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New Hoffman White Paper Captures Lessons Learned from Successful Community Microgrids

First-Ever Synthesis of Best Practices Provides a Blueprint for Community Microgrids

Palo Alto, CA: October 7, 2020 – [Hoffman Power Consulting](#) (HPC) today released the result of a study that identified “[Nine Lessons Learned from Successful Community Microgrids](#).” The white paper documents best practices that microgrid developers and partners, communities, utilities, business leaders, regulators, and others can use to implement beneficial community microgrids.

“We took a good look at the six community microgrids operating in North America and sought patterns of success,” explains study principal author Steve Hoffman, CEO of HPC. “Despite this limited number of installations, we found several definite practices that worked.”

The study first noted that each of the six projects was developed in response to a specific type of threat to electric power resilience, including severe thunderstorms, mudslides, tornados, hurricanes, ice storms, and wildfires. Defining this threat during project planning and identifying the best way to mitigate it is the first step to success.

The study found that incorporating various resilience-enhancing solutions (e.g., building energy efficiency, and distributed renewable generation and storage) into the microgrid can increase its resilience “bang for the buck.” Another conclusion was that an energy-as-a-service business model can help capital-strapped communities move forward with community microgrid projects.

The paper also explains that incorporation of community education and learning activities can be crucial to project regulatory approval, while increasing awareness of project benefits. Another important aspect is ensuring project benefits to traditionally underserved parts of the community, which extreme events typically impact disproportionately compared to other neighborhoods.

“We also found that most successful community microgrids focus on providing an ‘oasis’ or refuge for its citizens during an extreme event,” Hoffman explains. “These projects incorporate facilities such as a community center, hardware store, grocery store, gas station, and urgent care facility.”

The [white paper is publicly available](#) at no cost on the HPC website.

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About Hoffman Power Consulting: Established in 1985, [Hoffman Power Consulting](#) (HPC) of Palo Alto, CA specializes in producing customized thought leadership, business, and marketing materials on electric power resilience to wildfires, severe weather, cybersecurity attacks, and other threats. The firm has written more than 1000 custom deliverables for its clients in the electric power industry. HPC helps companies that offer electric utilities resilience products and services to differentiate their offerings, demonstrate industry leadership, enhance marketing and communication effectiveness, and grow their client base and revenue.

For More Information

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