

New Beginnings, new opportunities

Peace Energy Co-op expands into Alberta with a new office in Peace River



Peace Energy Cooperative has found fertile soil in which to set roots in northern Alberta. Thanks to the hard work of several Peace River area residents, the region is already “solar literate” and eager to learn more. Now Peace Energy Co-op is there to help them use solar energy for their homes, businesses and farms.

Our new office in downtown Peace River (at 9907-101 Ave. ph 780-625-4020) was officially opened in early January 2020 and has seen a steady stream of interested residents dropping in to become members of the cooperative (some 35 new members in the Peace River as of this writing!) and to find out more about solar energy for their own use. Four public meetings, partly sponsored by the Town of Peace River, have also been well attended.

Local resident **Jenn Ford** was hired to run the office and to train as a solar design consultant. In her own words, Jenn is “a home-grown Peace Region local with roots and interest in sustainability and renewable energy.”

Jenn, her husband and their two daughters live on a small hobby farm near the Town of Peace River. “We are constantly working to make our Seven Odd Acres more efficient and sustainable,” says Jenn.

She has a Bachelor of Applied Communications from MacEwan University in Edmonton, with a special focus on events and marketing, skills much needed as Peace Energy Co-op expands into this new Alberta market area.



When talking about renewable energy in northern Alberta, the name **Wanda Laurin** is bound to come up. Wanda has been a member of Peace Energy Co-op since 2009, and a mover and shaker in the Peace River Environmental Society that has hosted Alternative Energy Trade Fairs in 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2014. Wanda and her husband installed one of the first grid-tied solar arrays in the area at their Peace River home. It was largely Wanda’s dedication and enthusiasm that brought PEC to Peace River, and she continues to help and support us in countless ways.



At the official office opening ribbon cutting: Left to right: Al Mottishaw (President of Peace Energy Co-op Board of Directors); John Gunning (resident); Elaine Manzer (Town of Peace River Councillor); Jenn Ford (PEC solar sales consultant and Peace River office manager); Trudy Keillor (resident); Greg Dueck (PEC solar consultant Dawson Creek).