



Village Vancouver Energy Network



Meeting Minutes - June 3, 2010

Meeting place: Home of Ann Pacey

Present: Ann Pacey, Ross Moster, Rob Baxter, Pradeep (Pat) Verma, Matthew Klippenstein, Cloud, Nelson Ford, Julia Smith, Ludo Ferrari, Trevor Hirsche, and Randy Chatterjee

Regrets: Ian Wood, Yee Tong, Nick Grabovac, and Brookes

Introduction and Sharing Interests

Rob Baxter - Board of SPEC and works with VREC (Vancouver Renewable Energy Coop), is mostly focussed on building energy efficiency, has taken a BCIT course on PV, has a permaculture design certificate, and wants to connect to the Energy netWorking Group, but may not be a regular participant.

Ross set out 3 areas of team focus: Education, Action, and longer-term Planning. With little background on energy policy, he offers organizational skills and effective approaches for everyone to connect to nature. Successful VV community efforts should come through people acting out of their own interests, choosing one's own place to contribute, work, or find enjoyment.

Pradeep (Pat) Verma - retired neurologist, due to head injury lost speech and hearing, has several active blogs and initiatives.

Matthew Klippenstein - At Ballard Power, works on fuel cells, regular reader of Oil Drum blog, wants to help bring other ideas together rather than champion his own. A chemical engineer, he claims few relevant technical skills.

Nelson Ford worked for Greenpeace in Ottawa in mid 1990s, and was involved in some direct action in partnership with other groups. He is a programmer, worked for Cisco in web technologies in San Jose (where he had a 2 hour commute), and then left and came back to Vancouver. He attended the DeGrowth conference.

Cloud, with a background in energy management and training from BCIT Sustainable Energy Manager Program, is concerned primarily with energy conservation and focussing on the biggest producers of carbon. She is an experienced facilitator of programs, telephone surveys, launching pilot programs, and wants to learn more about change management and working with children. She mentioned the importance of education and outreach to engage people in making changes to their homes or lifestyles.

Ann Pacey is a chemical engineer by training, and has recently worked as a mining industry engineer in Latin America. Her interest in the TT movement is to find ways for the community to engage in expanding conservation efforts.

Julia Smith and Ludo Ferrari are renting a house on a 3-year lease, and are interested in everything they can do as renters to reduced their energy use, such as a solar-power shower. Julia stressed the need to go beyond recycling. She and Ludo are host to a flourishing chicken coop. Ludo works for On Side Restoration, in the construction/rehabilitation business.



Trevor Hirsche - attended DeGrowth, is UBC Masters Student in hydrogeology, interested in Energy, has read "Sustainable Energy Without Hot Air" by David J. McKay, a Physics prof at Cambridge (www.withouthotair.com)

Minutes from April 19 meeting: posted on Web mid-May in FINAL after several changes pointed out.
Approved by acclaim.

Integration with other Groups

Ann stress the importance of not reinventing the wheel, seeking collaborations where possible and building on the work of others.

Matthew - knows venture capital people at Yaletown Ventures and Chrysalis. Matt would be happy to help make connections if our projects warranted funding on a cost recovery basis.

Rob - The Clean Tech Exchange is another investment-focussed monthly meeting.

Ann - brought up Econol and Nick's suggestion from April meeting. No action had been taken yet. Nick was unable to attend this meeting.

Randy pointed out that Nick was onto an exciting area of research in synthetic gasoline/petrol synthesis from waste cellulose and other organic wastes outside of the food stream, such as corn or sugar which are used to make ethanol. A [google search on gasoline and cellulose](#) brings up multiple recent breakthroughs in applied synthetic chemistry.

Potential VV Projects

Ross - opened discussion on Main Street CarFree Day People's Summit. 30th to 33rd Avenues, Saturday 12-6 PM. VV and Bridge for a Cool Planet are organizing a village on the street where different groups can present their sustainability ideas and projects.

Pat raised green venture issues, and the importance of tapping into green philanthropy dollars. He pointed to an article on Jeremy Bentham in the London Sunday Times <http://bit.ly/a98gcN>.

Rob - Installations of solar technology on homes in the Lower Mainland now has occurred in as many as 100 separate locations, but there is not enough work for the number of people involved in the industry.

Rand - talked about the Twin Harvest geothermal/urban farming project, outlined on www.twinharvest.org. This has been presented to senior levels of Vancouver City Hall civil service, but with no buy-in to date. The design team for this project is considering an approach to other cities in North America.

Pat - the more we buy solar panels, the cheaper they will get. Pointed to an Article in the MetroNews. Pradeep will blog on why renewable energy sources are more expensive than fossil fuels.

Cloud - We must first identify waste, and then second look for alternatives. Efficiency and conservation must be the first priority.

Ross - collaboration with Vancouver Permaculture Meet-Up. VPM wants to create a group on VV site to collaborate more.



Matthew - BCHydro rumours have them raising rates 40% to pay for Site C and for Smart Grid Technology.

Ann - We need to consider what happens when grid goes down.

Matthew/Ross/Ann/Rob - We need to push solar hot water installations. This low hanging fruit has real economic returns. Municipal bureaucracy and building rules are a BIG problem. See Ian's comments from last month.

Ann - We need a speakers bureau. We need a full-court education program on energy.

Trevor - There is a UBC Farm Freeschool this summer, at end of July. He will send email around. This may be another opportunity to share learning.

Ann - Wants to jumpstart Energy Descent Action Plan (EDAP), needs people to help write it. Randy volunteered. Others?

Ross - There is starting to be interest in Vancouver at a staff and Council level in the EDAP. In England, town councils are partnering with TT initiatives and helping transition initiatives to get organized.

Ann - we need to put this EDAP together and lead the community.

Ross - need to use "back-casting" to generate interest in EDAP, it is a long-range plan. Ross wants to use open spaces to engage people in the drafting process of this EDAP.

Ann - as a separate education project, she wants to create a lending library, films, books, and a discussion group on educational assets (project for our Learning Opportunities Group?)

Ann - put up a discussion on different projects, will write an article about solar hot water including who to go to

Ross/Julia - Marketing: Discussion on project to create Signs that say "Ask me about VV or Solar Power", which could be posted at member's houses who have installed such devices - links to SolarBC

Ian - suggested food swaps in each village, based on local produce grown in our yards

Pat - What I will suggest is what I refer to as LaLuchas where people drop in to cook and chat and exchange views, food, used clothes, and other items . [Details of that are on his website.](#)

Ross/Nelson - emergency preparedness, how to enable communities to plan for resilience, city does short-term training, but not long-term.

Julia/Ludo - Vancouver is woefully behind in preparedness for ANYTHING. This could be a funded service VV could provide, building local capacity to help out.

Julia - Villages could share purchasing networks where a person says where he/she is going (Cosco, dairy, hardware store). "Can I pick up something for you?" (Transport-sharing). She also raised the need to build neighbourhood asset lists as part of Asset Backed Community Development.



Village Vancouver Energy Network



Ann - Summertime activities? Should we meet? Ann wants each of us to take responsibility for one or more projects from the list we have been generating, and hopefully meet together in smaller groups as well.

Action Steps and Plans

Follow-up meetings to define specific group members to tackle a select number of projects of interest.

Next Meeting: mid-July, time and location TBA