



The Breeze

Version 13, June 2005

Winds of change in your community!

During the past quarter volunteers and the board have worked tirelessly on many fronts at the Positive Power Co-op. We have reached an important turning point in this organization. It is the moment of truth where we switch from discussing, planning, modelling and testing to executing our plan to finance wind energy projects and move ahead. Our vision of a healthy and sustainable environment through community-based renewable energy is within our grasp.

Edward Stavin - Editor

Knowledge creates Power:

Troy Greene

The past couple of months have been very productive for the Positive Power Co-op Education Committee. In late April, PPC presented a small wind energy workshop in Burlington at the Burlington Public Library - Aldershot branch, and at the Hamilton Public Central Library. The presentation covered the basic factors and system design considerations that must be taken into account by the homeowner when planning to install a small wind energy system. Both presentations were well received and attended.

In late May, a follow-up workshop was presented at the Tansley Woods branch of the Burlington Public Library and again at the Jackson Square branch of the Hamilton Public Central Library. This workshop provided more in-depth coverage of the subject and presented the use of some software tools that may be used in the planning stages of a renewable energy project.

Knowledge drives the RE message home

Wrapping up the energy assessment program at Lake Erie

Financing Flamborough

Mission, Vision & Values – our lifeblood

SOCS – building the RE marketplace.

Many have expressed an interest in the materials used at these workshops. In response we have posted these and some associated tools to the PPC website for free download. Please visit <http://www.positivepowerco-op.com/downloads/> and keep spreading the word about renewable energy and wind power.

From this point forward, the Education Committee will shift its focus from workshops to the two major projects that the Co-op is actively developing. In the coming months, the Education Committee will be developing informational displays and related literature for public information sessions and share offerings. A lot of work will have to go into these ventures - from creating the materials to distributing the information and literature. Additional volunteers would be very helpful. If you would like to contribute your time and talents to these efforts, please contact our General Manager Jen Heneberry.

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Coinciding with the shifting focus for the Education Committee, I have decided that it is time to step aside as chair of the Committee. I have enjoyed chairing this Committee since it began - almost two and a half years ago! I will still be involved with the Education Committee and look forward to upcoming months as we get closer and closer to having the Co-op's first wind turbine up and running. This means that PPC will be looking for leadership from other members interested in the educational activities. If you are interested, please contact Jen at info@positivepowerco-op.com



Recognizing a huge contributor

Jen Heneberry

On behalf of the Board and volunteers, I'd like to extend a thank you to Troy Greene, our long-time Education Committee Chair, who is stepping down as the chair. Troy has been active with Positive Power Co-op since the very early days of our existence, and he has worked incredibly hard on our educational workshops and initiatives in that time. We're grateful for the time that Troy has been able to spend leading the Education Committee and his

efforts have helped PPC become better known in the community.



Lake Erie wind resource assessment – it's a wrap!

As we approach the end of June, Positive Power Co-op is looking forward to the completion of our wind resource assessment. The tower went up at the end of June in 2004, and we have been able to collect great data for last 11 months. To help increase the validity of our data results, we have been investigating the idea of leaving the wind resource assessment tower up for an additional month past the year anniversary.

An important part of any wind energy project is taking the data that is collected and creating models that predict the amount of electricity that will be produced at the site. The generation forecast is based on the wind speed measured there.

Part of this process involves looking at the historical records of wind speed averages in the nearby area and comparing that data to the wind speed that we measured over a year. PPC observations indicate wind speed in many parts of Ontario this past year has been

noticeably lower than in past years. This could increase the uncertainty PPC has in the data at Lake Erie. By leaving the tower up to collect data for another month PPC may be able to increase its ability to predict the electricity output of the project. This is accomplished through a direct comparison of our data from July 2004 to July of this year.

Along with the data collection process, Positive Power Co-op has been using the recently drafted business and project plans to develop a finance plan that will fund our development activities. This will enable PPC to move forward with project development. Responsibility for this work is resting with the Finance Committee.



Flamborough – focus on finance

Things continue to move forward - the Finance Committee is refining the cost estimates for the Flamborough Project in order to approach potential investors and power purchasers.

On another note we are still in discussions with the Hamilton Conservation Authority about a potential partnership to develop some of their land in nearby Flamborough. If successful the benefit to PPC will be a reduction in

the per unit generating cost and an increase in efficiency.

For more information on either of our projects, please contact Jen Heneberry, General Manager at 905.971.5366.

What's in a Mission?

Daniel Hall

An organization's Mission, Vision and Values (MVV) represent the core principles and ideals upon which strategic direction is set and organizational decisions are made. Although Positive Power Co-op had goals and objectives since its inception three years ago, the Board felt it was the right time to reach out to the members and renew our MVV.

The process started at the February members' meeting. Our General Manager, Jen, skillfully facilitated an affinity exercise in which members responded to questions about PPC's goals and activities by jotting down thoughts on sticky notes. The notes were stuck to a wall then re-arranged into common themes. The resulting themes were discussed as a group and categorized as Mission, Vision, or Values. The affinity exercise was a fun and interactive approach for getting everybody's input.

The next step was to seek input from Positive Power Co-op's directors and the MVV was one of the topics at a recent Board retreat. Input from the members' meeting was reviewed and a draft MVV statement written. The final step was Board approval, which

was provided at the June Board meeting.

The result of the process is a new MVV statement for the Positive Power Co-op that defines our organization and reflects the goals and values of the membership. The similarities with the original MVV statement are striking, demonstrating that the ideals upon which PPC was founded are alive and well.

PPC staff and volunteers will now work together to fully incorporate the MVV into all of PPC's communications materials. The MVV statement is an effective tool for all involved with PPC to convey our ideals, values and mission to the community-at-large, and we will all work together to get the word out about PPC.

Our Vision

A healthy and sustainable environment through community-based renewable energy.

Our Mission

With a commitment to leadership and innovation, Positive Power Co-operative promotes the generation of clean, renewable energy through the development of community-based projects and education.

We Value:

People

- Individuals and their contributions are vital to our organization
- Our strength comes from democratic and participatory processes

Community

- We believe in community-based leadership and empowerment
- Our renewable energy projects will include financially accessible opportunities for community ownership
- Our projects are designed to maximize benefits to the community

Responsibility and Integrity

- Financial, organizational, and environmental responsibility and sustainability are the cornerstones of our decision making

Positive Action and Innovation

- We lead by example through positive and focused actions
- We encourage innovation

Partnerships

- We partner with other groups to achieve common goals
- We are committed to sharing our knowledge and experience

Conservation

- We encourage energy efficiency and conservation

Volunteer Update

Over the next several weeks, Positive Power Co-op will be gearing up to go out into the community and gather support for our projects, both through presentations to potential partners and investors, and as part of our community investment offering. We are currently designing the communications plan to identify the best way to approach the different sectors in our community and we will be holding a workshop on June

29th in the evening for our volunteers to present this to them and begin the training process. If you are interested in being involved in the presentations that will be made to the community, please contact Jen Heneberry for more information or to sign up for the orientation program.

Over the past several months, PPC has been working to improve its volunteer program, and a big part of that was working towards adopting the Canadian Code of Volunteer Involvement. The Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement (CCVI) provides voluntary and not-for-profit organizations with a philosophical framework for involving volunteers at the governance, leadership and direct service levels. The Code outlines the values, principles, and standards for effective volunteer practices within organizations. As part of the adoption process, PPC went through the organizational checklist that is provided as part of the code, to help organizations determine if their volunteer program meets the different aspect of the code. As a result of doing the organizational checklist, and discussions with key volunteers and Directors over the last 8 months, a number of changes were implemented within the volunteer program. The Board was then able to officially adopt the Canadian Code for Volunteer involvement in April 2005. This is an important step for Positive Power Co-op to articulate how important the role of volunteers is within our organization. The full CCVI can be seen on the Positive Power Co-op website in our volunteer section at

<http://www.positivepowercoop.com/volunteer/>

SOCs!

Building the RE marketplace

For the past year, the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA) and its member groups (which include Positive Power Co-op) have been working to develop a means for community green projects to sell their green power into the grid. The goal is a mechanism that is fair and encourages more community renewable energy development in the future.

A large part of this has been the work that OSEA has been doing directly with the Ontario government on Standard Offer Contracts (SOCs). SOCs, also known as feed-in laws or advanced renewable tariffs, are fixed-price long term contracts to sell the power generated by community projects to the government. They have proven successful in Europe in supporting rapid generation of new renewable energy projects and community or co-operative projects.

OSEA has recently submitted a letter to the Ontario Ministry of Energy asking the government to implement Standard Offer Contracts in the fall of 2005. It is proposed that SOCs be government's mechanism to support community or smaller-scale renewable energy projects. The Canadian Wind Energy Association, the Canadian Solar

Industry News

-- Edward Stavin

Hydro One Net Metering program
http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/electricity_updates/renewable_technologies/

Want to read up on one of the few formal programs in Ontario? Try here.

Shell exec says renewable energy 'will struggle to pay its way'
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2005/06/23/cnwind23.xml&menuId=242&sSheet=/money/2005/06/23/ixcity.html>

Senior executive view of RE: philosophy is 'pots on the fire'. Try everything and, by 2015, we should have to make up our mind.

Cape Cod Wind Turbine Demonstrates The Power Of Collaboration with the community.
http://www.capecodchronicle.com/harnews/har062305_6.htm

Community involvement is so key to spreading the word about RE.

N.B. aims for 33% renewable energy by 2016

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050622.wnbenr0622/BNStory/National/>

Energy Minister Bruce Fitch expects most of the new power generation to come from wind.

Migrating birds unlikely to be seriously affected by offshore windfarms

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4072756.stm>

Scientists found that birds simply fly around the offshore farm, or between the turbines; less than 1% are in danger of colliding with the giant structures. *Contributed by Wendy Elliott*

Industries Association and PPC have also submitted letters of support to the Ministry.

OSEA needs our help to help make Standard Offer Contracts a reality. Positive Power Co-op is in the process of approaching our local MPPs to educate them about SOCs. If you are interested in learning more about Standard Offer Contracts and what OSEA and their members are doing, or what you can do - please visit the OSEA website at <http://www.ontario-sea.org/ARTs/ARTsList.html> or call Jen Heneberry.

Volunteer from the comfort of your home?

Positive Power Co-op is looking for people to contribute a regular report to this newsletter about what is happening in the renewable energy industry. This could be as simple as a reporting of the different policy announcements of government and the potential impacts on renewable energy development. It could also be a look at the types of issues being covered in a variety of news sources across the province or the country; or even innovative developments in the industry or community. Perhaps you have your own idea to propose? To volunteer please call Jen Heneberry at 905.971.5366.



Board Message

What a period of accomplishment and growth this past month has been for PPC!

Thanks to the input and dedication of all our volunteers, staff and board, PPC has committed itself to a Mission, Vision and Values (MVV) that will guide our future decisions and growth. This is an exciting and important accomplishment in our short history. These MVV reflect two very important things about PPC. Firstly, we are an organization that cares about making a positive change to our environment and the renewable energy sector. Secondly, by the simple fact that we have our MVV so clearly articulated and ready to share with the world, PPC is committing itself to a long and prosperous future. Let us not underestimate the power of this clarity: our partners, funders and community can see--and feel--that PPC focused on being a leader in building a healthy and sustainable environment.

The next and final challenge in our (short term) future is financing. Under the leadership of our finance committee PPC is putting in place the mechanisms to raise capital support from our community.

As we evolve from an organization that 'fundraises' to one that is looking for 'financing' we will be drawing on the energy, time and resources of our members to harness community

support for our short and long term financial needs. Thanks to the hard work of our General Manager Jen Heneberry, insights from our community members and experiences of other like-minded organizations, PPC is getting closer to having the tools, messages and systems in place to raise the profile and capital we require to put 'wings in the sky'.

Thanks to your support and enthusiasm for renewable energy, PPC is nearly finished building the foundation for a dynamic and powerful community leader. Our next phase of growth is going to be incredibly exciting and equally powerful.

With many regards,
Curt Hammond
Board Chair

About The Breeze

The Breeze is published on a bi-monthly basis and is made available free of charge to our members and supporters.

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