



Positive Power has been growing and working hard throughout the summer and is excited to have hired its first full-time staff member due to generous funding from Trillium. This is a major step in the growth of the co-operative and a major barrier overcome for any not-for-profit group.

At the same time we have had significant announcements by the provincial government regarding energy policy. Hopefully, these announcements will be a first step towards a period of growth for renewable energy in the province that rivals the growth that Positive Power has experienced during the past year. So please, read on . . .

Powerful Progress

[Positive Power Awarded \\$150,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant](#)

Positive Power has been awarded a \$150,000 grant over two years. These funds will be used to hire a Project Coordinator, hold educational workshops, assist with operating expenses, and undertake a feasibility study for the sustainability of the co-operative.

[Building the Positive Power Team](#)

The hiring committee and board of directors are proud to announce the hiring of Jennifer Heneberry to fill the previously posted role of Project Coordinator. Jennifer comes to Positive Power with lots of experience working in the Hamilton area, with volunteer organizations, and managing large projects including with Hamilton Connects and Vision 2020. I am sure as Jennifer gets comfortable in her new role you will all have an opportunity to meet her. Welcome aboard Jen!

[The Wind is Blowing at Hamilton Drumlin!](#)

The results for the first 3 months of wind data from our Wind Resource Assessment (WRA) are in! The wind speeds are quite good with average monthly wind speeds as follows:

Month	Wind Speed @ 50m
April	6.86 m/s
May	6.03 m/s
June	5.78 m/s

These results are very promising. The April Wind speed is really quite good and while the wind is slowing down in June, that is to be expected in the summer months. However, PPC will have to wait until a full years worth of data is available and the data is normalized to previous years before anything can be concluded in definite.

[Prospecting for Wind at Grant's Point](#)

Positive Power's Technical and Education working groups are preparing to engage the Grant's Point community and land owners to see if there is support for wind power!

Positive Power is excited to announce that it is preparing to actively engage the Grant Point community (close to Dunnville along Lake Erie) in gauging and developing support for a second Wind Resource Assessment (WRA). The site is an excellent location with great access to the winds coming off of Lake Erie, room for expansion to a small wind farm, and high voltage electrical grid interconnection. Look for a notice about a town hall meeting at Grant Point and come out to show your support!

[Blowing in the Wind Winners - Contest Re-opened!!](#)

Responding to some feedback from the members, we have re-opened the contest and are allowing new guesses. This is due to the fact that many of our members were unsure of what wind speeds to expect at the Hamilton Drumlin. With the first set of wind speeds in, we hope those who missed out on the first round will participate. Note: If you did participate in the first round but would like to change your guesses, this re-opening of the contest is an opportune time. Please get your new guesses in by **September 1st, 2003**.

Regardless, the Blowing in the Wind Contest has gotten off to a great start with one winner 0.03 m/s off of the actual wind speed for May.

Month	Winner	Wind Speed (Guess m/s)	Wind Speed (Actual m/s)	Sponsor
April	TBD	6.43 m/s	6.86 m/s	Green Tags
May	Troy Green	6.00 m/s	6.03 m/s	N.E.C. Micon
June	Paul Tanner	5.32 m/s	5.78 m/s	GE Wind Energy

Just as a refresher, here's how the contest works. Submit a list of twelve average monthly wind speeds and the person who is closest to the measured value in any given month wins a prize! To submit your guesses, go to the Submissions page on the website (Positive Power Co-op members only please). For telephone inquiries, please contact Dan Hall 905.891.0913

Upcoming Events

Wind Open House - Grant's Point - Stay tuned

Working Group Meetings

<u>Sept. 16th, 2003 Fundraising Working Group Meeting</u> When: 7pm, Tuesday, September 16, 2003 Where: Location to be determined Contact Victoria Roberts at 905-631-8574 for information	<u>Sept. 15th, 2003 Advocacy Working Group Meeting</u> When: 7:30pm, Monday September 15, 2003 Where: 46 Oakwood Avenue North, Mississauga, ON Contact Dan Hall at 905-891-0913 for more information.
<u>Aug. 27th, 2003 Fundraising Working Group Meeting</u> When: 7pm, Thursday, August 27, 2003 Where: Location to be determined Contact Victoria Roberts at 905-631-8574 for information	<u>Aug. 18th, 2003 Advocacy Working Group Meeting.</u> When: 7:30pm, Monday August 18, 2003 Where: 2421 Torquay Crt, Burlington (near Dundas & Guelph Line) Contact Dan Hall at 905-891-0913 for more information..

Changes to Positive Power's Board

The Board of Directors would like to express gratitude and appreciation to resigned members **Martin Ince**, and **Alison Scott-Butler**. Without the passion and leadership provided by Martin to start Positive Power and the legal expertise and incorporation status for the organization achieved by Alison, Positive Power Co-operative would be a mere shadow of its substantial self. We thank these individuals for their time, achievement, and tireless voluntary enthusiasm. Both individuals will continue as full members of the Co-operative. Best Wishes to them in their newest endeavors!

For those members considering a Board position, please remember to have your written nomination --signed by at least two other Co-operative members-- submitted well in advance (45+ days) of our Annual General Meeting occurring at the end of November, 2003. If you are interested or have questions, contact our Treasurer, Don Brown by mail at 21 Kelly St., P.O. Box 467, Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0 or 905-689-4099 home/fax.

Working Group Committees

There are currently 8 vibrant committees that have been busy developing and implementing programs for Positive Power.

Education	Lead: Troy Greene	905-330-0370	education@positivepowerco-op.com
<u>Advocacy</u>	Lead: Dan Hall	905-891-0913	advocacy@positivepowerco-op.com
<u>Fundraising</u>	Lead: Victoria Roberts	905-631-8574	fundraising@positivepowerco-op.com
<u>Technical</u>	Lead: Jon Norman	416-207-0808	technical@positivepowerco-op.com
Project Development	Lead: Sam De Ath	905-690-7474	projectsdevelopment@positivepowerco-op.com
Communications	Lead: Chris Palin	416-227-0717	communications@positivepowerco-op.com
Finance	Lead: Donald Brown	905-689-4099	finance@positivepowerco-op.com
Administration	Lead: Elizabeth Simmons	905-628-0778	administration@positivepowerco-op.com

Renewable Energy Industry News

Green Power Standard Announced

The Ontario government has announced a Green Power Standard (GPS), that will require power suppliers to source up to 8% of electricity from renewable sources. The 8% value will start at 1% in 2006 and increase 1% each year over 8 years to reach the 8% value. The GPS is expected to add 3000 MW of green power to the electricity system in Ontario.

Full implementation details have not yet been released. The Positive Power Advocacy group has rigorously reviewed this announcement and has developed the following recommendations for the GPS implementation:

- Provide a small generator set-aside to allow small community-based generators, such as Positive Power, a chance to compete
- Impose a quota on the maximum amount of energy that can be provided by any one generator to ensure competition in the market
- Begin implementation in 2004 rather than 2006 to engage the market immediately
- Ensure that power purchase agreements are established for a period that will encourage investment; 15 to 25 year agreements are suggested
- Implement the regulatory infrastructure required to allow projects to move ahead quickly; access to transmission and environmental assessments must, for example, be streamlined
- Ensure that eligibility is limited to truly "green" sources of electricity and excludes large hydro and nuclear generators

Temporary Generators Reveal Short Term Thinking

Submitted by: Kerry J. Schooley, gsp.schoo@skyline.net, August, 2003

It is the middle of summer and the Ontario government's \$100 million program to install natural gas generators in the province's southern cities is still largely unrealized. Plans for temporary generators were announced last winter. They were to provide emergency power during hot summer months until refurbished nuclear reactors come on line in the fall. But according to a July 18 report in The Hamilton Spectator, installation of more than half of the stop-gap capacity has been cancelled by the independent contractors hired for the project. Simply put, peak demand still threatens to exceed supply in Ontario.

There is mounting evidence that, in the short term, demand-side management programs would promise a higher-impact, lower-cost solution to the province's power problems (see Bright Ideas 2.)

Current Electricity Policy Confusing

Currently, Ontario consumers are offered a one-time, 8% retail sales tax rebate on the purchase of energy-efficient appliances. That's a good start, but the effect is countered by the government's recent price cap on electricity at 4.3 cents/kWh. This expensive program has provided no improvements in energy supply or demand.

Temporary generators, sales tax rebates and rate subsidies add up to a confusing array of productive and counter-productive programs.

Where will new Generating Capacity Come From?

Meanwhile, rising costs and delays associated with refurbishing mothballed reactors suggest nuclear power may not be a reliable long-term solution toward meeting our energy needs. Nuclear power already enjoys generous government subsidies (it is also largely responsible for the \$38 billion stranded debt from Ontario Hydro for which taxpayers are now liable) amid ongoing concerns about safety and the handling of waste fuel storage.

Coal is highly polluting, a major contributor to Ontario's unacceptable levels of air pollution. Natural gas is cleaner than coal, but fuel prices are volatile and increases are expected. There are few sites available for large, new, hydro projects and the environmental effects of such developments can be devastating.

On the other hand, renewable energy is a promising alternative for new supply, complementing other electricity sources. The benefits include less pollution, greater price stability, reduced reliance on imported fuels, help fulfilling Canada's Kyoto obligations, and lower health costs due to improved air quality.

A First Step

The Ontario government's has recently announced Green Power Standard seems to be a first step towards a long-term energy policy. Positive Power hopes it will be the first of many such initiatives.

From the Members. . .

Wind Turbine Myth #1 - Danger to Birds

Submitted by: Maya Harris, July 25/2003

Fright of flight: wind turbines? Despite the benefits of wind power for reducing smog, acid rain and climate change, some environmental groups are still concerned about the impacts of wind turbines on birds, especially during their migration. It seems to be one of the most common misperceptions about wind power that is often raised as a red flag in the press.

Recently in the U.S., more than 25 national and regional conservation groups called on federal officials to assess the impacts of planned extensive wind power development on the Appalachian mountain ridges on migratory birds, before the projects are constructed. They urged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop appropriate criteria for situating and constructing of these facilities under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

While this proposal has merit, and wind turbines should be situated to have a minimal impact, such concerns feed into the misperceptions that wind turbines kill great numbers of migratory birds. Evidence in North America is patchy at best, and many of the undertaken studies provide data on older projects, where there were great numbers of wind turbines that moved much more quickly having a greater impact than the much larger, more powerful, slow moving turbines that are being built today. In studies done of some of these larger wind farms, there is also a large amount of variation in the mortality reported among wind turbine facilities.

Recent evidence has shown that when compared to other common bird hazards such as tall structures like electrical towers, stacks and buildings, the number of bird kills from wind turbines is minute in comparison.

In a literature survey undertaken for an assessment of impacts at a Vermont wind power facility on breeding and migrating birds, of structures that are known to kill birds by collision - windows seem to have the greatest impact followed distantly by lighted towers.

The survey also highlighted the six factors that need to be considered as contributing to the number of birds killed by towers including height, lighting, weather/visibility, guy wires, geographic location and topography.

Recent articles in the Toronto Star highlighted the mortality impacts of lit downtown towers and vanity lighting on some of the city's newer towers.

The WindShare web site for the Toronto wind turbine cites that the average mortality is 2 birds per turbine per year, while in comparison office towers kill 10,000 birds per year, and traditional forms of electricity generation can have a much more detrimental impact on wildlife.

Toronto's FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program), a not-for-profit that collects dead and injured birds, collected 4,700 birds in 2002, mostly from the city's core. Two out of every three birds collected didn't survive their injuries.

[Member Profile - Troy Greene](#)

Why did I join PPC?

My involvement in Positive Power Coop came about out of two goals that I had a little over one year ago. Having only been in Southwestern Ontario for three months, I was looking for a community organization that would enable me to participate in energy efficiency/conservation and renewable energy initiatives. I was also looking for a good way to meet new people and develop a network of friends and colleagues in and around my new home.

What have I enjoyed achieving within my active volunteering at PPC?

Two of the highlights for me in the past year have been participating in the raising of the monitoring tower on Hamilton's drumlin, and the development of the Positive Power Coop display booth, which attracted so much interest at the Halton Ecofestival in Oakville this past spring.

Looking back on the past year, I am thankful to have worked along side of so many great people and for all the friendships that I have developed.

[Bright Ideas - California's 20/20 Rebate Program](#)

Submitted by: Chris Palin, July 25th, 2003

In the summer of 2000 California experienced an energy crisis when demand for electricity exceeded supply within the state, resulting in soaring electricity prices, brownouts and rolling blackouts. To prevent a similar occurrence in the summer of 2001, California introduced several policies, including the 20/20 Rebate Program. Under this program any home that reduced its electricity consumption by 20% or any commercial business that reduced its peak consumption by 20% received a rebate equal to an additional 20% of their electricity bill.

This policy not only promoted conservation but further penalized heavy electricity users by forcing them to provide tax subsidies to those who took measures to cut their bills (through taxes).

With the aid of the 20/20 policy blackouts were averted in the summer of 2001 and nearly 1/3 of California electricity consumers received rebates worth US\$200 million. Peak demand during the summer was reduced by 3,000 to 5,000 MW (or 6 to 12 %), after adjustments for changes in weather and economic conditions.

A study by Berkeley Lab, a laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, identified six possible causes of this reduction: the media coverage, increased energy prices, energy efficiency, the 20/20 Rebate Program, power management programs by the Independent Systems Operator and state government programs within government agencies. The study acknowledges the difficulty in crediting any one change with a fixed percentage of the reduction in demand, but suggests the 20/20 Rebate Program had significant impact on demand.

It will be interesting to observe how the success of policies introduced by our provincial government compare to the successes observed in California.

[The Hydrogen Economy - a member's book review](#)

Submitted by: Brent McKnight, July 25th, 2003

The Hydrogen Economy once again displays author's Jeremy Rifken's ability to clearly present a difficult topic in an engaging way. The book is well researched especially in descriptions of the impending shortages of oil/gas and other causes precipitating the move towards a new energy transfer medium (Technical hydrogen is not a fuel as it is not found occurring naturally). In fact the majority of the book is spent describing the current energy industry and its many facets before delving in with excitement to the details of Hydrogen.

Interestingly, Rifken pulls out his crystal ball and predicts how a 'Hydrogen Economy' will change the world with surprising (if not optimistic results). Rifken imagines a world of massively distributed power generation in what he dubs a Hydrogen Energy Web (HEW). The HEW, in Rifken's view, has empowering effects similar to that of the world wide web.

The tone is highly optimistic however does discuss the difficulties of cleanly producing hydrogen in the quantities required, safety concerns, and the challenges of building an infrastructure to support hydrogen.

Highly recommended for anyone interested in understanding the challenges facing our energy regime and one man's view of its future.

[About the Communications Group:](#) *The communications group is a multi-disciplinary team of stylin', intelligent, and modest people. Our goal is to provide a platform for the various working committees to get their messages out. We will be dealing with both internal and external stakeholders gearing messages towards potential members, community and other interested parties. In addition, we will release periodic press releases as major events or announcements regarding Positive Power occur. Please feel free to contact Chris Palin with your comments, constructive criticism, content, or concerns at 905-330-0370.*