

How much power can be produced from renewable sources in the Region of Waterloo area? To answer this question we have conducted a preliminary study. The results are promising a good return on our investment from wind and other projects.

But we have also found another source of power. It is the power within the members of our community, pulling together resources, volunteering and sharing experiences for the good of our environment. Whenever help was needed, a helping hand arrived. Thank you for your continued support. Without you there wouldn't be any community power project.

Linda Laepple, President

Letter of interest:

For area residents interested in a larger renewable energy project on their own property, we would like to hear from you and share some resources. There is a letter of interest posted at our web page with more details.

Annual General Meeting:

When: Sat., September 29, 2007

Where: Angie's Kitchen
1761 Erb's Road W.
St., Agatha

Agenda:

9:00 a.m. Public Information: Renewable Energy Developments in the KW area.

10:00 a.m.: AGM

11:30 a.m.: Lunch and networking.

12:30 p.m.: Orientation of new board and planning session with guest speakers

Note that LIFE members will be receiving copies of the agenda, nomination of directors form and other documents before the AGM, either in electronic or paper form.

Upcoming Events:

LIFE will have an information booth at the following events and we invite everyone to stop in and find out what's new in the world of sustainable energy and resources.

- Laepple Organic Farm Open House / Potatofest: Sunday, Aug. 26, 2007, 1-7 p.m.
See: <http://www.localorganic.ca/>
- Baden & District Chamber of Commerce Annual BBQ: Thursday Aug. 30, Beck Park in Baden.
- New Hamburg Fall Fair, Fri-Sat., Sept 14-15, 2007 (in the arena).

Test Tower Soil Testing

This photo was taken during the soil test that was needed to get an engineer's stamp, required to get a building permit to finally install our test tower...



Millions are blowing in the wind for LIFE Co-op investors

A cautious calculation from preliminary data collection at 3 different sites, at a height of 40 meters indicates that a single 2 MW turbine will average over half a million dollars annually in gross revenue.

Another interesting part of the study is that in our area the wind blows much harder during peak demand hours than at night. The majority of the power will be produced between noon and 5 pm. These calculations are now being compared with readings at hub height from our 80 m test tower.

More details will be available during our AGM.

Featured member:



Derek Satnik – Mindscape Innovations

Derek Satnik is an electrical engineer by trade and has worked in consulting since 1999. He is a director on LIFE's board, and a member of the Canada Green Building Council's Real Estate and LEED for Homes committees, President of CREW (Community Renewable Energy Waterloo, www.crewzone.ca). He is a member of Conestoga College's Program Advisory Committee supporting the development of a renewable energy trades program. For his day job, Derek is a managing partner of Mindscape Innovations (www.mi-group.ca), which offers full lifecycle solutions for environmentally and technologically advanced homes and communities.

As a member on the Board of Directors at LIFE, Derek has been helping the co-op to navigate through the legal and political obstacles involved with wind energy. Derek helped lead the charge to get documents in order, get LIFE incorporated, create mission and policy statements, and negotiate with equipment vendors. Needless to say, Derek's looking forward to a rest once we get our test tower up and running!

Energy Conservation At Home – One Family at a Time

I did want to share a few of the things that we have done and are planning to do this summer.

- installed fluorescent light bulbs
- our recycling efforts are in full swing (we almost have more recycling than garbage each week)
- reuse of bathtub water
- I've recently begun working from home to eliminate my commute (car pollution) to N. Waterloo
- installing two rain barrels tomorrow!
- install a tankless water heater

The thing that we are most excited about and look forward to every month are our 'blackout' days. One Sunday of each month our family becomes totally unplugged. We do not consume any electricity (with the exception of the fridge/freezer which must remain on) and we do not drive. Our two little girls, Charlotte and Tessa, have been enjoying our picnic-style dinners, outdoor play and candlelit evenings on this day. We are trying to teach them that every little bit makes a difference!

I hope our blackout day catches on! It's not a grand scale energy saver but education is key and we feel it's important to start educating our girls when they are young.

Melanie Bristow