



Watt's Happening

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NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2021

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Virtual AGM postponed *but elections will proceed*

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, our AGM has again been postponed until later this year.

But like many other cooperatives and Credit Unions, we will be providing our members with the opportunity to elect new directors for the board on-line well before the AGM. This will simplify the actual meeting, and give lots of time for members to step forward or to vote for their favourite candidates.

There are two board positions to be filled in 2021. Both are 3 year terms. Incumbents Joanne Dueck and William Lindsay indicate that they plan to seek re-election. We will be sending out the nomination forms to you soon. They will have to be returned by a certain date so we can proceed with on-line voting.

Over the last year we have found Zoom board meetings to be

very effective, in part because they allow members from any geographic area to serve on the board.

For instance, director Wanda Laurin resides in Peace River, Alberta, director Bill Lindsay is a Hudson's Hope resident and David Mossing lives in Duncan, BC.

So any PEC member from anywhere in Canada, who has a strong interest in helping PEC move the clean energy transition forward, who has some practical skills or experience that will help us, and who has time to dedicate to PEC as a director, is welcome to put their name forward for this election.

If you would like more information about the AGM or about becoming a director, talk to Tammy at our Dawson Creek office:

admin@peaceenergy.ca
or call 250-782-3882.

President's Message

On behalf of your board of directors I'd like to say thank you for your interest and continued support. Whether you are a long-standing member or you've joined us this year, it does mean the world to us to represent you all. With 594 members we have almost passed our next milestone of 600 members!

With ACEP we are breaking into Alberta's growing large-scale solar farm market and with exciting new federal and provincial incentives we see the potential for accelerated growth in our residential, business and municipal solar installation business across northern BC and Alberta.

Peace Energy Co-op has ramped up efforts to educate those interested in solar, moving from in-person presentations to regular "Save With Solar Webinars". These have been well-received and are resulting in new members from across western Canada and increased solar sales.

Thanks for supporting your cooperative and learning and growing with us as we go. We have some exciting years ahead. Together we are strong!



Sincerely,
Joanne Dueck, President



Like us on Facebook
and please share our
newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS:

Membership drive launched

Help us reach 1000 members this year!

Our social media / multi-media membership drive has begun! We are “TELLING OUR STORY” because we know that when people learn about what we have already accomplished, what we are doing right now and what our next big project will be, they are often eager to become a part of Peace Energy Cooperative and travel this exciting, important journey with us. How are we “Telling our Story”?

VIDEOS: we are shooting a series of 3-minute shorts for YouTube, Facebook, our website, etc. “Voices of Peace Energy”. They feature original music “We Can All Be a Hero” by composer/producer Bert Goulet and short interviews on a wide variety of topics:

Your Executive Director Don Pettit on why it is so critical to become a PEC member and help with the transition to clean energy;
Our solar designer Greg Dueck showing how he designs a solar power system;

Tammy Lawrence, office administrator, about how she takes care of PEC membership services;

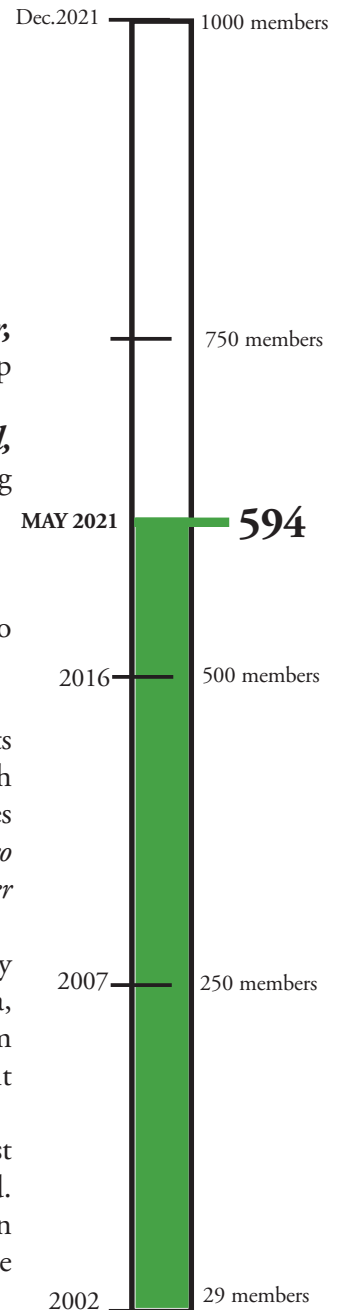
Joanne Dueck, President of the Board, about why she and her family have been long time supports of the cooperative;

Mary Parslow, Dawson Creek artist printmaker, why she was so motivated to help us create beautiful “Hero” posters to promote clean energy.

POSTERS: three Peace Region artists are producing a series of three posters each using their own unique styles and approaches but with a common message: “Being a Hero is Easier Than You Think! Become a Member Today!”

Established artist printmaker Mary Parslow from the Dawson Creek area, experienced graphic artist Richard Bell from Fort St. John, and young graphic arts student Aidan Goulet from the Pouce Coupe area.

Mary’s posters and video have just been completed and are about to be released. See below “You Can Help!” on ways you can help us spread the good news about Peace Energy Co-op!



YOU CAN HELP!

As a PEC member and supporter you can be a Hero too!

- Search Peace Energy Co-op on YouTube and hit “subscribe;”
- Follow our Facebook page for the latest PEC news, info on renewable energy and live feeds of PEC events;
- Always “like” “share” and “comment.”
- Talk to friends, neighbours, co-workers about PEC and ask them to become members;
- Send us any ideas you may have for short videos, posters or...?
- Tell us what YOU want to SEE, HEAR or LEARN about PEC.

One of three beautiful posters by Dawson Creek artist printmaker Mary Parslow.



It's New – “This is Our Story” share this document today!

As western Canada’s first, most experienced and accomplished renewable energy investment cooperative, PEC has an amazing story to tell. The world needs to hear about us!

HELP US GET THIS GOOD NEWS STORY OUT TODAY!
Share this link from our website:

<https://peaceenergy.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Our-Story.pdf>

Peace Energy Renewable Energy Cooperative this is our story...



... and we have an amazing story to tell!

- We are leading** in the creation of Alberta’s first cooperatively owned and operated solar farm.
- We are the first renewable energy cooperative** in Western Canada, and the second in Canada overall (est. 2003)
- We led the development** of British Columbia’s first commercial wind facility, Bear Mountain Wind Park, 102 MW.
- We led** the creation of BC’s first renewable energy demonstration, education and training centre.
- We created** BC’s largest municipal solar installation in Hudson’s Hope.
- We are leaders** in the design, supply and installation of personal solar PV throughout northeast BC and northwest AB.

Peaceenergy.ca – **Become a Member Today!**

 **We are leading** in the creation of Alberta’s first cooperatively owned and operated solar farm.



Alberta Community Energy Project (ACEP):

Western Canada’s first 100% cooperatively owned and operated solar farm.

- Will provide a financial return to the community.
- Job creation and economic diversification.
- Community engagement and pride in energy infrastructure.
- Sustainable agricultural practices: biodiversity will be integrated with the solar farm.
- ACEP will be the first of many. It will be followed by other community owned renewable energy projects.

Peaceenergy.ca – **Become a Member Today!**

 **We led the development** of British Columbia’s first commercial wind facility, Bear Mountain Wind Park, 102 MW.



- We began by securing the 2000 ha. crown land lease on a windy ridge near Dawson Creek, BC.
- We brought together the partners that designed and built this \$200 M state-of-the-art facility.
- We organized and hosted more than 30 public meetings to engage and educate the public on wind energy.
- Our office in Dawson Creek became the local hub for resident education and community engagement.
- Through a share offering to our members, we raised capital to invest in the project, which was commissioned in 2009. We are now receiving a 25-year royalty income from BMW.

Peaceenergy.ca – **Become a Member Today!**

 **We led the creation** of BC’s first renewable energy demonstration, education and training centre.



- In 2007 we presented to Northern Lights College the idea of a renewable energy demonstration and training centre to be located on their Dawson Creek campus.
- Peace Energy Co-op served on the college committee that eventually secured an \$8 M Federal grant to construct a state-of-the-art facility on campus.
- This LEED certified building features solar thermal heating, solar hot water, solar hot air, passive solar storage, rain water collection, and energy efficient lighting. The classrooms provide a unique learning experience in Wind Turbine maintenance and public relations in solar energy and other renewable energy technologies.

Peaceenergy.ca – **Become a Member Today!**

 **We created** BC’s largest municipal solar installation in the District of Hudson’s Hope.



- We assisted the District of Hudson’s Hope to secure a \$1.3 M Federal Gas Tax Grant to solarize their municipal buildings to reduce rising electrical expenses.
- We won the RFP to design, supply and install grid-tied solar arrays on nine municipal facilities totalling 510 kW.
- We hired and trained seven local high school students to assist with the summer-long solar installation.
- We held many public information sessions and a media ribbon-cutting and community celebration at commissioning.
- We held classes in solar energy at the Hudson’s Hope High school and trained District maintenance personnel in solar O&M.
- The District is now saving approximately \$70,000 per year on avoided electricity costs, and will do so for at least the next 30 years, increasing as the cost of grid electricity continues to rise over time.

Peaceenergy.ca – **Become a Member Today!**

ACEP solar farm update: *moving ahead in 2021*

Wholly owning a Peace Energy Co-op solar farm, funded by our members and providing long-term income to the Co-op and our member/investors has been a dream and goal of your Co-op board for several years. It is exciting to see this project taking shape, and gathering momentum throughout this year.

The information from the studies and plans (some of them discussed below), as well as final engineering and business plans, will provide the information we need for our Final Investment Decision. If the FID is positive, then we will proceed to a member investment offering late this year or early next year, with a goal of building and commissioning the 2 MW solar farm in 2022.

Meanwhile, we are actively building our membership from about 590 now to 1000 (ideally!) by the end of this year. With high membership numbers we will be much more likely to fund ACEP entirely from our member/investors rather than going to outside funders.

PRIVATE LAND LEASE SIGNED

The first step was to secure a piece of land to build on with a long-term lease. This has now been completed. The property is about 2.5 km south west of the Town of Peace River, Alberta and is owned by Glen Rovang.

It is in many ways an ideal location: close to a high-capacity grid; good nearby road access; not in crop (it is pasture land); full south exposure with no shading issues and with room to expand the solar farm in the future.

NEXT STEPS: there are many

Now that the land has been secured, the studies that are required by Alberta Environment and Parks and the Alberta Utilities Commission have begun and will be one of our major focuses through 2021.

To name just a few: wildlife and habitat studies have begun and will run through the summer and fall seasons; more detailed engineering studies have begun, which will narrow down equipment and installation costs; bottom line business planning is in full swing and making good progress; glint/glare, grid interconnection and other studies are also about to begin.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

If you are interested in investing in Peace Energy Co-op and would like to help build renewable energy projects like ACEP, this is a good time to become a member.

Should ACEP go ahead, only members will be given the opportunity to invest, and those members have to be “in good standing” meaning they have to have been a member for some time, usually at least a few months.

So if you know of anyone who might be interested in investing in ACEP and supporting our efforts to move to a clean energy economy, please encourage them to become a member soon. They can visit our website at peaceenergy.ca “Become a Member” or call 250-782-3882. The \$200 lifetime membership fee is well worth it, and it just takes a few minutes to join!



Since ACEP will be in a secure, fenced space, sheep can provide important grounds-keeping services, keeping the grass down while the solar arrays provide

shade, shelter and potable rain water collection. Bee keeping, market gardening and other sustainable agricultural practices are being considered for ACEP.