

Our Mission

LIFE is a progressive local initiative, built on environmental and quality of life principles, that anticipates future requirements of our community, through the combined commitment of caring and skilled citizens.

Be Part of the Solution

LIFE is a volunteer organization open to everyone.

We welcome member-owners with a wide variety of skills to help advance our projects and bring them to fruition. We invite people with experience in technical matters, promotion, mathematics, education, financial services etc. What can you do that might help?

LIFE appreciates the start-up support from AgCIDI, Waterloo-Wellington Community Futures Development Corporation, On Co-op and the Community Power Fund.

*For a complete Membership Handbook,
please contact:*

LIFE Co-op

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Our Vision

Fostering community investment in sustainable resources to reduce our environmental footprint.

Our Goal

We will develop renewable sustainable energy resources in our community that will be owned by community members.

Who We Are

Local Initiative for Future Energy Co-operative Inc. (LIFE) has a growing membership. It is served by a volunteer board of directors working to bring renewable energy production to the community. It also has an advisory board that advises the co-op on technical matters.

Progress

Originally focused on wind energy, the co-op established a number of wind survey sites in 2006 at 30m and 40m elevations. In 2008, LIFE purchased and installed a 60 meter wind test tower at a promising location in order to gather wind data for a full calendar year. This data has been analyzed by professional engineers and confirms the feasibility of establishing a profitable turbine at the site.

LIFE has also developed and is testing the feasibility of establishing small-scale biogas projects. These would use manure and other agricultural waste to produce heat and electrical energy for farm use and/or sale, reduce emission of methane (a greenhouse gas), protect groundwater from contamination and reduce weed infestation.

Our Owner-Members

Our owner-members want to:

- Reduce dependency on fossil fuels
- Invest in environmentally responsible operations
- Fight climate change

Wind Energy is Safe

With 70,000 turbines worldwide, no member of the public has ever been injured by one. A new turbine comes on stream every hour. They are often located closer to the communities they serve so energy is not lost in transmission, as with coal and nuclear generation.

Wind Reliability

Electricity generation depends on the wind speed. In Ontario, there is sufficient wind about 75% of the time, and turbines produce about 20% to 30% of their theoretical maximum.

Growth

Wind energy development is increasing by about 35% each year globally. It is proven to be clean, abundant and completely renewable. It is economical and reliable. At the end of its life, about 80% of a wind turbine is recyclable.

Noise

Noise from wind turbines has been reduced through research. This has also improved their efficiency. There is a *swoosh* sound as each blade passes the pylon. Large modern turbines spin slowly. It is easy to have a conversation under a turbine. On windy days, wind noise masks almost all turbine noise.

Livestock

A wind turbine uses very little land area. Crops can grow or livestock graze right to its base. Livestock are not disturbed by wind turbines.

Canadian Jobs

Our intent is to work with an Ontario turbine developer that has developed a new technology that will reduce maintenance costs and increase power output.

Small-scale Biogas

Biogas projects that we envision will serve a few farms and help the farmers capture a potential revenue stream that currently enters the atmosphere and affects the ozone layer. They do not rely on transportation of biofuel from urban processing plants.