



Compiling this newsletter, I quickly realized how active and productive the co-op has been over the last few months. Several initiatives that have been undertaken by different sub-groups. All seem to be coming together at about the same time!

Everyone, especially those who have committed their time and energy to this work, might reflect on what the co-op has achieved, and how our continued hard work will pay off. If you're not aware of these accomplishments, be sure to read on.

*-The Communications Group*

## Powerful Progress

### Where there is Wind Chill, there is Wind Energy Potential

The latest data collected from the anemometer confirms everyone's suspicions that in a cold winter, a strong breeze will help to fulfill our desires for warm beverages, fireplaces and other cold-weather comforts. The wind speeds measured in November and December were the highest average speeds since last April. Viability of the site will not be known until the Wind Resource Assessment is complete, but

these latest results are very encouraging. The technical committee is already starting Environmental Assessment planning, exploring zoning issues with the City of Hamilton, and talking grid interconnection with Hydro One.



### Blowing in the Wind Contest Update

Maya Harris earned a Green Tag from PPC, for predicting a November wind speed of 6.70 m/s at Hamilton's drumlin, closest to the actual average wind speed of 6.58 m/s. Peter Ormond's visionary powers got him a T-shirt from Second Wind. His 7.10m/s wind speed prediction was closest to the 6.67m/s December recording.

### Equipment Purchased for Second Wind Resource Assessment

Positive Power has purchased the anemometer and tower required to collect data for a second Wind Resource Assessment. Technical and project development groups are currently searching the north shore of Lake Erie for the most promising locations.

### Free Educational Workshops to be Hosted by Positive Power

On Saturday, February 14th, 2004 at the Hamilton Public Library Positive Power will host a *Water and Electricity Efficiency and Conservation* workshop, and on Wednesday February 25th, 2004, Positive Power will be hosting a *Home Heating and Cooling* workshop at the Dundas Municipal Service Centre (old Town Hall). Both workshops will be conducted with the support of Green Venture and the presence of Hamilton Utilities' powerWISEtm program.

#### **Workshop One: Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

**Date:** Saturday February 14th, 2004

**Time:** Doors open at 9:30AM, workshop runs from 10AM - 12PM

**Where:** Hamilton Public Library Central Branch (York Street), Central Hamilton Room

**Cost:** Free

#### **Workshop Two: Home Heating and Cooling**

**Date:** Wednesday February 25th, 2004

**Time:** Doors open at 6:30AM, workshop runs from 7PM - 9PM

**Where:** Dundas Municipal Service Centre (Old Town Hall), Hatt Street Dundas

**Cost:** Free

### Wind Resource Assessment Results

| Month     | Wind Speed @ 50m |
|-----------|------------------|
| April     | 6.86 m/s         |
| May       | 6.03 m/s         |
| June      | 5.78 m/s         |
| July      | 5.40 m/s         |
| August    | 4.45 m/s         |
| September | 5.85 m/s         |
| October   | 5.98 m/s         |
| November  | 6.58 m/s         |
| December  | 7.10 m/s         |
| January   | 7.52 m/s         |
| February  | TBD              |
| March     | TBD              |

This data is provided by Positive Power for educational purposes only and PPC does not accept liability for use or misuse of this data by any third party or wind energy project that they undertake.



These workshops have been sponsored by the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. For more details or to register contact Jennifer Heneberry at 905-971-5366 or via e-mail at [info@positivepowerco-op.com](mailto:info@positivepowerco-op.com).

## [CEDTAP funding received](#)

We are proud to announce that we have received \$10,707 from the Community Economic Development Technical Assistance Program (CEDTAP). This program is managed by Carleton University to assist community-based organizations in strengthening their capacities and increasing their resources with the assistance of like minded organizations.



This funding will allow us to contract a Technical Assistance Provider, namely the Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative (TREC), to guide us through the next stage of our wind turbine project. TREC is the wind energy co-operative that successfully erected a wind turbine on the Toronto waterfront. In turn, they will be assisting Positive Power with the development of a more project-specific business plan, financial model, and community outreach plan.

With this generous donation, Positive Power is able to act on the recommendations in our recently completed feasibility study and further our goal to erect a Utility Grade Wind Turbine.

## [EcoHouse Provides Home for Member Meeting](#)

Positive Power ran a great member meeting on Saturday January 17th at the Green Venture EcoHouse in Hamilton. Members of the Board, working committees, and staff were on hand to provide updates and information about Positive Power, and meet some of the newest members of the co-operative.

Sarah Cairns, EcoHouse Coordinator, provided information on Green Venture and some history and information about the EcoHouse project. After the meeting she provided a tour for interested members. Curt Hammond, Board Chair, made mention of the new PPC board and the importance of continuing to build on the momentum and hard work that members and volunteers have contributed to the co-operative so far.

Jen Heneberry, Project Coordinator, provided project updates about the Hamilton's drumlin and Hoover's Point/Lake Erie projects, a presentation being made to the City of Burlington

Community Development Committee, and also facilitated a brief question and answer period about project work for the newer members in the group. Committee activity updates were provided and a call for volunteer help went out for positions such as Newsletter and

Article Writers, Educational Workshop Facilitators/Designers, Funding Grant Researchers and Writers. Troy Green, Education Chair, gave an Education Committee update, talked about the [upcoming Educational Workshops](#) on Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and the committee's future plans.

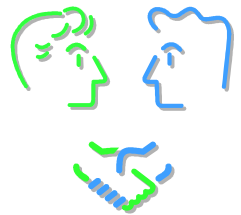
Positive Power announced that we have recently partnered with the Canadian Organic Growers, Wentworth Burlington Chapter for a funding application to the Burlington Community Foundation. This partnership was developed through our combined vision of conserving non-renewable resources through renewable energy projects. This joint application was made to support our preliminary environmental assessment studies at Hamilton's Drumlin. Specifically, to undergo a noise assessment, heritage study, and avian migration study. We were pleased to have Katrina

Simmons, a representative from the local chapter, be in attendance.

The next member meeting has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 20, 2004**. Exact time and location will be announced. If you have an idea or issue that you would like to see PPC cover, or know of a guest speaker of particular interest for the meeting, please let Jen know at 905-971-5366. We're always looking for ways to improve our member meetings for you.

## [Positive Power and City of Burlington to Team?](#)

After a well-received presentation by several members of Positive Power to Burlington City Council on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Council has shown great interest in Positive Power. Partnership opportunities between Burlington and the co-operative are being explored with City staff, while the technical and advocacy committees are working to provide expertise and project knowledge.



The presentation was recently featured in a story in February 6<sup>th</sup>'s issue of the Burlington Post. For more information on the presentation or our work with the City of Burlington, contact Dan Hall, Advocacy Chair at 905-891-0931.

## [Feasibility Study Complete](#)

A draft of the co-operative feasibility study, exploring the long-term financial models to be used for the sustainability of the co-op as a whole, and for the completion of specific individual projects, has been completed. The draft is currently being reviewed by the Board of Directors, and will likely be available by the end of February for review by members.

## [Positive Power members help in "Greening Ontario's Electricity Future"](#)

The *Greening Ontario's Electricity Future* conference held in Toronto on January 31, 2004 saw Non-Governmental Organizations, Members of Provincial Parliament, and industry experts gather to form a policy position paper on how to meet the challenges facing the energy industry in Ontario. Several Positive Power members were on hand to provide input from the renewable energy co-operative perspective and learn about some of the concerns facing other organizations in the province.

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## Upcoming Events

[Electricity and Water, Efficiency and Conservation](#) – Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004 (9:30 am to 12 noon)  
[Home Heating and Cooling](#) – Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004, 6:30- 9:00pm



**Positive Power Co-operative- Member Meeting** – March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004 (tentative)

### <step 1> Submit Photos; <step 2> Win Prizes?

The first Positive Power Photo Contest is about to begin. Stay tuned for further details...but feel free to get off the edge of your seat and start taking your pictures with renewable energy, co-operative, or community themes.

*For information on Working Group meetings or ways to get involved with committees or on Positive Power initiatives, please contact Jen Heneberry, Project Coordinator at 905-971-5366.*

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## Working Group Committees

There are currently 7 vibrant committees that have been busy developing and implementing programs for Positive Power. If you are interested in finding out more about what each of these committees are doing, you can contact the committee chairs using the information below.

|                                     |                            |              |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Education</a>           | Lead: Troy Greene          | 519-591-0310 | education@positivepowerco-op.com      |
| <a href="#">Advocacy</a>            | Lead: Dan Hall             | 905-891-0913 | advocacy@positivepowerco-op.com       |
| <a href="#">Fundraising</a>         | Lead: Victoria Roberts     | 905-308-5778 | fundraising@positivepowerco-op.com    |
| <a href="#">Technical</a>           | Lead: Jon Norman           | 416-207-0808 | technical@positivepowerco-op.com      |
| <a href="#">Communications</a>      | Lead: Chris Palin          | 416-227-0717 | communications@positivepowerco-op.com |
| <a href="#">Finance</a>             | Lead: Donald Brown         | 905-689-4099 | finance@positivepowerco-op.com        |
| <a href="#">Project Development</a> | Coordinator: Jen Heneberry | 905-971-5366 | info@positivepowerco-op.com           |

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## Important Announcement About Membership Renewals

*Hear ye, hear ye! Positive Power is moving to a standard membership renewal date!*

In order to make membership renewals a little easier, and have them all fall in line with Positive Power's fiscal year-end, we're instituting a member renewal date of September 30th. All memberships in the co-op will be good from October 1st of one year to September 30th of the next. This change will also make it easier to ensure that most memberships are in good standing for the Annual General Meeting that PPC holds each year in the fall (Oct or Nov).

### What does this mean for new members?

If you join the co-operative before March 31st, 2004, your membership will be good until September 30th, 2004.

If you join the co-operative between April 1st, 2004 and September 30th, 2003, your membership will be good until September 30th, 2005.

In some cases, members will get slightly more or in some cases, slightly less than 12 months out of their membership fee depending on when they join. This will only occur in the first year of membership.



### What does this mean for existing members that have to renew?

In many cases, we're dealing with existing members a bit differently, depending on the status of your renewal. If you need to renew in the next few months, Jen will be contacting you by email or phone to give you more details about how your renewal will work for this year. There is also a letter included with the newsletter that provides more information about your current membership status and how this change affects you.

### I have some questions. Who can I contact?

Contact Jen Heneberry, Project Coordinator ([info@positivepowerco-op.com](mailto:info@positivepowerco-op.com) or 905-971-5366) will be sending out renewal notices and working with Don Brown, Treasurer to ensure that the renewal process runs smoothly and efficiently.

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## Net Billing:

### What it Means for Positive Power and Power Co-operatives

#### Net Billing

Electricity is delivered to our home through established distribution networks. Homeowners and businesses alike pay depending on how much electricity is used as determined by electricity meters. For most individuals, this is the end of the story; the bill is received and paid. However, those homeowners that have invested in electricity generators at their homes, can often enter a Net Billing arrangement with their electricity providers and effectively sell any excess electricity they generate back to the electricity provider.

Net Billing works essentially by adding up the electricity bought (used) by the home and subtracting the electricity sold to the electricity provider. The 'net' is billed, or credited, to the client. This method provides a very neat and effective way to blend distributed electricity generation with the main power grid.

Net Billing is available in many States and prevalent in a number of European countries. In Canada, and in particular Ontario, the availability of Net Billing is mainly dependent on the policies of specific electricity distributors.



#### Co-operatives and Net Billing

While many people reading this newsletter are very familiar with the concept of Net Billing, there are some twists that complicate how Net Billing could be used to provide a Co-operative's shareholders with the benefits of Net Billing.

1. The first twist is that the electricity isn't being produced at the shareholder's home. As a result, the electricity service provider must adapt their billing systems to identify who among their customers are members of an energy producing co-operative and what portion of the co-operative's credit is theirs. This billing system would also have to know the recent power output of the co-operative's generator before divying-up the proceeds.

2. Adding to the complication, co-operative shareholders that purchase electricity from a different distributor than the one that purchases the co-op's power, will have to be compensated by the co-operative outside of the Net Billing relationship.

If these challenges are overcome, Net Billing will provide an attractive way of distributing dividends to an energy co-operative's shareholders.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding net billing, please let me hear them!

*Brent McKnight*

*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.*