



Local Initiative for Future Energy Co-operative Inc.

Summer Newsletter

2011

The summer has been pretty hot, but that hasn't stopped LIFE Co-op's progress on the St Agatha Wind Project! (OK, we slowed down a touch.) We want to offer our members and friends this brief update on what's been happening.

Key Items:

- 1) LIFE has moved! Our new office is at the Treehaus Collaborative Workspace, where LIFE shares a wonderful space with a number of local entrepreneurs. The address is 260 King St West, 2nd Floor, Kitchener, ON, N2G 1B6. Our phone number and emails remain the same.**
- 2) We have as yet no reply from the OPA regarding our application to the Feed-in-Tariff Program, dated April 12. The OPA's target of 60 days to respond passed on June 12. It seems this is the normal pace of things.**
- 3) LIFE's Annual General Meeting will be held October 26, 2011, 7pm, at Angie's Kitchen in St Agatha.**

Recent Progress:

- ❖ LIFE has submitted a **draft Project Description Report (PDR)** to the Ministry of the Environment. This is a first step in the official Public Consultations process under the Renewable Energy Approval regulations. The Ministry will respond to the Draft PDR with comments and/or a list of Aboriginal Communities with whom consultation can then begin.
- ❖ **Natural Heritage Studies** – AET Consulting, of Kitchener, has completed data gathering for the bat assessment, winter raptor surveys, and spring breeding surveys for birds and amphibians. AET is now preparing reports for the Ministry of Natural Resources in fulfillment of the Natural Heritage and Water Body Assessment aspects of the Renewable Energy Approval.

- ❖ **Marketing** – LIFE continues to work on developing marketing strategies, and is planning a number of important meetings in August/September (see below). We have a goal of reaching 200 members by the end of the year (currently we are 108 members). We also hope to raise \$20,000 through the sale of early shares, to cover matching funds of 10% of our CEPP grant.
- ❖ **CEPP Grant** – LIFE has sent a request for the third installment of its CEPP grant. The \$60,000 disbursement will be applied to engineering and construction design work.
- ❖ **Website:** LIFE's website (www.lifecoop.ca) has had over 1000 visits since April, 2011! Keep visiting to watch for coming events, updates, and new resources.

Coming Up: Project Milestones

- Submission of an offering Statement to FSCO (October 2011)
- Archaeological assessment begins (Fall 2011/Spring 2012)
- LIFE reaches 200 members (by December 2011)
- Aboriginal Consultations and First Official Public Consultation (following return of Draft PDR from Ministry)
- FIT Contract Received (hopefully next round)

And following receipt of a FIT contract offer:

- Application for second CEPP Grant (for Regulatory Approvals)
- Tenders issued for Engineering/Design/Construction
- Apply for Connection Impact Assessment

Coming Up: Community Outreach!

August and September look to be exciting months! We are still firming up the dates for the events below, so please keep an eye on our website, www.lifecoop.ca, for updates.

August 14: LIFE's project manager will be among those speaking at **Get FIT: A Green Energy Act Information Session**, 1:00-3:00pm, Waterloo Town Square (part of "square2square"). LIFE will discuss how the Green Energy Act and FIT program make the co-op a great opportunity for local investment.

August 24: LIFE is co-hosting a **CREW GREEN MOVIE NIGHT**, featuring the film "Powerful: Energy for Everyone", by David Chernuschenko. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Bring a Friend!

September 15: The Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA) is on a Community Power “**Roadmap to Success**” Tour, and will be in Kitchener on September 15. LIFE is helping to co-ordinate the event, including arranging the venue and inviting guests. If you know of a community group or business that wants to learn more about renewable energy opportunities, or you would like to attend, please get in touch with shane@lifecoop.ca.

September/October: LIFE hopes to host a meeting of **Friends of Wind** (see <http://friendsofwind.ca>) in St Agatha this Fall. LIFE’s members and supporters are encouraged to let their representatives know that wind power has Friends in Ontario. We will send out a separate notice if this can be arranged. Meanwhile, the next Friends of Wind Ontario information event is **Thursday August 18** at 7 pm at the Chatham Banquet & Conference Centre, 280 Merritt St. **in Chatham-Kent**. Speakers will include Jutta Splettstoesser, Kincardine Farmer and President, Friends of Wind; Dr. W. David Colby, MSc, MD, FRCPC; Rudy Zubler, Dairy Farmer, Ridgetown; John Kourtoff, President and CEO of Trillium Power Wind Corporation. If you would like to attend this event please contact Friends of Wind Ontario at info@friendsofwind.ca to reserve a seat.

October 6: The Provincial Election. To see how the different Provincial Parties are looking at renewable energy, see their responses to a recent questionnaire from Environmental Defense, at <http://www.cleanairalliance.org/node/998/>. (Unfortunately, it seems the provincial Conservative Party declined to respond to the questionnaire, which leaves the question: “What are they thinking?!?”)

October 26: LIFE’s Annual General Meeting will be held at Angie’s Kitchen from 7-9 pm. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend.

Recent Appearances:

- April 19 – Greater Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber of Commerce’s Energy and Environment Forum, Wilfred Laurier University
- April 27-29 – Wellesley Home and Garden Show:
- April 30 - Living Well Festival, Wilmot
- June 4 - Waterloo Region ECOFest
- June 18 – St Agatha Strawberry Festival, St Agatha
- June 23 - LIFE provided an update at CREW's General Meeting
- June 30 - LIFE presented its project as part of the Climate Action Network's "Harvesting Clean Energy on Ontario Farms" Speaking Tour, at Ignatius Jesuit Centre, Guelph

- July 20 - Community Information Session, Angie's Kitchen, St Agatha.
- July 25 - LIFE participated in the inaugural Friends of Wind Ontario meeting in Clinton. See <http://friendsofwind.ca>.

A Note to the Membership:

Remember, the co-op is your co-op, and its success depends on you! **Please join us for our upcoming events**, and please consider investing early in the co-op to ensure we can carry on with our project development work. (A big THANKS to those who have done so already!)

Also, tell your friends about your co-op and its goals, or invite a friend along to our events so more people can learn about LIFE and the St Agatha Wind Project.

And a reminder: please email shane@lifecoop.ca if you could help distribute copies of LIFE's brochure and/or our investor brief.

Finally...

LIFE's Project Manager, Shane Mulligan, was recently elected President of Community Renewable Energy Waterloo (CREW). Shane's position will be helpful in building on our relationship with CREW over the next year, and we look forward to more collaborative opportunities as we move forward.

Best wishes to all our members. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors, LIFE Co-op