

March 2008

# CPF Newsletter

[www.cpfund.ca](http://www.cpfund.ca)

Community Power Fund

## Welcome to Our First Newsletter!

It is hard to believe how quickly time flies. In just a few short months, we have successfully launched our grant program, launched our web site, and awarded our first round of grants to 14 successful applicants.

I am delighted that there is now a financial mechanism to support the start up and development of community-based renewable energy projects in Ontario, and proud that our program is the first of its kind in Canada.

We received some robust proposals and it is exciting to see how many groups are

pursuing community energy projects in the province. We hope to get to know all of you better over the life of our pilot program, and look forward to meeting new groups and receiving more proposals over the coming months.

The Community Power Fund is excited to be moving this sector forward. Although we are operating as a pilot grant program at this time, we hope to grow into a sustainable loan and investment organization capable of providing financial assistance to projects throughout all stages of development.

Achieving this transition will be challenging, and we hope to keep you up to date on our progress through bi-monthly newsletters and occasional press releases. We would like to thank you for your interest in and support for the Community Power Fund, and we are looking forward to working with you on our journey to develop the Community Power sector in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Deborah Doncaster,  
Executive Director,  
Community Power Fund

### Vision

Our vision is of a renewable and sustainable energy economy that is developed, owned and governed by Ontario's citizens and communities

### Mission

Our mission is to ensure sufficient financial resources are available to realize the vision of Community Power in Ontario

### Values

- Community Driven
- Financially Oriented
  - Prudent
  - Passionate
  - Professional

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# Grant Program Provides Funding for Community Renewable Energy Projects

*“Communities are great incubators of sustainable concepts. The Community Power Fund can now help turn those concepts into reality. — Dr. David Suzuki ”*

The Community Power Fund is the first grant program of its kind in Canada focussed on supporting the *Community Power* sector. Its mission is to ensure sufficient financial resources are available to realize the vision of *Community Power* in Ontario.

*Community Power* organizations require a significant amount of money for project development, but there are a limited number of existing sources of funding, especially for very early stage development. Historically, the only place *Community Power* organizations could turn for funding was the grant making sector, which has a limited amount of money and a large number of demands.

Without sufficient funding, *Community Power* organizations often find that they are unable to complete devel-

opment work on their projects and access the Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program (RESOP). RESOP was implemented by the Province as a means by which to encourage *Community Power* development, however the program itself does not enable organizations to access the early risk capital necessary for project development.

Recognizing that a mechanism was necessary to help fund the *Community Power* sector and assist organizations in completing the development work necessary to access RESOP, the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association founded the Community Power Fund in 2006. The Government of Ontario provided the Fund with \$3 million in seed money to launch a pilot grant program.

The Fund began its operations in August 2007 and officially launched its grant program with a call for proposals one month later in September. Of the \$3 million in seed money given to the Fund, roughly \$700,000 has been earmarked for the small grant programs, including the pre-feasibility, feasibility and strategic opportunity grants. The majority of the funding, about \$1.8 million, has been set aside for the large grants.

## Current Grant Programs

The Fund is currently operating four distinct grant programs which are divided according to stages of project

development. The programs are the Pre-Feasibility, Feasibility, Strategic Opportunity and Large Grant programs.

All applicants are subject to the Fund's **basic eligibility criteria**. In order to apply, proponents must:

- be voting members of the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA)
- be not-for-profits, co-operatives, co-operatively structured corporations, unincorporated groups and First Nations organizations pursuing *Community Power* projects using the following renewable energy technologies: wind, solar PV, solar thermal, biogas, small-hydro, and geothermal
- be pursuing a *Community Power* project as defined by OSEA
- be located within Ontario

All applicants must demonstrate a high probability of success including no foreseeable barriers to grid access, resource exploitation, site control and approval of permits and environmental assessments. Applicants must also contact the Fund in advance of submitting their application in order to discuss their project with Fund staff and ensure their organization and project is eligible for funding.

## Applying for a Grant

**All of the Fund's grant programs are now open**, meaning that applicants may

submit their applications at any time. Although it is required that all applicants contact Fund staff before submitting their application, it is particularly important for those applying to Large Grant program. Due to the size of the applications, large grant require more time for evaluation. Applicants must therefore contact staff to discuss their eligibility and project in detail in order to prepare your application.

### Pre-Feasibility Grant: \$5,000

The Community Power Fund is proud to announce the beginning of a new grant program.

In response to the types of applications received in round one, the Board of Directors approved the creation of a Pre-Feasibility grant program for Fund applicants.

The new Pre-Feasibility grant program will operate as an

open program, which means that applications will be accepted at any time — there is no need to wait for a call for proposals.

The Pre-Feasibility Grant supports newer *Community Power* initiatives not yet eligible for the Feasibility Grant, but that are still in the early stages of development and have completed some key start-up activities. Funding may be used to complete a pre-feasibility analysis and to leverage further funding from other sources for future development work.

### Feasibility Grant: \$25,000

The Feasibility Grant supports newer *Community Power* initiatives that are in the early stages of development but beyond the start-up and pre-feasibility stage.

Applicants may apply for up to \$25,000 over one year to

complete proposed activities. Applicants may receive funding under the Feasibility program only once.

### Strategic Opportunity Grant: \$25,000

The Strategic Opportunity grant is designed to support interim and advanced stage projects that have encountered a barrier preventing them from moving forward. The applicant must provide sufficient evidence that the project would advance if not for this specific issue, and that the activities and strategy proposed will very likely overcome the barrier and advance the project.

Applicants to the Strategic Opportunity grant may receive up to \$25,000 and may receive a maximum of two rounds of funding.

**Continued on page 4...**

## New Application Guidelines and Forms Now Available Online

**O**ur Application Guidelines and Application Forms have changed!

Following our first round of funding and the addition of our new Pre-feasibility grant program, we decided to update our applications and guidelines.

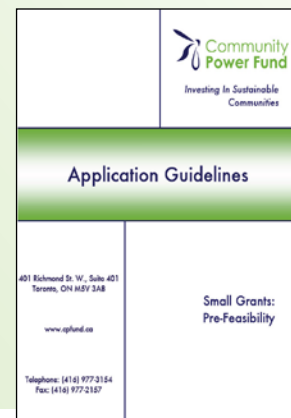
The new applications and guidelines, posted recently on our web site [www.cpfund.ca](http://www.cpfund.ca), include more detailed questions on the organizational structure, local community and

financing of the applicant's project.

Applicants must also now complete and submit a budget and work plan using our new templates. The budget and work plan should be submitted along with the application questions and supporting documents. The templates are designed to help the Fund evaluate and compare the projects by providing a common format for submissions.

If you have any questions about completing the appli-

cation questions or templates, please contact the Office and Communications Manager, Meghan at (416) 977-3154 or [meghan@cpfund.ca](mailto:meghan@cpfund.ca).



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**Large Grant:  
\$50,000 to \$300,000**

The Large Grant Program is for organizations that have completed their feasibility activities and are ready to begin development work, or are currently completing the project development stage of their projects.

Ideally, projects should be in advanced stages of development and should have a proposed commissioning date within the next two or three years.

Proponents completing solar, biogas or geothermal projects may apply for up to \$50,000 in funding over one or two years. Proponents completing wind or small-scale hydro projects may apply for up to \$300,000 in funding over two or three years, or \$150,000 for one year.

**Application Guidelines and Forms:**

Applicants must submit their completed applications to Fund staff. The applications include a completed application form, supporting documents requested, and a work plan and budget based on the templates posted online.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact Fund staff.

For more detailed information on the Community Power Fund's grant programs or to download the guidelines, application forms, or budget and work plan templates, please visit our web site [www.cpfund.ca](http://www.cpfund.ca).

## Community Power - A Global Perspective

**C**ommunity Power is a class of sustainable energy projects that are owned, developed and controlled in full or in part (>50%) by residents of the community in which the project is located. It has many great economic, social and environmental benefits. For example, according to the Iowa Policy Project, locally owned renewable energy projects generate 5 to 10 times the local economic benefits than conventional ownership models do!

*Community Power* has experienced great success in many jurisdictions, especially in Europe. For example, in Denmark a full 88% of the onshore wind capacity is owned by farmers and co-operatives, and roughly half of the turbines in Germany are owned by similar groups (see Table 1 below).

Despite significant gains globally, *Community Power* has grown much more modestly in Ontario. Although several community wind projects are currently being

developed, many of them continue to face barriers to development. The downtown Toronto turbine, owned by Windshare Co-op, represents the only example of community-owned wind power currently in operation in Ontario at this time.

The Ontario Sustainable Energy Association has been advocating the benefits of Community Power in Ontario for the past six years. In 2006 they worked with the Ontario government to develop the Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program (RESOP). The program provides stable pricing for the purchase of different renewable energy technologies. RESOP is a means by which to encourage Community Power development, and the Fund continues to work with OSEA to improve the RESOP in Ontario.

The Fund is working toward the goal of having 500 MW of community-owned power in Ontario by 2015, and 5,000 MW of community owned power by 2025.

**Table 1: Co-Op and Farmer-Owned Wind Turbines in Europe**

	Farmer	Co-op	Corporate
The Netherlands	60%	5%	35%
Germany	10%	40%	50%
Denmark*	64%	24%	12%
Spain	0%	0%	100%
Great Britain	1%	1%	98%
Minnesota	31%		69%

Source: NL, D, DK, ES, GB; Dave Toke, University of Birmingham, 2005, updated to Toke 2008  
 Minnesota; Windustry, 2008  
 \*Onshore

## Feature Event: World Wind Energy Conference 2008 Theme: Community Power

**F**ounded by the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) the World Wind Energy Conference is an internationally recognized annual event that draws delegates from public and private sectors around the world.

In the summer of 2008, the 7th World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition (WWEC) will be held at St. Lawrence College in historic Kingston, Ontario and hosted by the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association.

Whereas past conferences have focused on wind, this year's conference agenda will represent all renewable energy technologies for electricity generation. The program theme

will be *Community Power*, and topics will include Technology advancements, grid issues for renewables, ownership models, financial mechanisms, policy development, governance, administration and capacity building.

In addition to the conference agenda, WWEC 2008 will include the opportunity for delegates to attend targeted workshops and seminars focusing on *Community Power* project management, financing, governance, and community engagement.

WWEC 2008 will also include an Exhibition showcasing innovative technologies, organizations, and companies.

The exhibition will be open to representatives from all renewable energy technology areas, including wind, biogas, solar and small hydro.

Finally, there are a range of opportunities to sponsor this innovative event. To accommodate varying interests, conference organizers have developed a number of sponsorship profiles, including bronzed through partnering sponsors.

Visit [www.wwec2008.com](http://www.wwec2008.com) for more information or to register for the conference.



**Are you interested in getting updates on the Fund?**

**Sign Up for the Community Power Fund Listserv!**

The Fund has a mailing list to keep in touch with its applicants and other interested parties.

Newsletters, updates to the grant program, and notices are periodically distributed for your information. If you would like to join, please send an e-mail request to [info@cpfund.ca](mailto:info@cpfund.ca).

## Upcoming Dates and Events

**April 1 to 5, 2008**

**Growing the Margins: Energy, Bioproducts and Byproducts from Farm and Food Sectors**

will be presented April 1-5, 2008 at the London Convention Centre in London, Ontario. The conference will explore the technological, operating, policy, regulatory, financial and other challenges and opportunities facing farms and related food processing and rural industries as they strive to improve their energy efficiency and better utilize byproducts. Visit [www.gtmconf.ca](http://www.gtmconf.ca) for more information.

**May 7 to 10, 2008**

**The Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative (TREC) is hosting its first Kids World of Energy Festival** this spring. This exciting new event is creates

an opportunity for students to explore the relationship between energy, our lives, and life on the planet. The Festival is a four day event located on the grounds of the Ex. The first three days are for students only, but the festival concludes with a Community Wind Day on Saturday May 10th. For more information, visit [www.trec.on.ca](http://www.trec.on.ca) and click on "Education"

# Our First Round Of Funding A Great Success!

The Community Power Fund is pleased to announce the disbursement of \$1.1 million in grant money to community groups for the development of local renewable energy projects.

Once completed, the projects funded will represent over 170 MW of community-owned renewable energy. Projects range from 80 MW of First Nations wind projects sited in both northern and south-western Ontario, to a Toronto housing co-operative solar thermal initiative. Also included is a north-eastern Ontario small-hydro project and a project involving 13 south-western Ontario farm families working together to develop over 50 MW of wind on their land.

"We are excited to announce today the approval of 14 grants to 14 different community

power groups, representing a diversity of technologies, geographical regions and cultural backgrounds," said Deborah Doncaster, the Community Power Fund's Executive Director. "We are working with the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association in their efforts to build capacity and the right policy environment for community developed and owned projects. Often what proponents are lacking is financial support – that's what the Community Power Fund is here for."

"It is remarkable the extent to which community power can motivate people with a clear vision for the future, and, particularly in the case of First Nations and rural communities, a sense of economic renewal and sustainability," said Joyce McLean, Chair of the Community Power Fund.

## CPF Grants In Action

Strategic Opportunity Grants: \$25,000

### **BlueWater AgriWind** Strategic Opportunity \$25,000

BlueWater AgriWind is a group of 13 farmers and land-owners in Lambton County, working collectively to build a 50-70 MW wind farm on their land. Their projects are now facing a challenge due to lack of distribution capacity at their local electricity distribution station.

### **M'Chigeeng First Nation** Strategic Opportunity \$25,000

M'Chigeeng First Nation of Manitoulin Island has been

working toward a 10 MW wind project on the island but are facing a shortage in distribution capacity. The Fund Board approved a \$25,000 grant to assist M'Chigeeng in overcoming this barrier.

### **Wikwemikong First Nation** Strategic Opportunity \$25,000

Wikwemikong First Nation, located on Manitoulin Island, has been working toward a 30 MW wind project. The project is currently facing a barrier due to a shortage of electricity distribution capacity on Manitoulin Island.

The Fund Board approved a \$25,000 strategic opportunity grant to help overcome this barrier.

### **Walpole Island First Nation** Strategic Opportunity \$25,000

Walpole Island First Nation is working on a 10 MW wind farm that will be located on St. Anne's Island in Lake St. Clair. The Wind Catcher Project is facing a challenge due to the fact that there is no more capacity at their local electricity distribution station. The Fund Board approved a \$25,000 strategic opportunity grant to help overcome this barrier.

### **Windfall Ecology Centre**

Large Grant,  
\$300,000

Windfall Ecology Centre, in partnership with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, is working on a 20 MW wind project to be situated on Georgina Island.

### **Windy Hills Caledon**

Large Grant,  
\$300,000

Windy Hills Caledon is a not-for-profit organization based in the Caledon area. They plan to use a co-operative based share model to capitalize their 10 MW, five turbine wind project.

### **Campbellford Seymour Community Foundation**

Large Grant,  
\$300,000

The Campbellford Seymour Community Foundation (CSCF) is working with the Wildside Foundation to develop a 3 MW small hydro project at Teddy's Falls.

### **Windward Co-operative Homes**

Feasibility Grant,  
\$11,850

Windward Co-operative Homes is a co-operative housing community in Toronto consisting of 101 households. The co-op plans to install a solar thermal system on their building to help offset natural gas use for hot water heating.

### **Next Generation Energy Alternatives**

Feasibility Grant,  
\$5,000

Next Generation Energy Alternatives is a non-profit organization proposing to install a 2 kW solar photovoltaic system

on a downtown Toronto condominium or housing co-op.

### **Windshare Co-op**

Feasibility Grant,  
\$10,000

Windshare Co-operative is the for-profit wind power co-operative that owns the downtown Toronto turbine. The Fund Board of Directors approved a \$10,000 feasibility grant for Windshare to explore the possibility of a second turbine at Exhibition Place.

### **Barrie Windcatchers**

Feasibility Grant,  
\$25,000

Barrie Windcatchers is incorporated as a wind power co-

operative group. They are working closely with the City of Barrie to erect a 1.5 MW turbine at the site of the City's Sandy Hollow landfill. The Fund Board approved their grant to complete the feasibility work for their project.

### **TREC North**

Feasibility Grant,  
\$25,000

The Renewable Energy Co-operative North is a co-operative working in partnership with the Municipality of Temagami on a wind project at Friday Lake, Temagami. The Fund Board approved grant for TREC North to complete feasibility work for their Friday Lake project.

### **Norfolk Federation of Agriculture (NFA)**

Pre-Feasibility Grant,  
\$5,000

The Norfolk Federation of Agriculture (NFA), in partnership with Farmers for Economic Opportunity (FEO), are working toward several renewable energy projects in the Simcoe and Norfolk county area, including their 10 MW Fairfield wind project.

### **Local Initiative For Future Energy (LIFE)**

Pre-Feasibility Grant,  
\$5,000

Local Initiative For Future Energy (LIFE) is a co-operative working within the Waterloo-Wellington region to develop a wind power project in the St. Agatha area. The Fund Board of Directors approved a \$5,000 grant to complete final pre-feasibility work.

**Large Grants: \$300,000**

**Feasibility Grants: \$5,000 - \$25,000**

**Pre-Feasibility Grants: \$5,000**



## Getting to Know Us a Little Better...

The Fund is made up of a great group of people with diverse backgrounds and currently employs two full time staff members, the Executive Director, Deborah Doncaster, and the Office and Communications Manager, Meghan MacLennan.

The Executive Director manages the daily operations of the CPF and works to promote the CPF. She is assisted by the Office and Communications Manager, who is responsible for daily office administration and for helping applicants with their applications.



**Meaghan MacLennan** is the CPF Office and Communications Manager. She graduated from Ryerson University with a Masters degree in Public Policy and Administration in 2006 and has an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Waterloo. She has done significant research on wind power and public policy in the province of Ontario, and worked as an intern for the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association before joining the Fund in August 2007.

### Our Intrepid Staff

**Deborah Doncaster** is the CPF Executive Director. She was the founding Executive Director of the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association formed in 2001. Under Deborah's leadership, OSEA accomplished the delivery of a Standard Offer Contract Program for Ontario. She was also one of three Project Developers with the Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative and worked on their Exhibition Place turbine project on Toronto's waterfront. Deborah holds degrees in Philosophy, Law and Environmental Planning.



### Contact Us

Do you have a story you would like to share with us or any questions or comments about anything you've read in our newsletter? Contact us at 416.977.3154, or e-mail [info@cpfund.ca](mailto:info@cpfund.ca). We would be happy to talk with you.



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