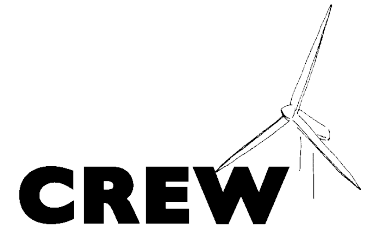


Community Renewable Energy Waterloo 2006-2007 Report



Activities in 2006/2007:

Following is a partial list of events we attended, displayed at, promoted and/or hosted:

- REEP Solar Energy & Electricity Forum, U Waterloo School of Architecture, August 14/06
- Energy Forum, Kitchener Farmer's Market, hosted by John Milloy, MPP, September 16/06
- Energy \$ense at KPL: William Kemp, author of the "Renewable Energy Handbook", October 5/06
- CREW/Woolner Geothermal/Solar Hot Water Project completed, fall/06
- CREW green building group met monthly at REEP offices
- "Renewable Energy 101" seminars hosted by Natural Power Products, occasional throughout year
- All members meeting to review impacts of the SOP, December 9/06
- Launch of the Power Network, electricity self-audit program, Jan/07
- Consultation with Ontario Minister of Environment Laurel Broten and MPP John Milloy, January 11/07
- WRAC grant writing workshop, Kitchener City Hall, Jan 13/07
- Countryside Energy Co-operative annual general meeting, Jan 16/07
- Energy \$ense at KPL: Stephen Dixon: Understanding Your Electricity Load, January 17/07
- CREWgreen talk at KPL: Michael Jones, New Dundee straw bale retrofit project, Jan 17/07
- Waterloo Region Homebuilders Assoc., intro to sustainable housing talk, Jan 18/07
- OSEA Annual Retreat, Ecology Retreat Centre, Hockley Valley, Feb 3/07
- Climate Change Evening, Franklin Public School, Feb 6/07
- David Suzuki "What if" tour, UW Hagey Hall, Feb 13/07
- Presentation to Planning & Works Committee, Region of Waterloo, Feb 20/07
- Community Energy Planning consultation with Peter Garforth, Feb 21/07
- Herman Scheer talk and book launch, Queen's Park, Feb 25/07
- Energy \$ense at KPL: Gerald Van Decker: Choosing Your Water Heating Source(s), February 27/07
- CREWgreen tour of YWCA Outdoor Centre, Paradise Lake, Feb 27/07
- Victoria Serda, live presentations of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth, KPL & 8 others site, March 20-22/07
- Grand House Co-operative "Sprung" event, March 23/07
- OSEA/CanSIA, Community Solar Initiatives workshop, Toronto, March 27/07
- Stirling Mennonite Church, ecology presentation, Kitchener City Hall, April 1/07
- Intro to Wind presentation, Rotary Club, Walper Terrace Hotel, April 10/07
- Alternative Energy Tour, Woolwich and area, April 14/07
- KW Chamber of Commerce, Energy & Environment Forum, Holiday Inn, Kitchener, April 18/07
- Earth Day reflections, Rockway Mennonite Church, April 22/07
- German Canadian Wind Energy Partnership meetings, Kitchener, April 23/07

Our local partners include Kitchener Public Library, the Residential Energy Efficiency Project, Greening Sacred Spaces, Local Initiatives for Future Energy Co-operative, Countryside Energy Co-operative, Waterloo Public Interest Research Group and the Working Centre. CREW is an associate member of the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA).

Key accomplishments in 2006/2007:

- Advocacy on behalf of the standard offer program (RESOP)
- Membership growth to over 60 plus continued development of "CREW general" contacts
- Organized and hosted 3 Energy \$ense talks plus Victoria Serda series
- Three issues of quarterly electronic newsletter, "CREWzone" produced and distributed
- Launch of a website, crewzone.ca
- Creation of a new electricity assessment group (see the Power Network description, below).

CREW Incoming board members (2007-2009):

Chantal Cornu, M.Arch, B.E.S.: Grand House Executive Director. Chantal's interests range from renewable energy to architecture. She has several years of architectural and building experience in conventional and alternative construction, and has worked in Ontario, New York and Europe. She holds a Master's of Architecture and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Pre-professional, Architecture) from the University of Waterloo, and has also studied architecture at the University of Stuttgart and in Rome. She hopes to bring her experience with the Grand House Co-op and other grass-roots start-up organizations to CREW in order to help expand public consciousness and educational activities around sustainability and community action.

Beth Hobson, B.A., B.Ed.: A secondary school educator for 26 years, Beth identifies herself as a typical non-technical Kitchener homeowner wanting to adopt a less-energy intensive lifestyle but not knowing how to do so. Having discovered CREW at a public energy forum less than 2 years ago, Beth is thankful to have discovered a local group with such a breadth of knowledge and experience. Our willingness to share and promote alternate strategies encouraged Beth to play an active role this year in a new initiative, the Power Network, where she is playing a key role in developing the toolkit concept.

Returning board members (2006-2008):

Dave Klassen: (Secretary) Dave Klassen has spent 22 years living in different parts of Africa working in the areas of construction, peace and development work. He has experience with photovoltaics, solar hot water, biogas, water/energy conservation and a keen interest in other forms of renewable energy. Presently he works as a consultant and landlord.

Kevin Rabalais, P.Eng.: Kevin is a professional engineer (electrical) with experience in circuit design, project management and teaching. Kevin is interested in energy efficiency, wind energy and solar energy (both heat and electricity producing) and would like to contribute to the coordination, structure and distribution of volunteer efforts on the board. He has ideas for a trade show initiative as well as connections with FM98.5 CKWR radio and Conestoga College.

Derek Satnik, P.Eng., LEED AP: (Vice President) Derek Satnik is a LEED Accredited Professional Electrical Engineer who specializes in alternative energy solutions and in sustainable design in general. Derek participates in the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC)'s Residential Committee (LEED-H) and Real-Estate Committee, is a director at Local Initiative for Future Energy (LIFE) Co-Operative Inc., and a participant in Conestoga College's Program Advisory Committee (PAC) and an emerging alternative energy technologies program there. Derek has experience in nearly all aspects of electrical engineering design, with wind and solar energy projects and with designing and commissioning LEED rated environmentally friendly and sustainable buildings. He is a managing partner at Mindscape Innovations, and will succeed Sandra as President of CREW.

Glen Woolner: (Treasurer) Glen is an early CREW associate who revived his membership with the formation of the earth energy group. He sees the value in conserving and wants to do what he can to keep his home comfortable and efficient - a model for others in practicing stewardship of our resources. He has experience in using solar panels—"homemade out of readily available parts and very effective"—to heat a pool, and in his current home has installed as a pilot project a ground source heating/cooling system integrated with solar for the domestic hot water supply. This project was the first urban site in the area to utilize new 'sonic' vertical drilling technology. Glen is a leader of CREW-earth energy, but maintains an interest in all of CREW's activities.

Ex-officio:

Sandra Mooibroek, Ph.D.: (Past President) Sandra has been a member of CREW since 2004, and has served as President of CREW since its incorporation two years ago. During her tenure, CREW has initiated working groups such as earth energy, green building, wind, and solar, "spun off" partner organizations such as L.I.F.E. and the Power Network, hosted a dozen Energy \$ense seminars at Kitchener Public Library and partnered with related groups such as OSEA, REEP, WPIRG, STEP, One Tonne Challenge, Countryside Energy Co-op and Grand House Co-op. She is the founder and editor of CREW's quarterly e-newsletter, CREWzone, and has overseen the development of CREW's website and extensive network of contacts. Professionally, Sandra holds a PhD in physical chemistry and is an advisory council member and consultant to ARISE Technologies (Silicon feedstock division). She researches energy and environmental issues and writes the occasional piece for the KW Record and other publications. Although her term as President officially ends this spring, Sandra expects to continue to serve CREW as a volunteer executive director and *ex-officio* board member while funds are raised to hire paid staff for CREW.

CREW working groups and affiliates:

CREWearth: Ground-source heating systems – leaders are Glen Woolner and Janek Jagiellowicz (former board member). Both leaders have done personal residential earth energy installations. Although this group has not met recently, members 'on tap' include Kris Stinson (of Eden Energy), Luke Hatherton (of NextEnergy), and Daniel Coffin (who spear-headed a video-documentary project of the Woolner installation).

CREWgreen: The Green-Building group meets regularly to share knowledge and updates on various aspects of designing and constructing environmentally sustainable buildings, especially homes. Leaders include Mary Jane Patterson (executive director of Waterloo Region Green Solutions and manager of REEP), Derek Satnik and John Sanderson, secretary. Regular members include Trent Bauman (of Menno S. Martin Construction) and Chantal Cornu (executive director of Grand House Co-op, a straw bale residence building project associated with the UW School of Architecture), local energy advisors, trades people, and individuals looking for ideas about how to build their own sustainable home.

CREWsolar: Although this group does not meet regularly, industry expertise available to the group includes CREW members drawn from at least 7 local solar distribution and installation companies, REEP and the University of Waterloo. CREWsolar is participating in a provincial Community Solar Initiatives group organized by the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association. Currently, CREW is promoting local solar photovoltaic projects, encouraging purchasers of earth energy systems to augment domestic hot water with solar thermal, encouraging local builders to offer "solar-ready" packages to new home buyers, and has plans to actively advocate for elimination of property tax increases and small generator charges that reduce the economic viability of solar projects.

CREWwind: CREW continues to advocate for standard offer contracts and community owned wind power projects, through letters and presentations to MPPs, op-ed pieces in the local paper and on-going information and member sharing with neighbouring co-operatives L.I.F.E. and Countryside Energy. Key leaders of these groups who are also members of CREW include Linda Laepple (L.I.F.E. president), Derek Satnik (L.I.F.E. director), Yvonne Zyma (L.I.F.E. communications) and Doug Fyfe (General Manager of Countryside Energy Co-operative).

The Power Network: Founded in the past year by Stephen Dixon, principal of TdS Dixon Inc (Know Energy) with active participants and leaders Rebecca Shewfelt (Lakes Environmental), Trent Bauman (secretary), Beth Hobson, and Rick Williams. This group is developing an innovative program which includes electricity load assessment toolkits designed to help ratepayers identify and reduce their electricity consumption. Actively supported by advisory council members Sandra Mooibroek of CREW, Mary Jane Patterson of REEP and Joe Mancini of the Working Centre, the Power Network has been meeting at the Working Centre and is now conducting field trials at participating members' homes.