



Local Initiative for Future Energy  
Co-operative Inc. (LIFE)  
P.O. Box 5158, Baden ON  
N3A 4J3  
www.lifecoop.ca

## Newsletter

Issue 1, Winter 2007

2006 was the foundation year of Local Initiative of Future Energy Co-op Inc. (L.I.F.E.) The founding members, first directors and advisory council have put in an enormous amount of volunteer hours to bring this co-op to life. Since early 2005 when the first steering committee meeting was held, the group led by Linda Laepple has prepared for and attended over 30 meetings, all recorded in the co-op's minutes book.

The founding members have also done extended research on all aspects of energy-related issues and shared their knowledge with the group. Some members have attended workshops and conferences on behalf of the co-op, some have pursued their own backyard energy projects and a few have even worked on developing their own technology.

When the steering team was offered a loan by the Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) for the development of the Co-op's Articles of Incorporation and a local wind study, the funds could only be accepted through a legal entity. Six members of the steering team agreed to personally guarantee and sign for the loan and incorporated a numbered company to receive the loan and pay for the start-up legal fees.

The six founding Directors are Linda Laepple, Derek Satnik, Tom Quackenbush, Richard Stevenson, Hans-Armin Ohlmann, and Jim Cappleman. Our members are individuals from all walks of life.

The first 20 meetings were held in the homes of the founding directors, and then we were able to use rooms at Centennial Hall in Baden. After incorporation, we were fortunate to find a partner that shared our vision, and we have been able to meet in the Wilmot Centre Missionary Church.

Currently we are finalizing our policies and procedures, developing promotional material, researching financial matters involved in starting an extended local wind resource assessment, as well as researching staffing possibilities.

### Milestones:

- Numbered company incorporated.
- Founding members personally guaranteed and signed the start-up loan from CFDC.
- CFDC one year interest free loan received.
- Articles of incorporation developed and filed.
- Co-op policies and procedures developed.
- Participated in CREW Energy \$ense presentation.
- Negotiations with landowners for the installation of large wind resource test tower underway.
- Researched for equipment and quotes for purchase, installation and auditing of data.
- Developed a web site: (see <http://www.lifecoop.ca/>)
- Developed a land lease agreement.



WATERLOO-WELLINGTON

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### Featured Member: Linda Laepple

#### Milestones cont'd:

- Wind monitoring equipment installed for preliminary assessment.
- Monthly data evaluation occurring.
- Co-op development grant applied for.
- Developed logo, web site, membership certificates, stationery and brochure.
- Became full member of the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA).
- Became member of the Baden Chamber of Commerce.
- Monitored the introduction of the Standard Offer Contract (SOC) by the Ontario government.
- Researched possible funding sources.
- Co-op members attended public hearing at Kincardine for restart of 2 reactors at the Bruce Nuclear power plant
- Attended and spoke at Power mix consultation in Kitchener.
- Hosted a booth at the Ontario Nature Conference and at the Energy Forum at the Kitchener Market.
- The Co-op and its members have been in the local news a number of times.



Linda Laepple is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of L.I.F.E. Co-op. She is a full-time organic farmer with deep roots. Growing up on soil that's been in the family for over four centuries, caring for the environment comes naturally to her.

She shares her passion for a sustainable future with her husband. Living what they preach, they have seen many changes in the past 8 years when the Laepple's, a family of 8, immigrated to Canada and purchased their property on Bleams Road outside Shingletown, near Baden. (see [www.localorganic.ca](http://www.localorganic.ca))

Linda invited like minded people to join in her vision, aiming to work toward a sustainable community in a grass roots fashion. Linda feels that whenever an extra hand was needed, another concerned citizen joined the steering committee and the co-op. You can contact Linda at [laepple@golden.net](mailto:laepple@golden.net)

We will introduce other members in future newsletters.

#### Thanks to...

L.I.F.E. Co-op would like to thank Stitch Graphix in New Hamburg for sponsoring the setup of our logo, and Nautalex Business Services in Cambridge for hosting our website.

Other sponsors include Teddy's Bakery in Baden, McDougall Signs & Graphics in Waterloo, Victoria Star Motors in Kitchener and local residents.

We thank the Township of Wilmot for providing meeting rooms at our early stages and the Wilmot Centre Missionary Church for meeting space for our regular meetings.