



Photo courtesy of Travis Melin

**City of Ely**

**Alternative Energy Task Force**

Community Bioenergy

Progress Report

# Benefits of community bio-energy

Stabilize and reduce long term energy costs

By assisting the major users, stabilize costs for the community as a whole

Keep energy dollars in the local economy

Vitalization of community infrastructure

Cooperative Approach for previously polarized business interests

Improve forest management including wildfire mitigation efforts

Net reduction in carbon emissions

Reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels resources

District Heating and cooling is proven and efficient technology

New and existing business energy savings

Source of Community Pride and Security

Sustainable Job Creation



Prototype or catalyst for other communities

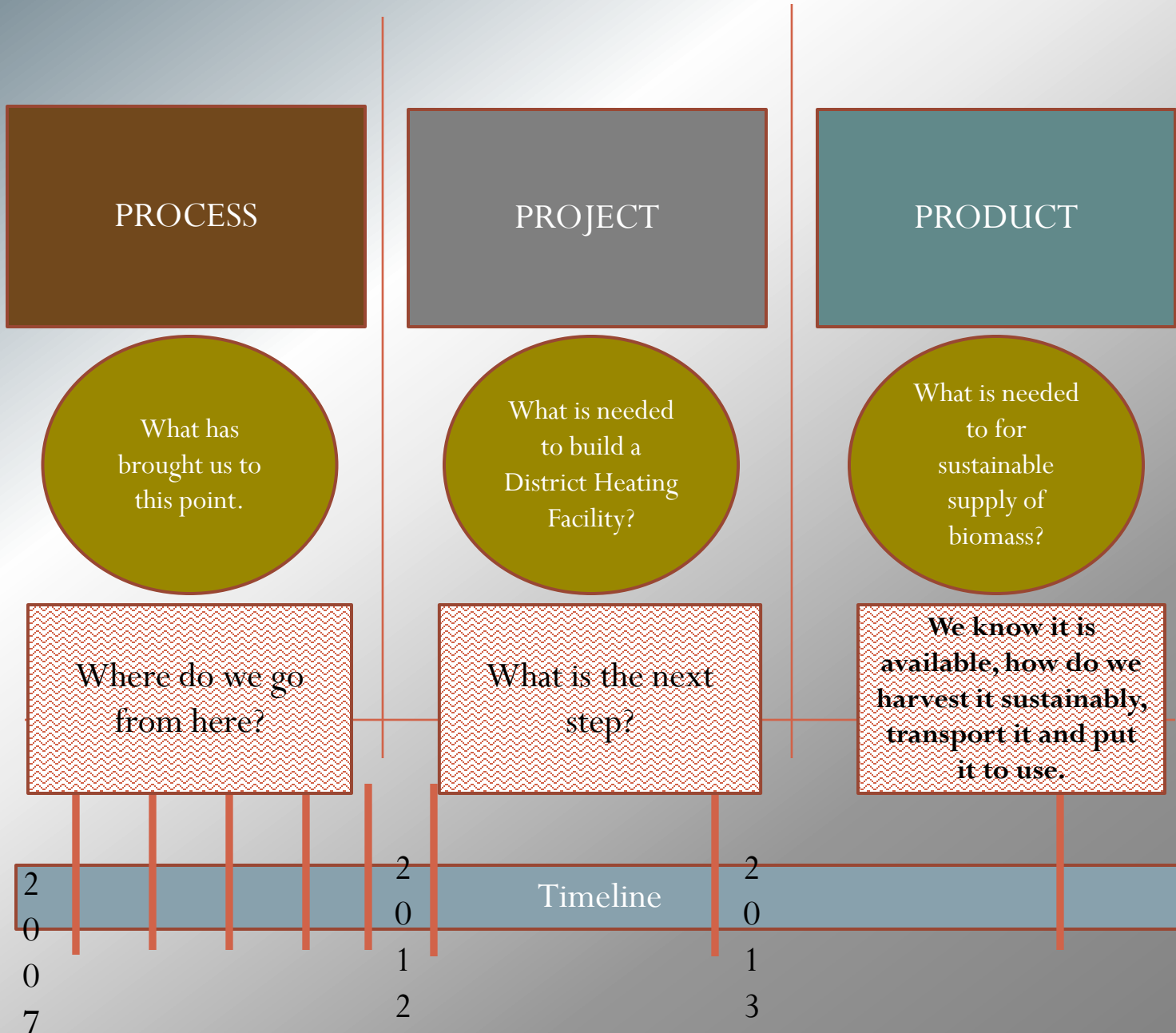
Insurance against unstable fuel prices

Is a community able to realize these benefits >

# The most important ingredients to have a community conversation around biomass:

- Collaborative approach
- Realistic Options to access before community decisions are made
- Ask how a community can ensure a positive environmental and social outcome for years to come.

# Ely Community Biomass can be looked at in THREE ways:



# Phase 1

PROCESS

Community  
Conversation

Formation of  
City Task Force

Feasibility  
Studies

Financial  
Engineering  
Phases

Engineering  
Studies

Biomass  
Availability

# Phase 3

Information  
Sharing

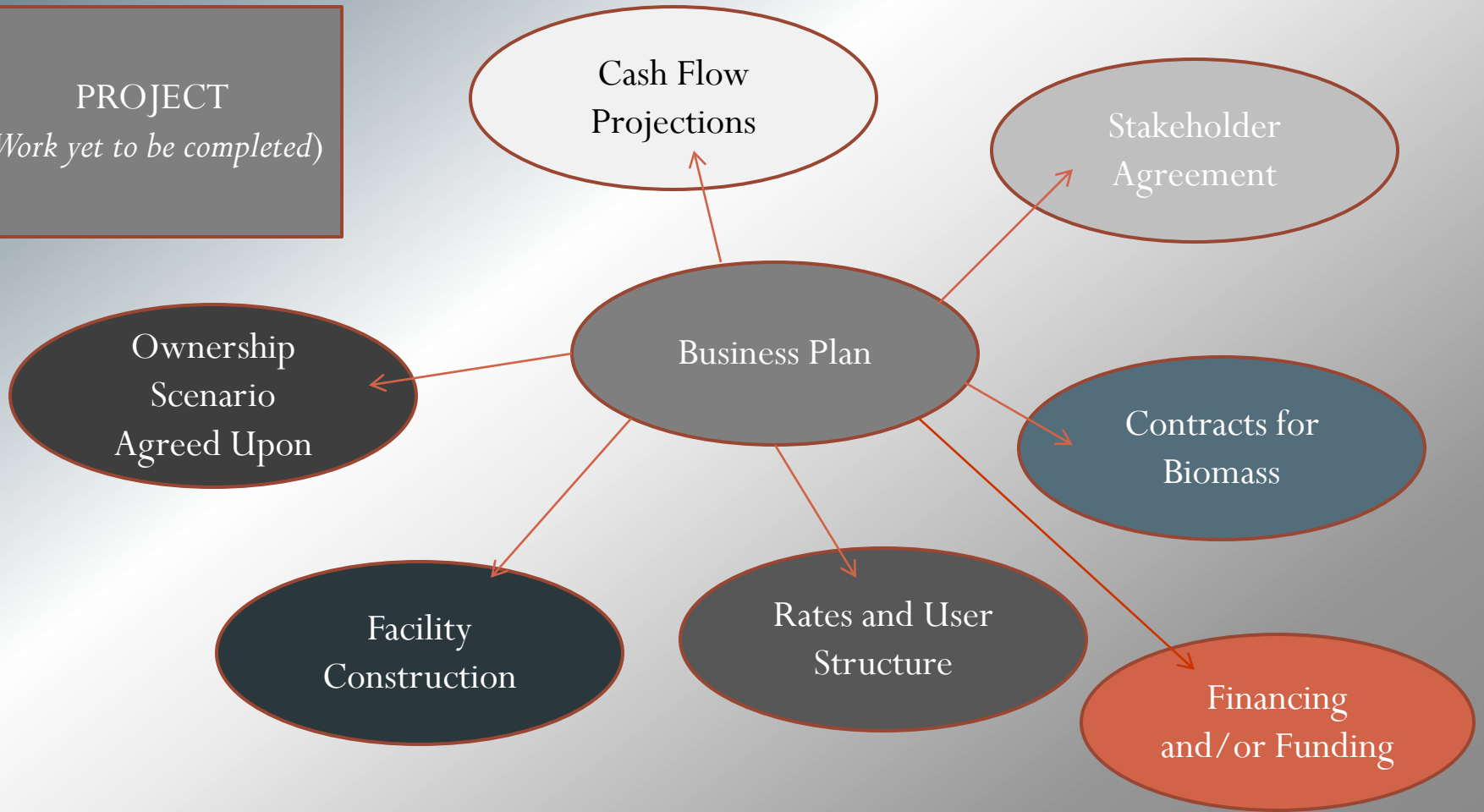
Data Collection

Environmental  
Impact

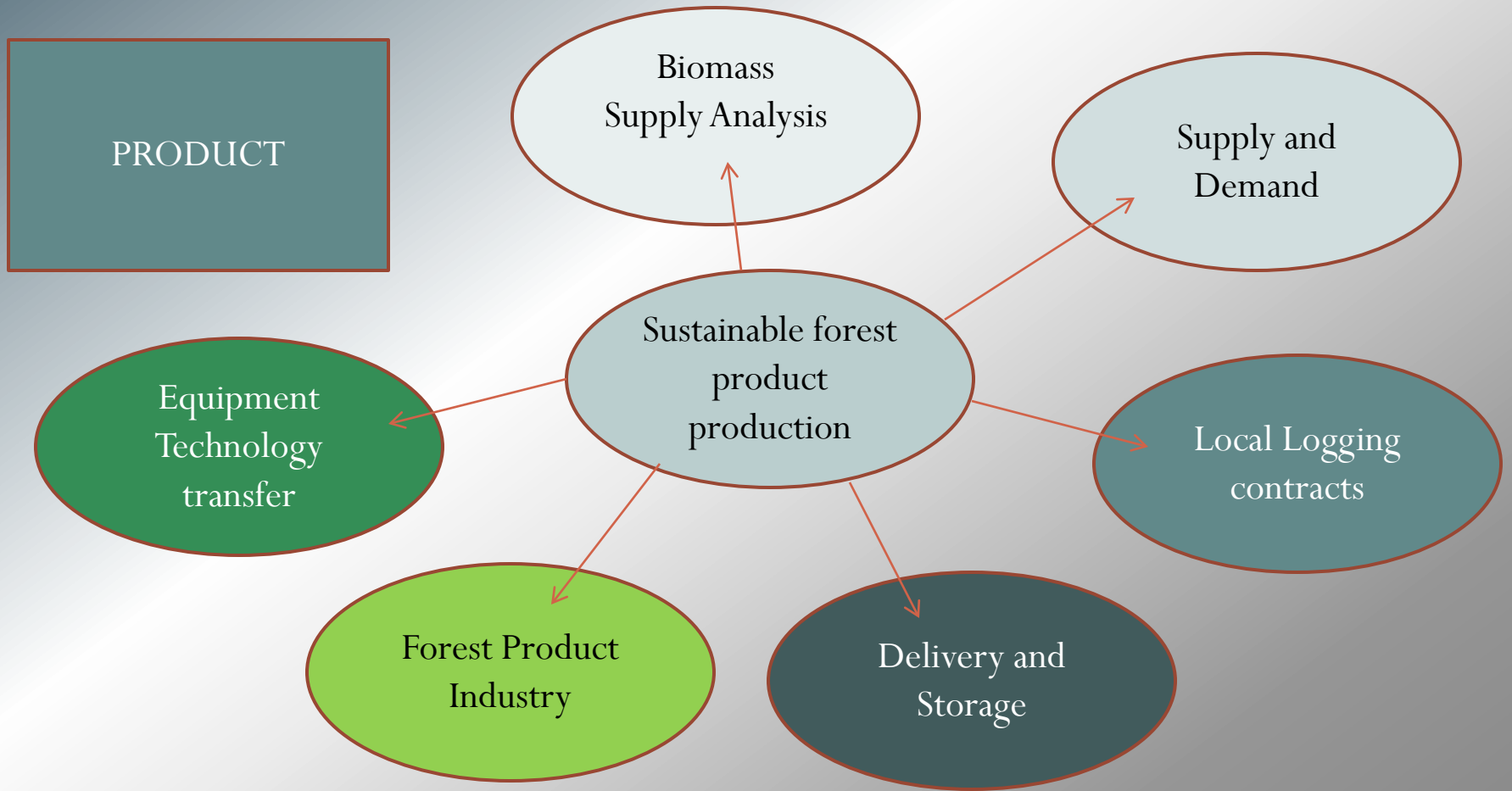
Economic  
Impact

# PHASE 2

PROJECT  
*(Work yet to be completed)*

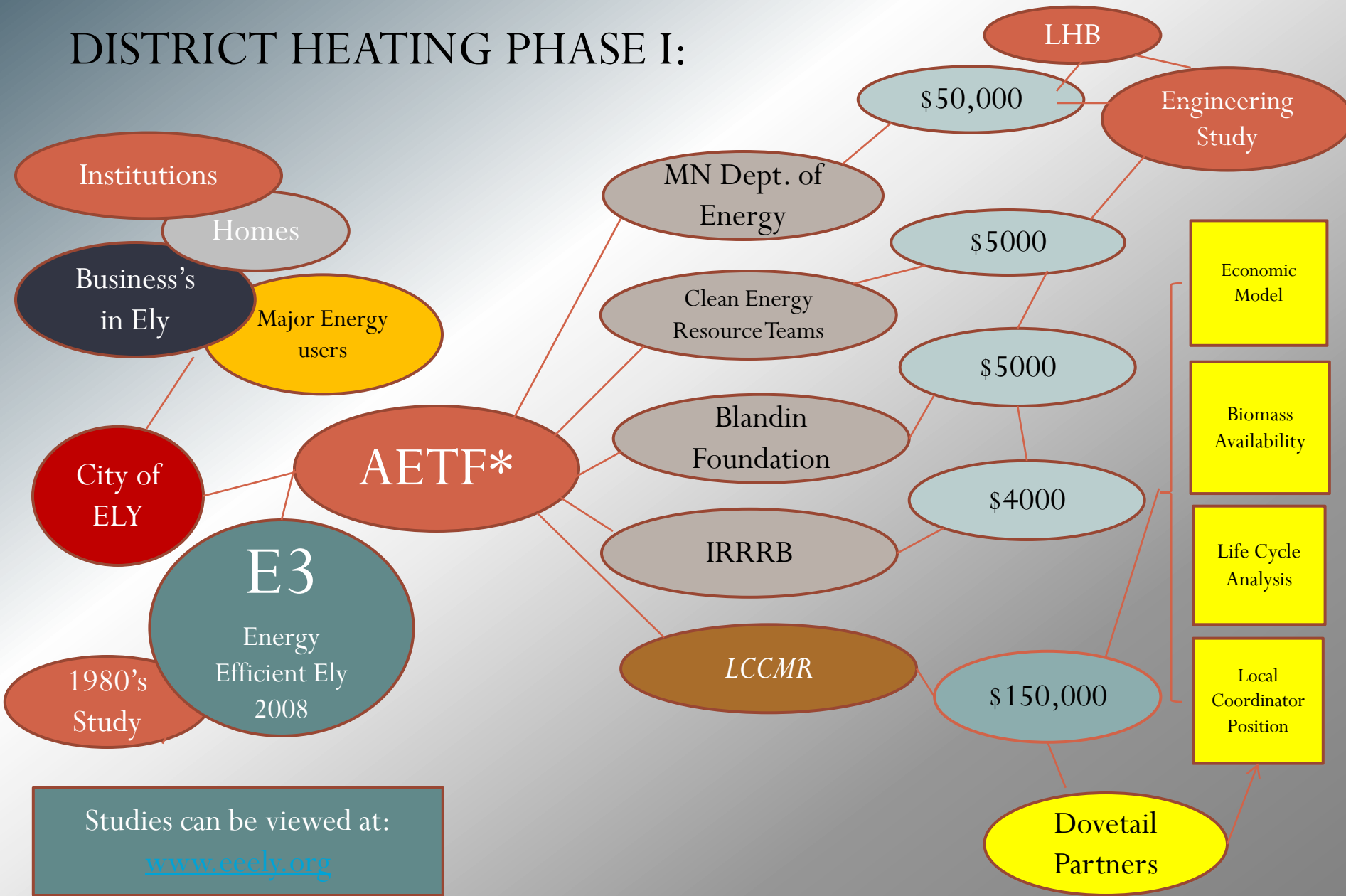


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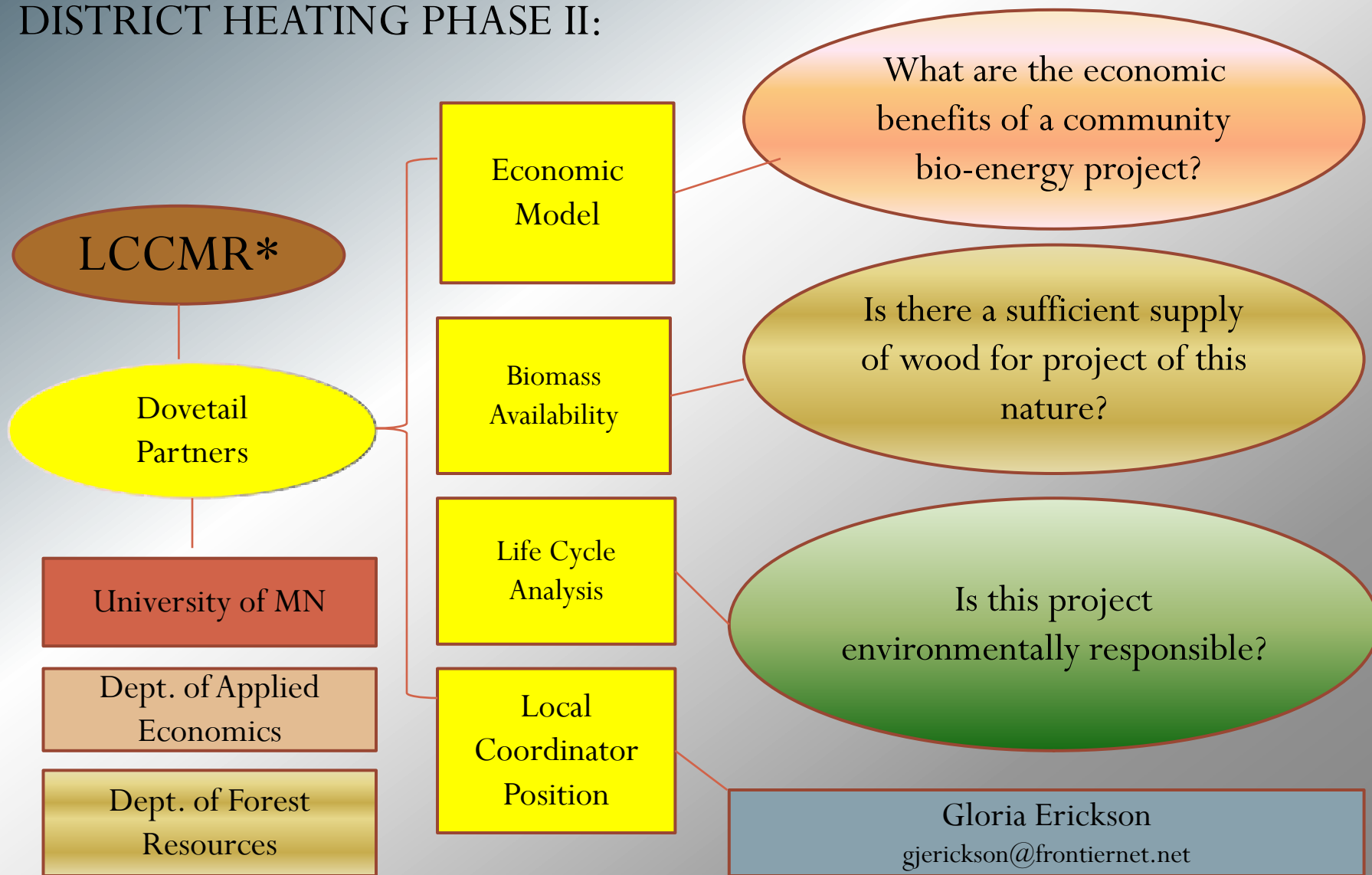
# DISTRICT HEATING PHASE I:



\*City of Ely Alternative Energy Task Force

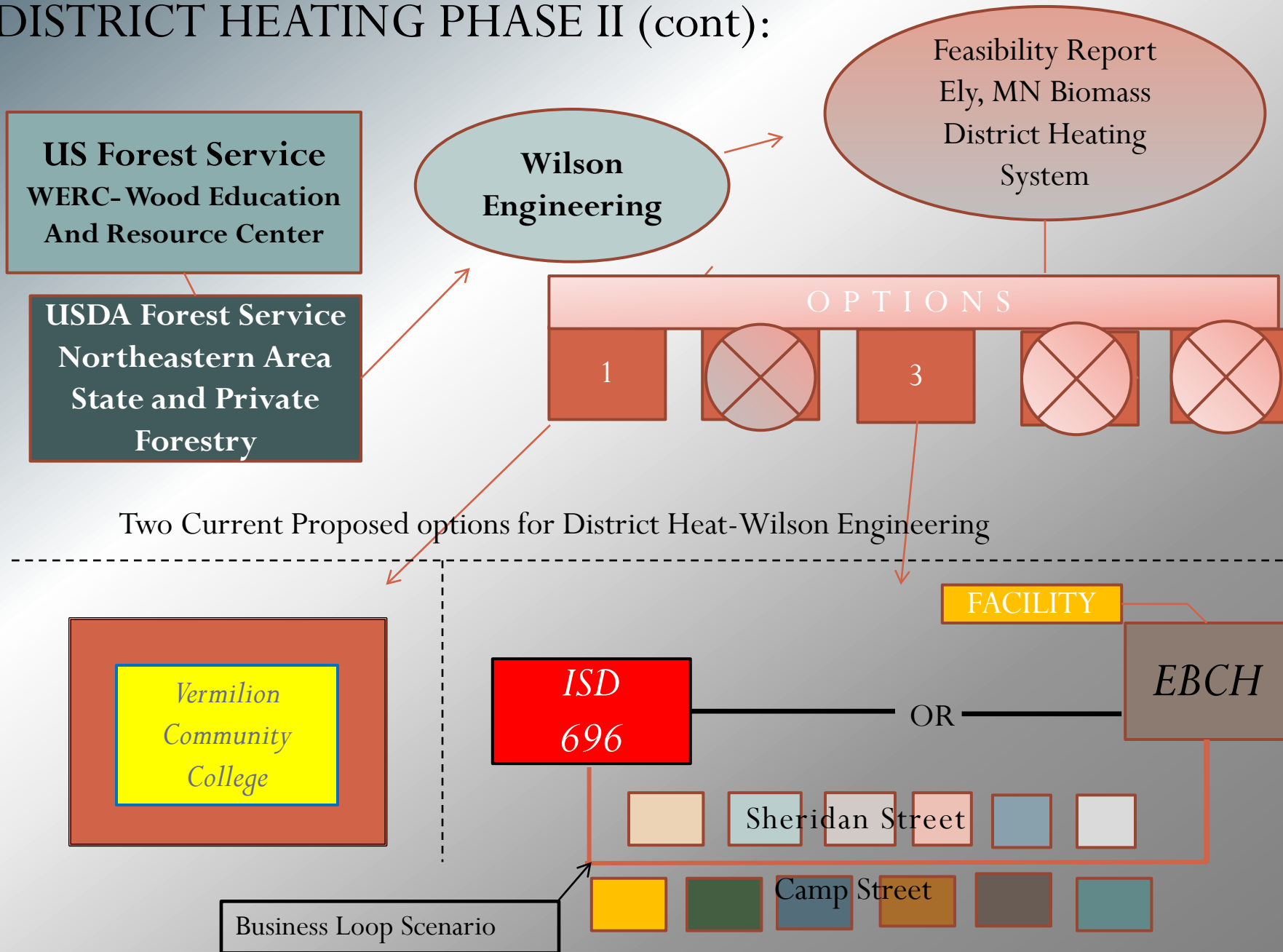


# DISTRICT HEATING PHASE II:

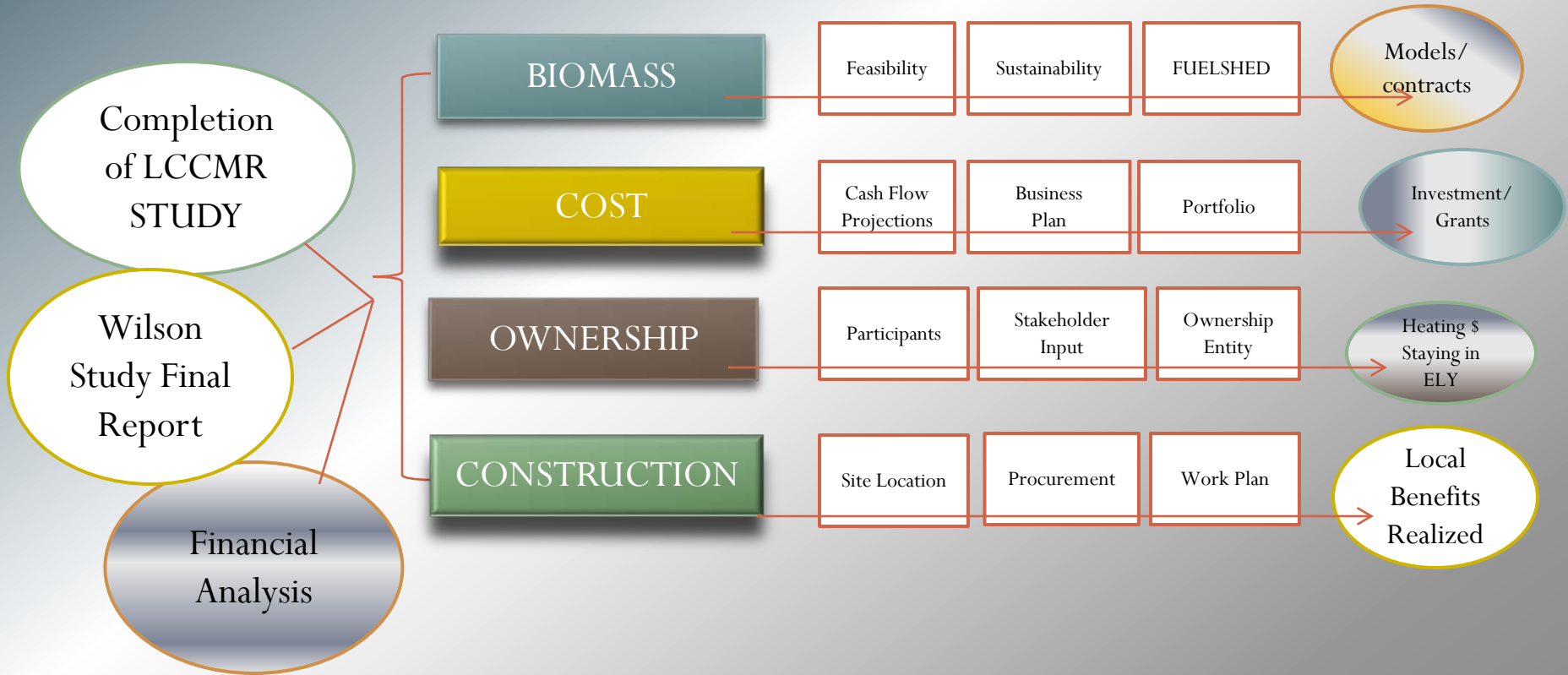


\*Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

# DISTRICT HEATING PHASE II (cont):



# DISTRICT HEATING PHASE III:



As a community of Stakeholders, Ely is positioned to move into PHASE III

**Collaborative process** that brings all the key players in the community to think through the best options.

Where, How, Who; importance of having a **strong local coordinator** role to buffer objective information about what is being learned.

Contrast conventional system by **looking at a variety of options**.  
Don't look at one option as assume there is money available for it.

Important to identify the most efficient option

Must be **scaled appropriately**

Where is the demand density?

**Widely adopted in Europe**

Ground foundational information is needed for communities to use that information **to move forward**

A few local opinions:

“It is not, for the most part, a political "green" issue, but a smart thing to do.”

“Woody Biomass is plentiful, but make sure there are contracts with large property owners, USFS, State and County lands”

“The Economic Development possibilities with a District Heating System are very attractive.”