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# Watt's Happening

**MEMBERS'  
NEWSLETTER**  
**OCTOBER 2025**

## President's Message:

### *New Directions for PREP, more staff for solar sales*

Since my last communication with Peace Energy members was the Annual General Meeting in April, an update is certainly due. There have been no changes to our Directors and staff since then. Consistency in this area is a good thing.

The Peace River Energy Project ("PREP") solar farm undertaking near Peace River, AB has certainly consumed a lot of PEC mental and financial resources this year. It is now ready for construction. All regulatory and design requirements are up to date. The only thing delaying construction is sufficient funding. In view of political and economic changes to renewable energy in Alberta, however, that funding has become difficult to obtain. So PREP is adopting a two-branch strategy. One branch is to continue to seek funding to construct the solar farm ourselves. The other branch is to advertise the "ready to build" project for sale to any renewable energy client who already has financing in place but does not

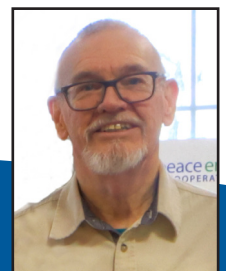
have a project to build. There is an early stage negotiation happening with a possible purchaser even as I compose this letter.

PEC management would much prefer to build PREP, for the long-term stream of recurring income which would enable annual dividends to Co-op Members. We also acutely feel our short-term obligation to Members who have invested in PEC over the last three years specifically to assist in building PREP. Since construction by PEC has not occurred within the predicted time frame, the Board has reluctantly added the sale of PREP as an option.

Analysis of PEC's regular business of residential/industrial solar design and installation shows that sales are increasing each year. Increases are limited, however, by lack of sufficient staff to handle all the prospective work in a timely manner. The Board believes sales can be increased by adding a couple members to our

small team of employees. Also, more staff would let us offer other services such as designing and installing heat pumps for combined heating and air conditioning. Thus we are examining ways to hire people. Currently, PEC has submitted an application to the South Peace MacKenzie Trust ("SPMT") for a grant. SPMT provides financial assistance to help create new income earning positions in the South Peace/Mackenzie area. Successfully winning a grant would help offset the cost of onboarding new staff during the learning/training phase. I think more staff is key to making PEC more consistently profitable.

As usual, I encourage Members to freely inquire, disagree, and offer any alternate opinions about PEC and its management by sharing your opinions with me. Email Tammy at admin@peaceenergy.ca and she will redirect your email to my personal email.



Like us on Facebook  
and please share this  
newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Keith Anderson, your proud  
President of the Board



# Peace River Energy Project UPDATE



Colin Smith,  
Clean Collective Inc.

The Peace River Energy Project (PREP) has always been an ambitious and inspiring vision: to see Western Canada's first cooperatively financed, owned, and operated utility-scale solar farm become a reality. Over the past several years, the Peace Energy Cooperative has invested time, energy, and heart into making this project happen and PREP is now more "ready to build" than ever before.

## Major Milestones Achieved

Despite a changing regulatory and financial landscape, PREP has secured a series of important wins:

- **AUC Approval Extended** – Our Alberta Utilities Commission approval now extends to December 2029, giving us a long runway to advance the project.
- **Municipal Development Permit Extension** – The Municipal District of Peace has renewed our development permit, providing certainty at the local level.
- **Historical Resource Survey Approved** – All heritage resource requirements have been completed and cleared, opening the way for future construction.

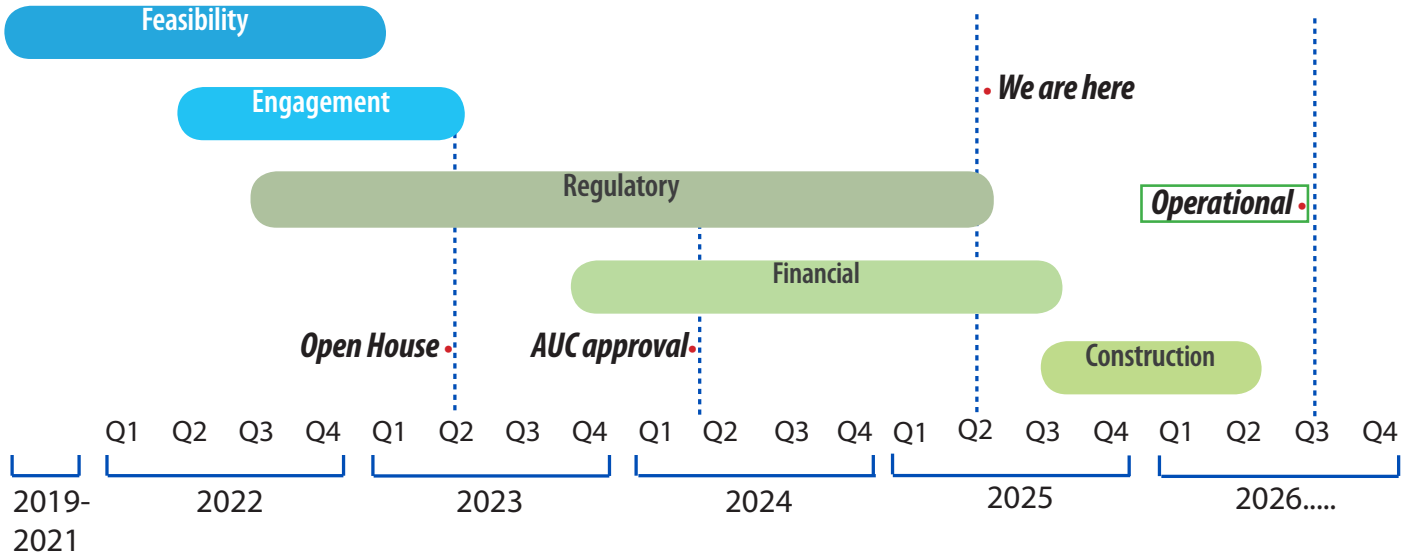
These achievements mean the project remains shovel-ready and highly attractive to build.

## The Challenges We Face

From the very beginning, our heartfelt goal was to develop PREP fully as a cooperative. Unfortunately, a number of challenges, including financing barriers for community-scale projects, evolving regulatory requirements, and rising costs, have made it increasingly difficult for us to carry the full weight of development alone. Because of these realities, the PREP Board has made the difficult decision to prepare the project for sale to a more experienced project developer. This ensures that the vision of clean energy generation on this site will still be realized, even if PEC is not the direct builder.



## Peace River Energy Project (PREP) TIMELINE



## Holding on to Hope

At the same time, we are not giving up on the cooperative dream. We are actively exploring ways to raise the necessary funds through FinanceCoop and other cooperative financing mechanisms. If successful, this could still allow PEC to play a central role in developing PREP, or future projects inspired by it.

## Looking Ahead

Whatever the path forward, PREP's story is one of persistence, vision, and community leadership. The project remains stronger and more ready to build than ever, with approvals secured, studies complete, and planning in place. Whether through a cooperative structure or via a development partnership, PREP will stand as a testament to what our members have achieved and as a beacon for what cooperative clean energy can mean for the future.



*This is a solar farm similar in size and panel spacing to our Peace River Energy Project (PREP): about 15 hectares (37 acres) in size with about 12,000 solar modules, a security fence and lots of green grazing space within the enclosure.*

# Let's solarize Dawson Creek!

As part of our income stream for the Co-op, we often take on energy consultation contracts to research and develop programs for municipalities and other organizations.

In 2024 the City of Dawson Creek approached Peace Energy Co-op with a visionary proposal:

*Research methods of incorporating solar energy generation into the community, both with legacy solar infrastructure to reduce the City's electrical expenses, and with solar energy featured in visible public spaces.*

Here are some of the ideas that Peace Energy came up with, and brought to Mayor, Council and City Administration for consideration:



The "Solar Tree" is an eye-catching public sculpture that provides useful quantities of solar electricity, beautiful night lighting while shouting loud and clear: *We are a Solar Community!*

## Our Three Part Vision for Dawson Creek:

1. "Dawson Creek envisions itself as a **fiscally responsible city**, leveraging legacy solar-electric infrastructure to reduce operational expenses and promote long-term sustainability through the generation of clean, renewable energy. "
2. "We aspire for Dawson Creek to **stand out among neighboring cities by showcasing solar electric energy in public spaces**, not only offsetting their costs through energy generation but also contributing to our city's environmental goals and enhancing its appeal as a low-carbon, people friendly, resilient community."
3. "Our vision includes establishing a low-cost, low-maintenance solar net-zero '**Cultural Hub**' at the heart of our City, serving as both a **cultural focal point for residents and a vibrant tourist destination**. This initiative aims to **revitalize our downtown core, fostering local economic growth**."

**Under a consultation agreement with the City**, Peace Energy's Solar Consultant Greg Dueck had a close look at dozens of City municipal buildings to evaluate their solar potential. Several City facilities were short listed for solar, and when budget allows, approved for implementation.

Meanwhile Executive Director Don Pettit researched the public uses of solar, including new solar infrastructure in the City Hall area, the Ovintiv Centre entrance and the Art Gallery/Museum/ Tourist Info area. Solar sheltered pergolas, entrance ways, solar covered walkways, solar trees and solar-sheltered EV charging

stations were presented as options for consideration by the City. These would not only generate useful amounts of solar energy to reduce electrical overhead for the City, but also showcase innovative, creative uses of solar that would not only be useful to the public but would also inspire and educate.



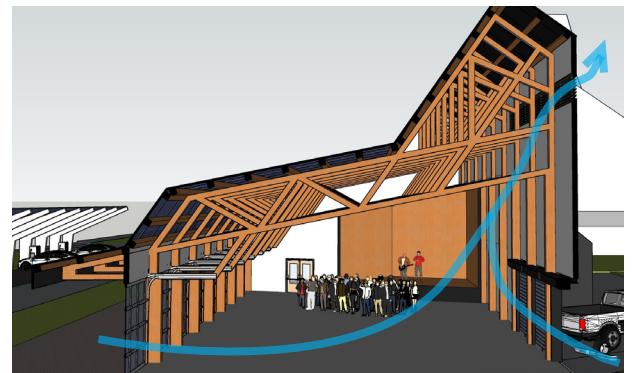
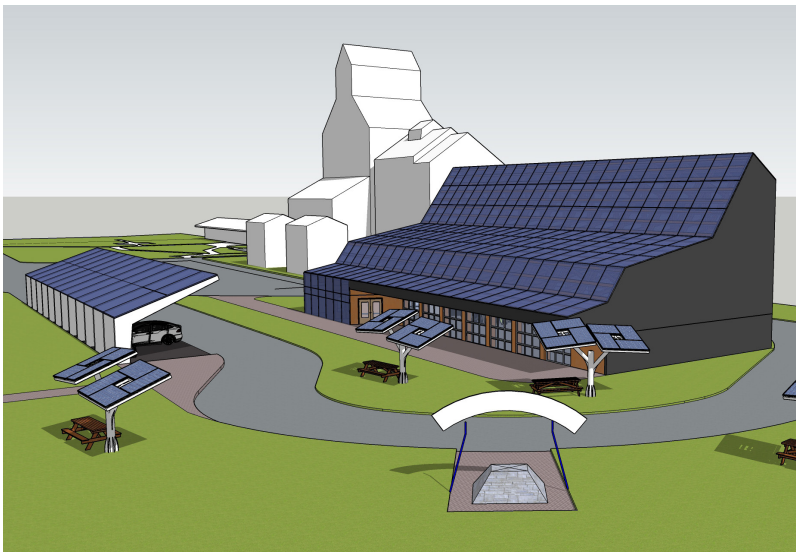
Dueck and Pettit also collaborated with environmental architect **Lukas Armstrong** of **Stand Architecture** to develop a concept of an all-new City facility: a solar “Community Cultural Hub”.

With a roof covered entirely in semi-transparent solar panels (allowing natural light to flood the building) totalling over 200 kW peak output, it would have very low operating and maintenance costs. This controlled but untempered space would provide a permanent home for the

Dawson Creek Farmer’s Market, a multi-cultural venue for community gatherings and entertainment, and would be an outstanding tourist attraction. The location was not locked in but the design “took some inspiration from the geometry and stature of the Art Gallery Grain Elevator,” explained Armstrong.

This Peace Energy/Armstrong ambitious and visionary project, (which could be mostly grant-funded) is presently on hold.

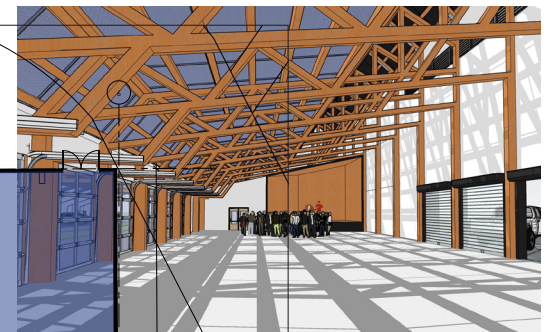
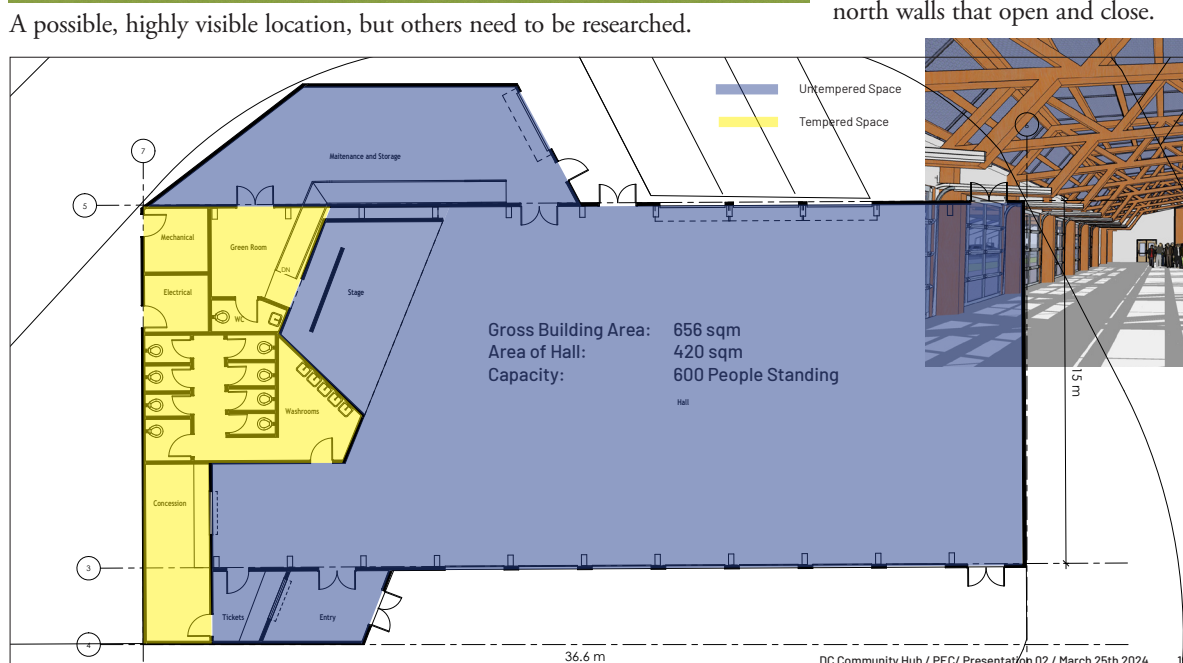
## STAND ARCHITECTURE



Convection cooling



Outdoor and indoor space for Farmers’ Market, south and north walls that open and close.



Mostly untempered (not artificially heated or cooled), a large open space flooded with natural light from a semi-transparent solar roof, plus a stage, greenroom, washrooms and concession.

## Important info for members:

**KEEP YOUR MEMBER INFO CURRENT!** We have lost track of some of our members who have not kept us up to date on their contact information! We sometimes have to send members important documents and announcements. Please make sure your email, mailing address, and phone numbers are up-to-date. (Your contact info will never be used by or shared with anyone else without your consent.)

**LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY:** Add someone special to your membership as a joint Peace Energy Co-op member to continue your legacy and beliefs for future generations. Contact me to find out how!



Tammy Lawrence  
Office Administrator

**A PEACE ENERGY CO-OP MEMBERSHIP MAKES A GREAT GIFT:** Purchasing a gift membership just got easier with our online membership application, <https://peaceenergy.ca/online-membership-application/>

## New Year, New Directions: *Strategic Planning 2025*



The Peace Energy Co-op team: (left to right) Tammy Lawrence (Office Administrator, Dawson Creek), Ron Moch (Moch Electric our primary solar installer, Dawson Creek), Holly Anderson (Director, Dawson Creek); Wanda Laurin (Director, Peace River, AB); Greg Dueck (Solar Sales Consultant, Dawson Creek); Ernie Freeman (Director, Fort St. John); Blair Hickson (Director, Debolt, AB); Keith Anderson (Chair of the Board, Nampa, AB); Don Pettit (Executive Director, Dawson Creek). Attending via Zoom: Colin Smith (consultant, Calgary, AB); Wayne Christensen (Director, Moberly Lake, BC); Alex Adams (Director, North Vancouver).

A day-long Strategic Planning Session was held February 8th, at our office in Dawson Creek, BC to plan a path forward.

Since many of our consultants and directors are scattered across western Canada, from northern Alberta and Calgary to Vancouver, these meetings also help bring us together, building a cohesive team and getting to know each other better!

Strategic planning sessions

help us review our mission and vision statements and make sure we are on track to fulfill them over the next two to three years. We look at new opportunities that have opened, and any threats that we may be facing. How do we get from where we are now to where we want to be in three years?

The future of PREP (see page 2-3), our present largest single project, was discussed at length, especially the road blocks that the

Alberta government has put in place. We also looked at grant opportunities to hire new solar sales staff to expand this very important part of our business plan. And much more!

Thinking long-term as a group helps align everyone around a shared purpose. Team building is a big part of meetings like these, and we left with a strong sense of purpose and renewed enthusiasm for the challenging years ahead.



## Solar Sales Report: *over 1 million watts installed!*

**A**s you may know Peace Energy Co-op has become one of the most experienced and capable solar power system providers in northwestern Canada. The large Hudson's Hope solar project still stands as the biggest municipal project in British Columbia.

In total we have now designed, supplied and installed more than one million watts of grid-tied solar. With your continued support as a member, we are solarizing the BC and Alberta Peace Regions!

Solar sales have improved every year and we expect 2025 to be the best yet. BC Hydro has two rebates available for residential solar systems. You can receive up to a \$5,000 rebate for installing your grid tie solar system and up to a \$5,000 rebate for installing a battery system. (Although batteries are not needed for a simple grid-tied solar system, they can provide backup energy security should the grid go down.) Solar makes great economic sense

without a grant, but with it, solar for your home is a no-brainer!

If you are interested in solar for your home, farm or business, and are within our BC / Alberta Peace Region service area, visit our home page ([peaceenergy.ca](http://peaceenergy.ca)) where you will find our "Solar Consultation Request" at <https://form.jotform.com/230376119642051>

This form will give us the information we need to quickly evaluate and price a custom solar design for you. Please fill it out and click on "Submit" so we can provide you with some solar options to consider.

I consider my job to make it easy for you to 'Go Solar'.



*Greg Dueck,  
PEC Solar Consultant*

### Some of our new SOLAR INSTALLATIONS:



*A phase 2  
installation of  
6.9 kW for a  
total array size of  
15.4 kW. Near  
Fort St. John,  
BC.*





*Dawson Creek: this client added another 4 kW for a total of 10 kW grid tie. This home also has another 2 kW array (on the tower) dedicated to a battery back-up system that also runs some day-to-day loads such as a DC water pump and some DC built-in light fixtures as well as some AC loads through a 2000 watt inverter. This home is now very close to net-zero.*

*Pineview, near Fort St. John, BC.  
A 22 kW ground and roof mount.*



*Pouce Coupe, BC.  
3.5 kW added as a  
phase 2 project for a  
total of 17.6 kW.*





*Fort St John area, 13 kW.*



*Left and above: 8 kW, Peace River, Alberta.*



*Dawson Creek  
area, 13.9 kW  
ground mount.*







*Representatives of the Peace Energy Cooperative (centre front, left to right: Greg Dueck, Tammy Lawrence, Don Pettit)) hosted Northeast Solar Tour participants at their office in Dawson Creek this past June. Dueck toured with the group and gave solar presentations in Hudson's Hope and Fort St. John. The full CEA report: <https://www.communityenergy.ca/northeast-bc-solar-projects-2025/>*

## CEA Tours Northern Solar Projects

**Northeast BC is leading the province on community-scale solar energy!** To have a closer look, BC's Community Energy Association (CEA) held a two-day tour of northeast BC solar installations this June. On the tour were representatives of First Nations Communities, municipalities, funding organizations, non-profits, community development organizations and local solar installers.

The group visited the community of **Hudson's Hope**, where Peace Energy Co-op installed just over 500 kilowatts of solar on nine of their municipal facilities, still the largest municipal solar project in BC. To date these solar arrays have saved the community almost \$450,000 in electrical expenses.

In the **District of Mackenzie**, they toured a 50-year old arena whose life was extended by 30 years + by adding a heat recovery system with a solar

powered heat pump, using waste heat from the arena to warm the pool and other facility spaces.

At the **Saulteau First Nations**, they saw how solar panels are being added to 90% of the homes in that community.

In Fort St. John they visited the **North Peace Museum** which has eliminated nearly all of its electrical expenses with a roof-top solar array (another Peace Energy Co-op project). The money saved is providing initial funding to add a new staff position there.

The CEA showcases energy and climate action initiatives in northern BC through the Northern BC Climate Action Network (NorthCAN) which serves as a hub for sharing information about local initiatives, identifying opportunities to collaborate and leveraging capacity in northern BC.