technology experts, and educational institutions are now involved.

BEES collects information about successful energy, water and waste management technologies. Where there are gaps in knowledge, BEES raises funds to facilitate research and development. The research results are shared freely through communication and outreach. Solutions may be of interest to off-grid facility operators in mountainous areas around the world, as well as the Polar Regions, which also experience harsh environmental conditions.

If you have a unique energy, water or waste management system that you would like to share with BEES, or if you have an idea for research, or if you would like more information about BEES, please contact Karen Rollins (BEES Coordinator) in Canmore, Alberta, Canada (Tel: 403.678.3522 or Email: [beeshive@telus.net](mailto:beeshive@telus.net)).