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LIFE Co-op Receives CEPP Grant for Wind Project

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More than \$166,000 in funding has been awarded to the Local Initiative for Future Energy (LIFE) Co-op, under the Community Energy Partnerships Program (CEPP). The funds will help LIFE move forward on its 2MW St Agatha Wind Project, located near Kitchener, Ontario.

“We are very pleased to be a recipient of the CEPP grant”, says Louis Silcox, LIFE President. “The funds will help us clear one of the biggest hurdles to community energy projects – the challenge of financing the core feasibility tasks.”

The funds will assist LIFE in a range of activities over the next year or so, including:

- Revising the business plan and preparing an investor statement.
- Community outreach.
- Confirming the terms of supply, operations and maintenance with the turbine supplier.
- Completing the FIT Program application.
- Completing resource assessment and micro-siting.
- Bird and Bat assessments (part of the Renewable Energy Approval Process).
- Electrical, Civil and Geotechnical Engineering analyses.
- Project co-ordination.

LIFE Co-op has already started work on a number of these tasks, and has gathered two years of promising wind data at its proposed site. It is now looking to raise its membership and the funds to accompany its FIT application.

“The CEPP is vital to enabling this sort of project to move ahead,” says Shane Mulligan, Project Manager. “What the sector needs now, though, is a solid commitment from the people out there who want to see community renewable energy grow in Ontario.”

The St Agatha Wind Project is planned around a single 2MW turbine near the village of St Agatha. The turbine will deliver the power used by some 500 homes, a little more than the number of homes in the village. Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro has indicated there is capacity on the line to accommodate the project, and LIFE has already held one community open house, which attracted a few dozen local residents.

"Every windy day in Ontario is another day we could be generating clean power together, in a co-operative way," says Linda Laepple, Director. "We really look forward to offering local people a way to support the green energy transition."

LIFE welcomes new members and others interested in the project. For more information see www.lifecoop.ca.

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