

THE POWER OF Community

How community-owned renewable energy is helping
Ontario create a powerful economic advantage





Envisioning a world where people work together, pooling their resources, to realize and benefit from a democratic, 100% renewable energy economy.

www.trec.on.ca



FCPC

Federation of Community
Power Co-operatives

**Uniting, representing, growing &
serving the Community Power
community.**

www.FCPCoops.ca

PEOPLE POWER PLANET

A group of approximately ten people, including men and women of various ages, are standing on a rooftop solar panel installation site. They are dressed in business casual attire and appear to be in a discussion or tour. The background shows rows of solar panels and a clear sky.

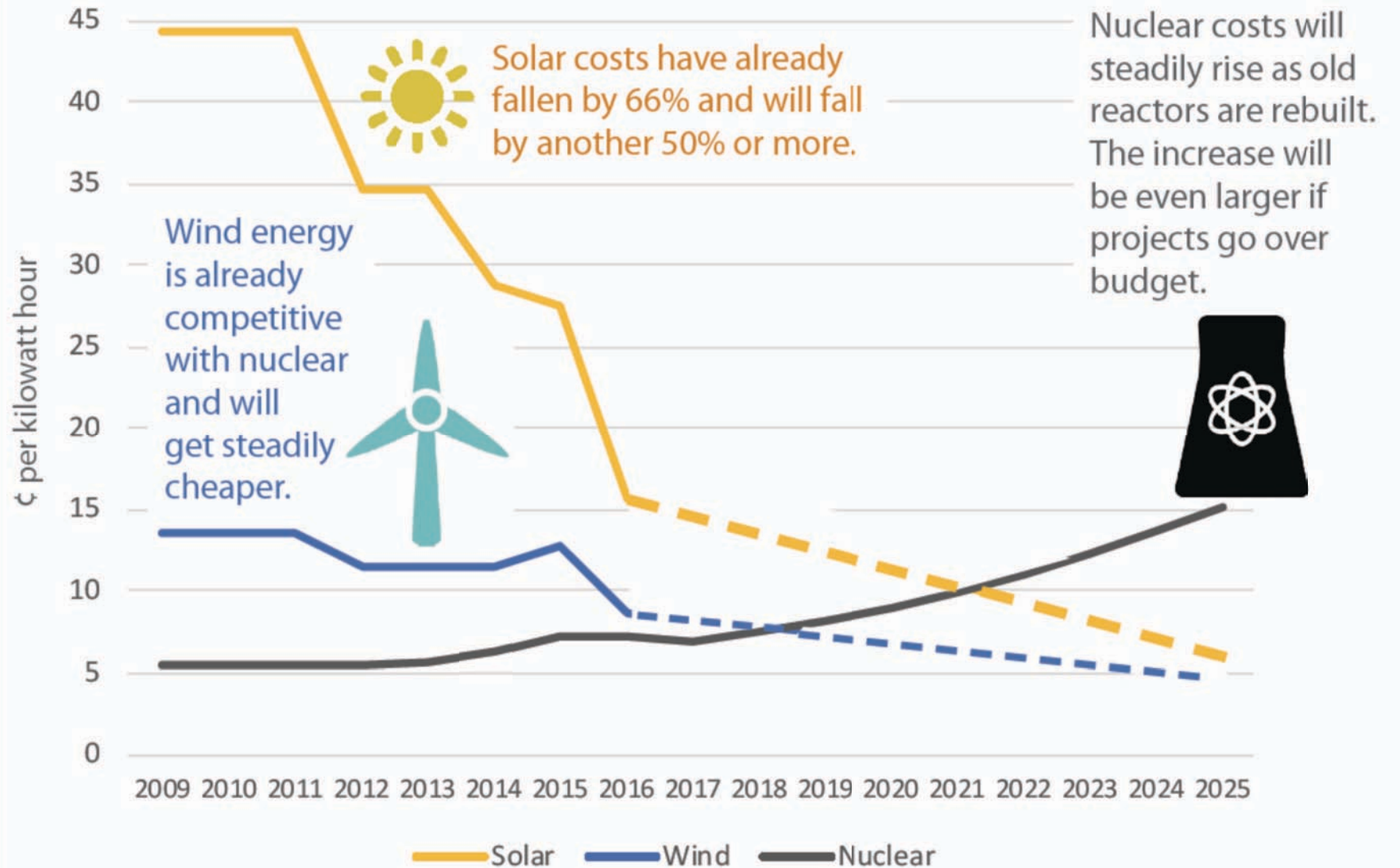
Best Practices and Knowledge
Mobilization in Community Energy
Development

www.peoplepowerplanet.ca



Ontario is at a Turning Point

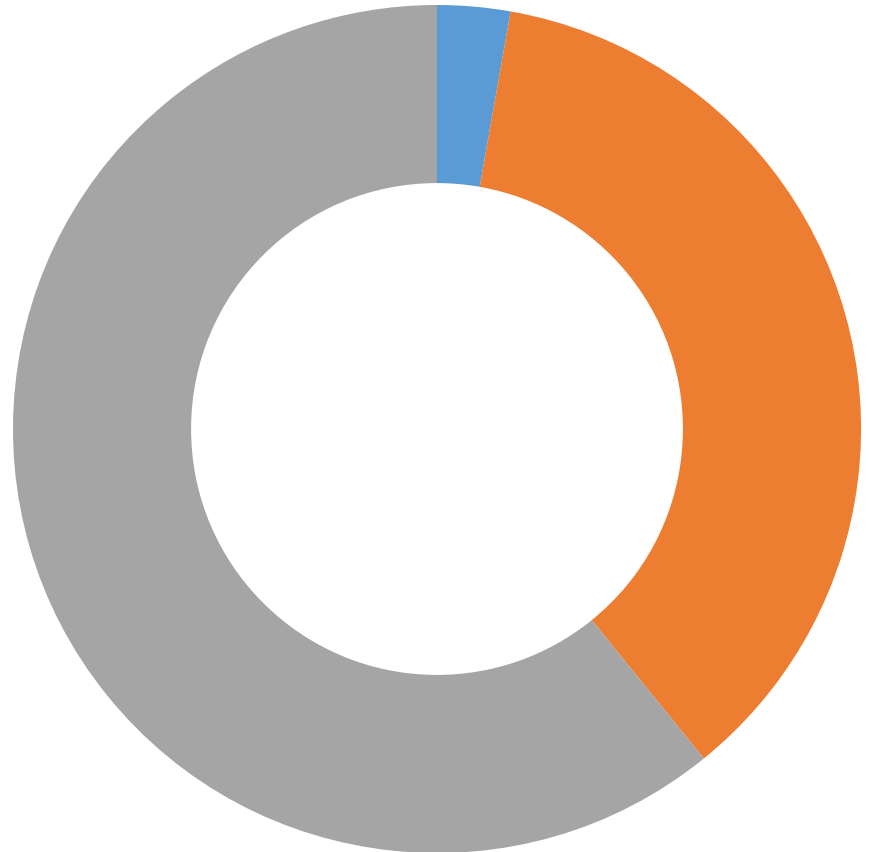
Wind and Solar Cost Competitive



COMMUNITY POWER represents a win-win-win for the province's climate and energy policy, as well as for economic development and community resiliency



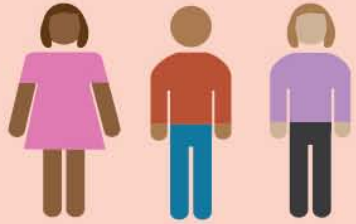
Ontario's Community Power sector



- 2.7% Community Power
- 36% Renewable Energy
- Other (non-renewable) electricity sources

Collective Effort

Like-minded individuals pool their resources to initiate renewable energy projects creating local jobs, clean power and investment opportunities.



Economic Returns

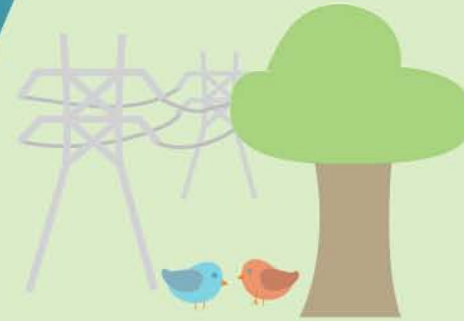
The sale of power generates revenues for investment returns, lease payments and taxes, fuelling the local economy. Local benefits inspire further collective effort and re-investment in new projects, starting the cycle anew!

THE COMMUNITY POWER ADVANTAGE

Community-led renewable energy projects provide triple-bottom line returns for greater social, environmental and economic resiliency.

Social Returns

Jobs and economic activity are created as projects are built. Energy literacy and skills for local self-reliance are enhanced as people become involved.



Environmental Returns

Zero emission power is produced where and when it is needed locally. Communities benefit from less pollution and a more reliable, diversified energy system.

Benefits of Community Power



Every \$1 we spend on
Community Power
projects results in over
\$2 in economic activity

Despite its relatively modest size, the Community Power sector will drive an estimated **\$5.2 billion of additional economic activity** over the life of its current FIT contracts.

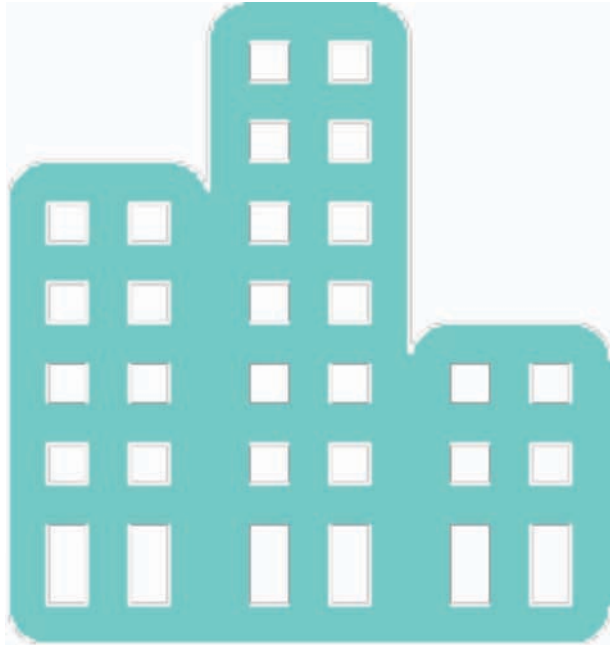


Benefits of Community Power



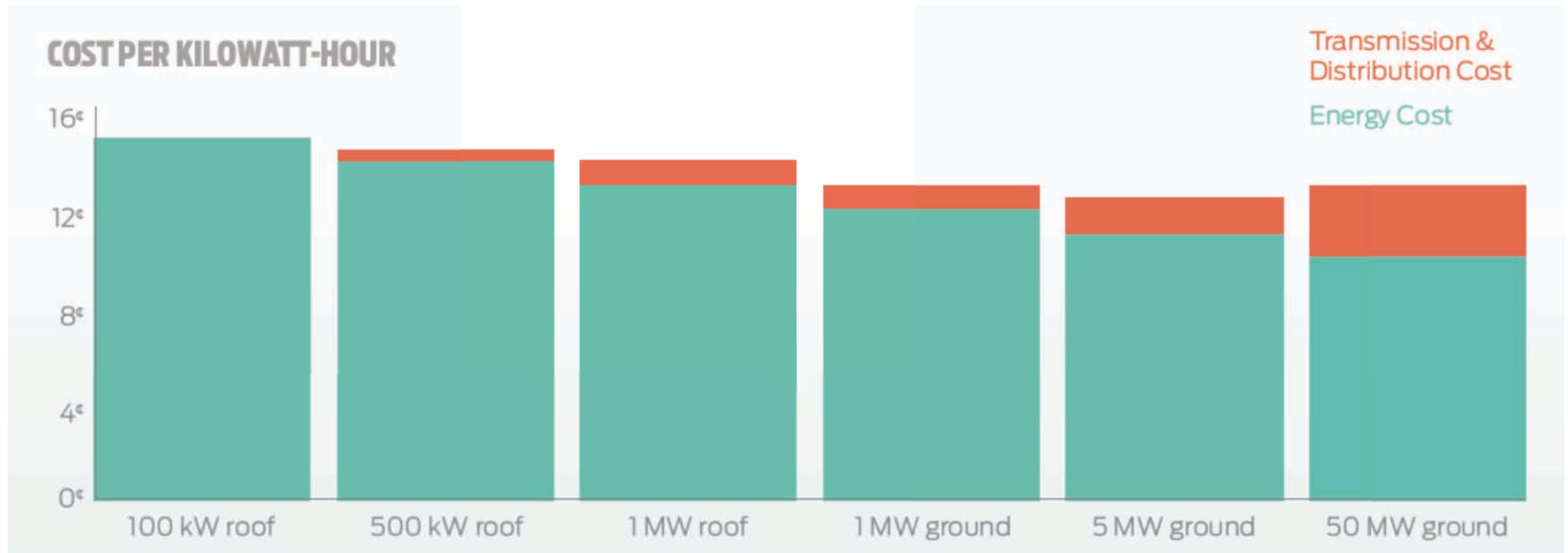
Community-owned renewable energy projects generate **twice as many jobs** as industry-owned projects

Benefits of Community Power



Community-based projects **increase grid resiliency and reliability**, reducing the need for costly transmission

Lower Transmission Costs

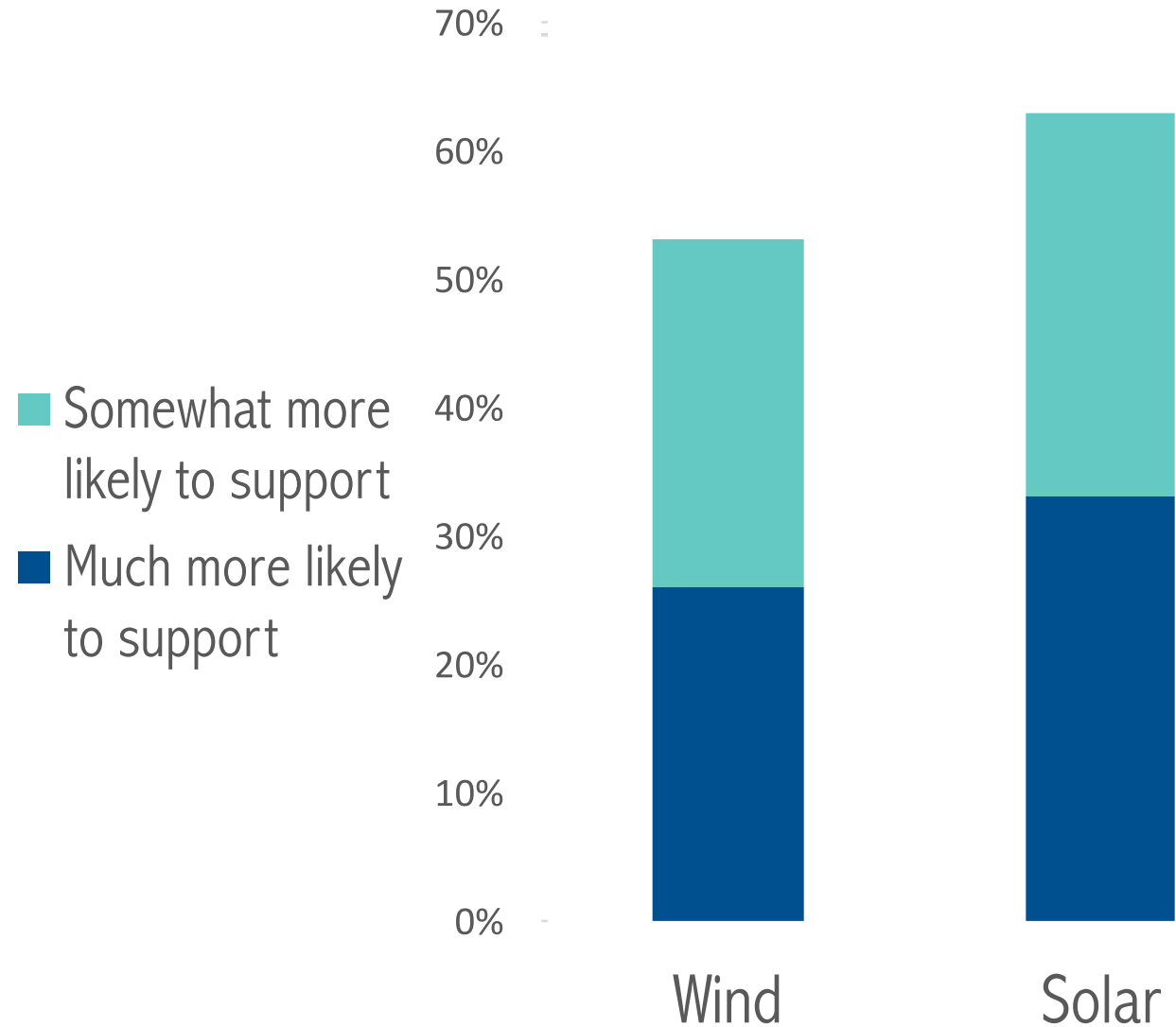


Strong Support for Community Power



Community participation increases public support for renewable energy — **78% of Ontarians support Community Power**

Community ownership important for keeping public onside





Community Power participants are “Ambassadors for Change” — the more citizens that invest and show their support, the more likely Ontario will continue to invest in renewable energy



COMMUNITY POWER involves people directly in the transition to a low-carbon future, creating many spin-off benefits

Ontario's Renewable Energy Co-op sector has...

- Raised more than \$84 million in community capital (shares and bonds)
- More than \$100 million in assets under management
- Paid more than \$9 million per year in returns to investors.
- Over 7,000 Ontarians (and growing!) are RE co-op members

But, we still have a long way to go...

GERMANY RENEWABLE ENERGY OWNERSHIP

- 47%** Citizens & Co-ops
- 15%** Energy Suppliers
- 38%** Institutional & Commercial



ONTARIO RENEWABLE ENERGY OWNERSHIP

- 3%** Co-ops & Municipality
- 10%** First Nation & Métis (full or partial)
- 87%** Full Commercial



Recommendations for a vibrant community energy sector

- **Maintain policies** like the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) that are instrumental for enabling community organizations, Indigenous Nations and municipalities to participate as equal players in renewable energy project development
- **Offer loan guarantees** to co-ops and other community groups trying to finance their RE projects
- **Create support mechanisms** to enable social and community finance to grow across the province and country and thereby retain investment dollars in our communities
- **Expand the definition of renewable energy co-op** so groups can do more in the clean energy space and help drive innovation and public uptake of leading edge solutions to the climate crisis

More Info

- Read the Report: trec.on.ca/reports
- Sign up for our newsletter for ongoing research and Community Power news: trec.on.ca/newsletter
- Download this presentation: trec.on.ca/presentations