

President's Message...

Greetings Members!

It feels like spring is coming, and none too soon! Work continues on schedule on our Bear Mountain Wind project, with tower foundations planned for construction this summer. We are right on track to have the first operating commercial wind park in BC, in the fall of 2009.

Your directors continue to pursue due diligence in regards to an investment opportunity in the construction of the project. PEC already owns a 3% stake in BMWLP (along with Aeolis and Alta-Gas), the limited partnership which is responsible for the construction and operation of the project.

We intend to have a decision on the investment option before the AGM in early May.

We are extremely pleased to announce our first ever return on investment to class A shareholders of record on January 1st, 2008! Cheques will be available at the AGM for members who attend, and will be mailed afterwards to those who do not. We are expecting a favourable decision shortly from our lawyers

in regard to RRSP eligibility for our class A shares.

This would mean that class A investment shares can be held in a self-directed RRSP account for additional tax benefits to members. We'll let you know about this as soon as we have confirmation.

Our member questionnaire asked members to tell us why they joined PEC and what they expect to gain from being a member. We had an excellent response and the results are no surprise to us: you joined because you believe it is the right thing to do - for your families, the community, and the environment. What you hope to gain is that feeling of satisfaction that comes from helping to make things better, and receiving a profit on your investment will just make that feeling more gratifying.

As always, I really appreciate your support. We couldn't do this without you.

Steve Rison - President

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Bear Mountain Wind Park Update – March 2008

I am pleased to be able to take advantage of this newsletter to provide the members of Peace Energy Cooperative a further update on the progress at Bear Mountain Wind Park. Since construction began in early December, crews have been hard at work clearing the area and prepping the site for Enercon, our turbine supplier, to begin pouring the concrete foundations for the 34 turbines this summer, conditions permitting. Trees have been logged and more than 80 per cent of them have been hauled off-site to local lumber mills, with the rest to be removed in March. Geo-technical work to determine the foundation designs is also proceeding along as planned. Crews are currently drilling small holes on Bear Mountain while geotechnical engineers are evaluating the ground conditions to assess its specific load-bearing capacities. In addition, rock samples are being taken and evaluated to determine the metal leaching and acid drainage properties of the ground. Top soil and overburden are also being moved from various turbine sites and roads to ensure the ground is sufficiently level for the Enercon crews to safely work. This top soil is being stored on-site to be used for reclamation purposes once the project is completed. All this current work is going toward having the site prepared for the concrete trucks that will be hauling an estimated 50 loads per foundation during the construction phase, equaling an impressive 1,700 total loads over the summer and early fall months. While the number is impressive, we are sensitive to the potential impacts of concrete trucks on and in the area of Bear Mountain, and will take every necessary step to ensure the work causes as little disruption as possible.

Despite our efforts to minimize environmental impacts and maintain a safe and secure worksite, we have experienced some vandalism. The worst damage came at the expense of a bulldozer CAT, which vandals drove for about five kilometers, uprooting a considerable length of fence along the east side of the right-of-way into the site in the process and unfortunately damaging a number of trees outside of Bear Mountain Wind's license of occupation. While the estimated cost of the damage was relatively small, more importantly, the damage to the land was needless, and the cost could have been much worse had someone been seriously injured or even killed. I would like to remind everyone that the area Bear Mountain Wind is working on is a construction site and should be treated as such, meaning that safety is of the utmost importance at all times – whether crews are working or not. With that being said, the project is on schedule as planned. We are working towards finalizing the locations of all the turbines and gearing up for foundation construction this summer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Danell Kokol at 403-691-7184 or Valerie Gilson at Peace Energy Cooperative.

Jim Bracken, President
Bear Mountain Wind LP



Coming Events...



Thursday, March 27—The South Peace Chapter of the **BC Sustainable Energy Association** (BCSEA) will meet in the Library at Tremblay Elementary School (11311 13a Street) at 7:00pm.

Saturday, March 29—Your chance to join thousands of others in **Earth Hour**, run by WWF the conservation organization, a global climate change initiative which calls on individuals and businesses around the world, to turn off their lights for one hour on Saturday March 29 2008 between 8 pm and 9pm. See page 4 or the PEC website for more information on how to participate.

Sunday, March 30—**Power of the Land**, Peace River Organic Producers Association invite you to join them at KPAC from 2:00pm—5:00pm for a Celebration of local food producers through poetry, music and visual presentations. PEC will have the membership information booth there. Admission is by donation. See the 'What's New' section on the PEC website or call Tim or Linda Ewert at 786-5830 for more information.

Coming in April—the Fort St John CKNL **Trade Show** April 11—13 and the Dawson Creek Kiwanis **Trade Show** April 25—27. We will be displaying the membership and information booth at both events and BMW will have a booth in Dawson Creek also; drop by and visit, or let me know if you'd like to work a short spell in our booth talking to visitors about becoming a member and why you are one!

Also coming in April—Bear Mountain Wind LP will be holding an **Open House** to discuss progress on the wind park. Date and location to be announced!

And...see page 4 for an exciting opportunity that has been extended to one of the Peace Energy Board members which will provide us with a follow-up **presentation** later this spring!

Coming Soon! Keep an eye on your mail in April for an announcement of the date and time of the Peace Energy Cooperative 2008 **AGM!**

Renewable Energy in Canada...

Canada Eyes Record Year for Wind in 2008

Ottawa, Canada [RenewableEnergyAccess.com]

Canada's total installed wind energy capacity grew to 1,846 megawatts (MW) with the addition of 386 MW of new wind energy projects in 2007, its second best year ever. Canada currently ranks as the world's 11th largest nation in terms of installed wind energy capacity.

With an anticipated minimum installation of another 700 MW in 2008, representing more than \$1.5 billion in investment, the country is poised to set a new record for annual installed wind energy capacity. These 2008 installations have already begun with the commissioning of Sky Generation's 10 MW Ravenswood project in January, the first to be constructed under Ontario's Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program.

"Wind energy must be a key component of any Canadian strategy to address climate change and Canada has still only scratched the surface of its massive wind energy potential," said Robert Hornung, President, Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA). "Although wind energy is growing rapidly in Canada, other countries continue to view wind energy as a strategic resource and are moving much more quickly to support its deployment. If Canada is to become a 'global clean energy leader' and capture the multiple economic and environmental benefits of wind energy, federal and provincial governments must start to 'think big' about wind energy and make it a core element of their future energy development strategies."

Your Energy Educations Continues...great reads for this time around!

Heat—How to Stop the Planet from Burning 2006, George Monbiot. We know that climate change is happening. We know it could, if the worst predictions come true, destroy the conditions which make human life possible. Only one question is now worth asking: can it be stopped?

Blue Covenant—Is Canada's Water for Sale? Maude Barlow, 2007. The global water crisis and the coming battle for the right to water.

Check us out—catch up on other news of your cooperative today!

www.peaceenergy.ca

Cooperatively Speaking...

Earth Hour 2008

Created to take a stand against the greatest threat our planet has ever faced, Earth Hour uses the simple action of turning off the lights for one hour to deliver a powerful message about the need for action on global warming. This simple act has captured the hearts and minds of people all over the world. As a result, at 8pm March 29, 2008 millions of people in some of the world's major capital cities, including Copenhagen, Toronto, Chicago, Melbourne, Brisbane and Tel Aviv will unite and switch off for Earth Hour. Dawson Creek and PEC have signed up and I encourage each of you to sign up individually then turn your lights off *for one hour*; you'll see how easy it is to use less electricity and how much you can save by doing so. You can access www.earthhour.org or go to the PEC website and follow either of the links in the home page left hand menu to register. Let me know if you do take part, we can report how much energy we saved as a cooperative in a future newsletter!

The Climate Project Canada

Exciting news coming from the cooperative! Cheryl Shuman, Director on the PEC Board and Chair of the South Peace Chapter of the BC Sustainable Energy Association has been chosen as one of 200 individuals to attend the Climate Project Canada in Montreal from April 4-6 2008 and be personally trained by Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Cheryl says, 'I will not only learn the slideshow featured in the Academy Award winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, but also the science and political issues that go into making a truly effective and convincing presentation.

We look forward to making arrangements to have Cheryl present the slide show this spring following her return from Montreal. Congratulations Cheryl, what an exciting opportunity!

See <http://www.climateprojectcanada.org/indexen.html> for more information on Climate Project Canada.

Did you know?

Although wind, biomass, and hydro are generally considered to be fuel sources on their own, like nearly all energy on the planet, their energy can be traced to the sun. Wind is created through differences in temperature created when the sun warms the earth's surface together with the rotation of our planet. Biomass is actually a product of plants using solar energy to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and combining it with water, a process called photosynthesis. Hydro energy can be traced to the sun-powered cycle of water evaporation and rain.

More Ways to Reduce Your Footprint...

Get off mailing lists. The last thing you need is another supply catalog or credit card offer in your mailbox. Before tossing out junk mail, call the company's toll-free service number and ask that your name be removed from the mailing list. Almost half of all catalogs are never opened, yet nearly 62 million trees are destroyed and 28 billion gallons of water are used to produce them every year.

Use the stairs. Your brain gets exercise all day, why not exercise your body? Get your heart pumping by taking the stairs instead of the elevator. It's good for your health, and it saves electricity.

Remember this one for Earth Hour (and every day!). Curb phantom electricity. Many appliances still consume energy even when turned off. Items left plugged into the wall, such as a cell phone charger or laptop adapter, can leak more than 20 watts of power. In the United States alone, "phantom electricity" emits roughly 12 million tons of carbon into the atmosphere. Avoid this especially by plugging office equipment into a power strip and turning it off at night and on weekends.

Achieving sustainable development is perhaps one of the most difficult and one of the most pressing goals we face. It requires on the part of all of us commitment, action, partnerships and, sometimes, sacrifices of our traditional life patterns and personal interests".

Mostafa Tolba, *Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development*

