

From LIFE Co-op's President: It was a very busy and productive spring and summer for LIFE Co-op. This fall we stand on two strong legs, wind and biogas. In our quest to identify and develop sustainable power sources in and for our community we grew from humble beginnings to an organization that is gaining ground and being recognized as a leader in the community power field. For the first time we had paid staff, a co-op student and an intern from May to August. LIFE opened its own office in Baden in August. It serves as a meeting room as well as an information centre for renewable energy technologies and sustainable developments in our community. *Linda Laepple*

Wind - World Wide Developments - LIFE Developments: After more than 2 years of researching, planning, fundraising and negotiations LIFE's meteorological test tower was installed this summer! The tower is 60 meters high and is collecting and transmitting data to one of our tech members as well as to a data-auditing firm. LIFE has contracted ORTECH Environmental (<http://www.ortech.ca/>) to conduct a Wind Resource Assessment using the data collected by the tower. The early data looks very encouraging and as soon as our first quarterly report is in, we will have accurate power yield calculations to share with our Co-op shareholders. The tower and installation costs were within our budget thanks to the many volunteer hours worked by members of the Co-op, a CFDC (Wellington-Waterloo Community Futures) loan and early investments.

As LIFE works through the wind study, it is important to stay up to date on any and all wind developments. Wind energy has been growing at a staggering pace. Over the past seven years, the wind industry has grown over 480% and is expected to grow another 215% in the next five years. This year alone, wind revenues will exceed \$30 billion and are projected to grow to reach \$90 billion by 2018.

This past summer, LIFE completed a Pre-Feasibility study for the wind project that was partly funded by the Community Power Fund (CPF). Interested members of the Co-op can request a copy of this Pre-Feasibility study. We are currently working on a second grant application to the CPF to cover costs for a full Feasibility study and business plan. These topics were discussed with representatives of the CPF when we hosted them at our new office in Baden, and took them to the test tower site.



Biogas project: With funds received from Ag CDI (Agricultural Co-operative Development Initiative) a detailed Feasibility study was prepared by one of our members experienced with this type of technology. The basic idea of the project is for LIFE Co-op to leverage the benefits from the Biogas installations (manure/organic waste to energy) by applying the co-operative model. The installations will be owned by co-op members individually, while LIFE will take care of knowledge transfer, collective negotiation with authorities, equipment and waste suppliers, and technical maintenance. A copy of the study may be obtained by members interested in investing in the project or participating as a farmer.

This innovative concept has found much interest as three members were invited to present the project at the Biofuel conference: *Biofuels or bioenergies? Energy by and for the people!* held in Montreal in late November.



Ag-CDI funds allowed LIFE to create an information sheet and survey for farmers interested in participating in the biogas project. Currently LIFE's biogas research team is preparing a detailed two phase business plan for the project. Phase 1 will be a single installation serving as a pilot project and training facility; Phase 2 will see the construction of a number of installations at different farms.

There are multiple benefits from this renewable energy production technology which creates heat and electricity. Farmers would have an added revenue source and the community would benefit as liquid manure is converted into a pathogen free, odorless fertilizer which eliminates the danger of groundwater contamination. To obtain more information or to book a site visit, contact life.info@yahoo.ca



New Office: The board of directors is very pleased to have an office to meet and work. Thanks to members who contributed furniture, electronics, time and skill. In one area of the room we have information available on different renewable energy technologies. In another area we have a picture gallery of private power and electricity conservation projects of our members and we invite you to send in your projects and pictures. We have a small resource library with renewable energy magazines and other related literature from around the globe to share

with our members. There are regular meetings every Monday evening. The first Monday of the month is the Board meeting, the focus on the second Monday is on biogas, the third Monday is about wind and the fourth Monday is financials and general Co-op development. Anyone is welcome to visit. In order to arrange a time, please contact life.info@yahoo.ca.

Do you have time? If you live near LIFE's office and have a couple of hours a week that you are willing to help out, please contact us. We would like to create a more regular "office presence" and we need the help of our members to do that. Contact us if you think you might be able to help.

Creating a higher profile for LIFE: In the spring, at the *Growing the Margin Conference* in London ON, all major players in the biogas industry from Europe and North America came together to offer their services and technologies. Later in the summer the *World Wind Energy Conference* was held in Kingston ON and four co-op members attended. It was a great networking opportunity.



Closer to home LIFE Co-op had a booth at *Potato Fest* at the Laepple Organic farm at the end of August. This was the final event for Jeff Cressman (left) our co-op student, and Rhea Tessel, our intern, before they returned to school. The co-op was also invited to participate at the *Rethink Waterloo* this fall.

For the first time this year we attended the Ontario Co-operative Association's annual conference in Burlington and were able to get a ride with a member from the Grand River Car share Co-operative. We hosted an information evening with a sales representative of Enercon, a German wind turbine manufacturer.

Upcoming events: LIFE'S Board of Directors is planning to host a series of investors' forums for members. More details will be sent out soon.

The year ahead: Activities that we intend to finance through the sale of membership and preference shares in the upcoming year include wind data auditing and the grid connection assessment, a part time office administrator, the completion of business plans for each project and the preparation of another offering statement.

Become a Part of It: In the past year, LIFE has been growing and moving forward by leaps and bounds! From new members to new employees to a new office to new possibilities! Everything that LIFE does can get traced back to its members, since without their support, their foundation, LIFE would not have the resources necessary to operate. That is why it is with great pleasure that the Board of Directors report that membership has grown tremendously in the past year. Our membership totals have risen 56% to 81 members!

Membership is especially important in a time of financial stock market turmoil as purchasing a membership share and preference shares in a co-operative are a solid investment. Shares are not publicly traded and remain at par value, plus co-op members have the option to contribute to the success of the co-operative with their skills and reap the benefits in form of dividends.

At this point we are offering a total of \$75,000 in membership and preference shares as part of the \$200,000 maximum the co-op is allowed to accept prior the approval of our next Offering Statement. There is no limit for the individual investor within this budget. In the long run, this is a very good investment as it is said that any community-based investment will ultimately recycle the money through the community seven times! We welcome new members and investment inquiries. If interested, please contact life.info@yahoo.ca.

AGM Update – New Directors - New

Directions: The second Annual General Meeting took place on October 19, 2008 at LIFE's office and was well attended. A presentation was made summarizing LIFE's activities in the past year.

Our featured speaker was one of our members, Mark Bell, who is a "Large Scale Wind Energy Guy". His informative presentation focused on five key areas: how will you manage dissent?, where does the money come from?, consultants, project economics and history of

co-op wind projects in Ontario. There was a vote to amend *Article 8.2 Membership Requirements*. The amendment specifies a one-year time frame for purchasing Class A preference shares and allows the Board of Directors to confer membership for "in-kind" contributions. Two board members have left the board, and three new members were added to the Board. They are Vanya Koleva, Louis Silcox and Rob Yost. The minutes of the AGM can be found on LIFE Co-op's website.



We can't thank you enough! LIFE Co-op's board would like to say a heartfelt *thank you* to Richard Stevenson and Derek Satnik for all they have done on the Co-op's behalf while they were members of the Board of Directors. We are grateful for the countless hours of work they gave, and for the skills and abilities that they so willingly shared. They continue to support the Co-op though they are no longer on the board.

Featured Members: Meet our three new board members:

Rob Yost is the owner of an environmentally friendly property maintenance business, Rob's Eco Care Property Maintenance (RobEcoCare@gmail.com). His goal is to have a carbon neutral company that offers competitive snow clearing and lawn and garden maintenance using equipment powered by waste vegetable oil and good old fashioned push mowers. He already has a VW Jetta running on waste vegetable oil and is currently converting a Dodge diesel pickup truck as well. Rob is also a registered installer of PlantDrive vegetable oil conversion kits for use on diesel vehicles. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Ontario and a licensed interprovincial Automotive Mechanic.

Louis Silcox is a retired teacher and administrator with experience in advocating for youth research and innovation. He has served as President of Youth Science Foundation Canada after many years as a committee and board member. Louis was the Canadian Space Agency representative to the International Space Camp in 1995. Since retirement he has been program developer for the Waterloo Region Children's Museum, a riding assistant for a Member of Parliament, and is the Elections Ontario returning Officer for Kitchener Centre. Louis will assist LIFE in youth and community education and advocacy, political liaison, and organizational development.

Vanya Koleva is an MBET graduate of the University of Waterloo, currently employed at Sun Life in the IT Project Management Office. She has studied and promoted biogas technologies for more than 7 years as a representative of Eisele Co., Germany in her home country, Bulgaria and for 2 years here in Ontario. She is also a managing partner in DEMIKO Consulting, which is committed to helping farmers willing to adopt anaerobic digestion technology. Through innovative design, smart resource input and efficient operations planning, DEMIKO helps them not to waste their waste, but get money for it.

President and Chair: Linda Laepple, Vice President and Secretary: Yvonne Zyma, Treasurer: Tom Rockenfield, Directors: Hans Armin Ohlmann, Khaled Nigim, Vanya Koleva, Louis Silcox, Rob Yost.

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