

Upnit Power Corporation Project

The City of Port Alberni has partnered with the Hupacasath First Nation, the Ucluelet First Nation and Synex Energy to develop the Upnit Power Project. This project has all of the elements of energy awareness, Community Leadership, Cost Effectiveness and Best Practices.

The Upnit Power Project is a Run of the River Micro Hydro Project. The potential 6.3 mega watts of Green electricity generated from the turbine can support 6,000 homes. The project is supported with a long term (20 year) electrical purchase contract from B.C. Hydro.

The partnership between the Municipality, Private Industry and the First Nations demonstrates a unique form of collaboration for Community Development. The project was in the planning stages for 3 years before construction began in 2004. The project cost \$14.5 million and was completed in December 2005.

The project was designed and supported by a number of Professional Engineers, Biologists, Archeologists, and Foresters. The project involved the construction of a water intake on China Creek and 4.5 km pipeline to the generation station. Special consideration was given to the large environmental and fisheries elements of the project.

The Upnit Power Project is more than a successful Engineering Project. Upnit exemplifies the elements of energy awareness, Community Leadership, Cost Effectiveness and Best Practices. Please read the attached article from the Business Vancouver Island magazine for more details.