

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2013

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We've moved!

Hello to you from our new location! That's right, we have relocated back to the Peace PhotoGraphics building on 103rd Ave. in Dawson Creek.

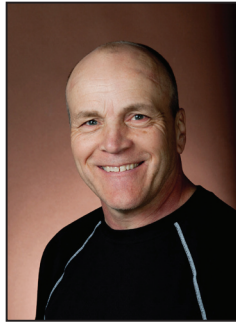
This is an exciting move for us as Don Pettit is solarizing his building (see *Watt's Happening* on the next page) This will give us the opportunity to document how it is working as well as a show piece on how to install a grid-tie solar power system. The project should be completed by mid September. We invite you to come by during the installation and observe how it all comes together. We will also be shooting a "how-to" video of the installation for our website.

Peace Energy Cooperative is going Solar! We are now retailing solar panels, solar thermal hot water systems and solar thermal heating systems, thanks to EB Horsman, our local wholesaler. We have had a number of enquiries and solar should prove to be very profitable for your cooperative. Solar is a cleaner, safer investment for your family and business. You can immediately reduce your electricity bill, enjoy energy independence from rising energy costs, and increase your home or building's value. Let us help you solarize your home, cabin, business or farm.

Solar is the world's most abundant energy source. Enough sunlight reaches us every 15 minutes to power the world for an entire year. Safe and clean solar energy powers homes, businesses and power plants everywhere. Solar will reach grid-parity in places like Germany, Italy and California within two to three years and that solar energy will reach grid-parity globally by 2020.

Don't waste the sun, harness it's power to work for you and your family and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions . . . today!

Fred Feddema, Executive Director
fred@peaceenergy.ca



Solar sales launched

As promised, we are trying to keep everyone apprised on a regular basis, with news and worthy contributions from staff, board members and others.

PEC Energy House

We have shelved this project for now, even though the board and the committees involved have worked extremely long and hard to make it work to meet several time lines we had imposed upon ourselves and others. It was thought to be prudent to not over commit ourselves without a sure outcome. We are still working on this plan and hope to bring it back in a more complete form in the near future and without the time constraints we placed on ourselves. The bulk of the work is done and the financing is possible to build but the lot could not be secured as we had hoped. Also, our joint venture with NLC construction/energy programs could not be finalized due to details that need to be sorted out at the administrative level. We will keep this pot on simmer for now!

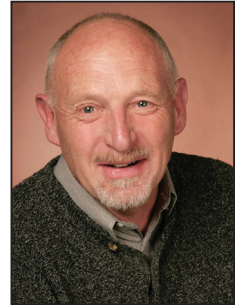
Renewable Energy Products for Sale!

Folks we are up and running with sales of everything solar, and the word-of-mouth response has been amazing. We are also putting together a list of installation contractors who can help you install whatever you need.

The Board is currently working on a discount for members, but don't let that stop you purchasing what you need right away. We can offer the discount retroactively to members who buy in the meantime, knowing they will get something back. Also you do not need a building permit to install this solar equipment, and there is no provincial sales tax on it either, but a grid-tie solar electric system needs an electrical inspection. Check with the office for details. We're here to help make it happen!

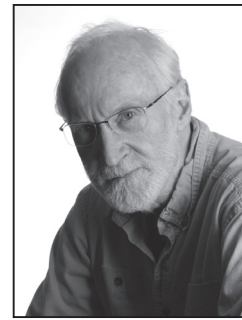
Enjoy the rest of your summer, and think solar . . .

Rupert Kirk, President



Watt's Happening? by Don Pettit

Power to the people



This solar-electric system will not only essentially eliminate my electricity bill for 30 or 40 years (or longer), it will also serve as a great grid-tie demonstration system for the cooperative. Are there other reasons for going solar now? Read on . . .



The author's business and Peace Energy's new home as it will look when outfitted for solar electricity later this year. This photo simulation shows the 23 PV panels

that will provide power for the building and feed excess clean, green electricity to the neighbours through the grid.

Too cool. I'm solarizing my business house in Dawson Creek, and I'm thrilled.

Twenty-three 240-watt photovoltaic (PV) panels mounted on my roof will turn sunlight directly into electricity. Those electrons will power the house, and any excess will feed into the grid and be "stored" should I need it later.

Dawson Creek is in the northeast corner of British Columbia, latitude 56 degrees north – way up there! That means long hours of summer sunlight, and very short days all winter, perfect for a grid-tie PV system: store excess power all summer in the grid, then pull it

out in the dark winter months as needed.

My handy new smart meter will keep track of how much power I put into the grid versus how much I pull out, and if I use less than I make, I get a cheque from BC Hydro at the end of the year. Refreshing! That in itself is almost enough reason to solarize, but there are many, many more good reasons. Here are a few:

1) Equipment costs are way, way down, and quality is way up. PV panels are a fraction of the cost they were just a few years ago, but they still have the same outstanding 25-year guarantee. The other major

component, the grid-tie inverter, is off-the-shelf and super reliable. This is all very mature technology.

2) It's an investment in my building that pays for itself over time, like low-E windows or extra insulation, only better. As the price of electricity goes up, which of course it will, the value of the power I am creating will go up as well, and so will the value of the PV array.

3) Peace Energy Cooperative is here to help. I am ordering through them not only to support a local enterprise, but also because they have done the research, found best pricing, made grid-tie paperwork quick and easy, and will connect me with qualified installers. Thanks to the coop, my money stays right here in my community where it belongs, and I get to deal with real, living and breathing people.

4) It could be a money maker. Right now I make just a bit more from my solar power than I pay for grid power. But that could change for the better very quickly. If BC brings in a solar feed-in tariff (a special price paid for super-clean energy like PV), then my roof will actually make quite a bit of profit each year. Ontario, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan have brought in feed-in tariffs for solar, and so has much of the rest of the world. You never know, BC might get smart too. Then my roof is not just a roughly break-even situation, but a real money maker.

5) There is no provincial sales tax on the equipment, and at least some of the expense is an

income tax write-off.

6) I can start small and expand the system later if it makes sense to do so. I can also add a battery bank, and protect myself from grid failure. That would make all my computers especially happy, and give me an added sense of security.

7) Going solar is a great reason to think about my own energy efficiency and improve my bottom line. The less power I use, the bigger the cheque I will get from BC Hydro each year. Good reason to invest in a few more LED lights and make sure I turn off all the computers every night.

8) It's the right thing to do. Generate squeaky-clean power right where it's used, I say. Any excess I feed into the grid is not transmitted thousands of miles south to Vancouver, but goes directly to the nearest load: my neighbours.

9) Going solar is a political act too. It could be a long time before governments lead us boldly into a clean, solar-powered world. Going solar on your own sends a clear and visible message: the time for change is now!

Solar power is cool. It's twenty-first century. It makes economic sense now and even more as time goes by.

Let's not wait any longer. Let's just do it.

Why I'm going solar

by Trevor Reeves,
director of the board

I am planning to do both solar hot water and solar electric at my home and at my work. The reason? The time is right.

The BC hydro grid is aging. The number of power outages is increasing. Last winter at home we had two power outages that

lasted overnight. I cannot afford to take the risk of having no power in my home or at work, even if it is just from a battery backup sufficient to keep the furnace running.

Also, I need to put my money where my mouth is. I rant about global warming. Now it is time to do my bit. Using solar hot water at work and home will reduce my natural gas and propane consumption significantly.

Serendipitously, the prices have dropped for both technologies to the point where they are affordable options.

And finally, to be blunt, the Coop needs me now. As a Coop we need to generate an income source independent of Bear Mountain Wind. We need to do it now to keep the Coop running.

If you have been considering instituting these technologies, I think now is the optimal time.



Public tours of Bear Mountain Wind Park continue to be an important part of Peace Energy Coop's community outreach and education initiative. Volunteer members, members of the board and our executive director

Fred Feddema take turns leading group tours of the wind park, providing first hand experience and factual information about wind power.

Connect with us on Facebook!

Peace Energy director Joanne Dueck has volunteered to set up and maintain our new Facebook page.

Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Peace-Energy-A-Renewable-Energy-Cooperative/169121919893246?ref=hl>

Or look for "Peace Energy - A Renewable Cooperative" and "like" our page.

Joanne is posting links to our new "Watt's Happening?" blog by Don Pettit, as well as links to articles related to renewable energy and technology from around the world. Joanne is picking information that is appropriate for our Peace Country context.



South Peace Chiropractic in Dawson Creek is going solar thanks to Peace Energy Coop. As illustrated above, owner and Peace Energy member Chris Garwah is going with a 4800 watt PV grid-tied system and a stand-by battery backup. If the grid goes down his battery system will allow his business to finish off the day normally by providing power to computers, lights and his furnace fan.

A Decade Of Peace

by Joanne Dueck

We've been incorporated as a Cooperative for nearly a decade and that's an amazing accomplishment!

We are in the middle of a natural resource development mecca here in the Peace. Our politicians and their partners will never let us forget that we are in the middle of a very rich hub of coal, oil, and natural gas and are situated as a conduit to the rest of the world.

We are also rich in natural resources of the renewable kind: sun, wind, geothermal earth energy! Let's add "people power" to that list! The knowledge, passion, and participation of our communities are all likewise renewable. That's why Peace Energy: A Renewable Energy Cooperative continues to conduct tours and host events which educate people about new technologies and some of the ways electricity and heat are generated.

TOAD RIVER SCHOOL TOUR

This summer, I was a happy participant in two of many great formal and informal tours at Bear Mountain Wind Park. The first was with the Toad River School from up the Alaska Highway. It was a group of K through grade 7 students and their parents and teachers. They had spent the year learning about various sources of energy and studied and debated the pros and cons of each. Their questions and insights were a delight! They marched down the trail reading the posted information as they went. They sang and played eye spy. Chased butterflies and caught a frog. They held a wind meter and cup anemometers. Chatter of electrons and meters-per-second filled the ridge. When posed a challenge, all the children held hands and tried to form a human hug around the base of a turbine.

Greg and Fred did their best to answer everyone and describe the history of Peace Energy Cooperative and how such a large project went from concept to construction. We all left the ridge satisfied with some personal connection to BC's first industry-scale wind park.

SENIORS' TOUR

The second tour of the summer was with a group of seniors who booked a bus to come up to the ridge for a day to picnic, sight-see, and gain some insight about Bear Mountain Wind Park.

As good fortune and timing would have it, the group got to witness the delivery, change-out, and removal of a wind turbine blade. It was a breathtaking experience!

This group was very interested to know about the studies pre- and post-construction on the ridge. Questions about BC's electricity grid, electrons, and contracts rebounded for some time. The group wanted to know about how wildlife on the ridge continues to be monitored. A herd of cows wandered across the road while we were there. We posed for some group photos.

Again, we all left the ridge satisfied with some personal connection to Bear Mountain Wind and to the future.

There's an anonymous quote which goes something like "the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you never expect to sit". Likewise, we should not be borrowing from our children - demanding the shade now and handing the bill to future generations - as some energy technologies do. Wind power is one which has some promise of shade now, but also a return for our children.

Watt's Happening? Quick Facts:

PANELS, PANELS EVERYWHERE: some one million Europeans and one million Australians now power their homes with photovoltaic (PV) panels on their roofs, and the number is growing rapidly. A new analysis predicts that the world-wide solar PV market will grow to US \$155 billion by 2018, with China and the United States leading the way. Total installed solar capacity is expected to reach 61.7 gigawatts by the same year. In 2012, the world invested more in renewables than in fossil-fueled and nuclear generation combined. *Solar world, here we come!*