

Summary of March 8 chapter meeting

1. Provincial update:

1. We made our BCSEA submission to the province's Green Energy Advisory Task Force in December, offering a total of 61 suggested actions that cover everything from detailed ways to improve the regulatory environment for run-of-river power, to ways to improve public access and involvement in the review process, to ways to accelerate the take-up of solar, solar hot water, and ocean energy. To read our submission, click [here](#).
2. Our Policy Committee is working (among other things) on an Electric Vehicles policy, designed to encourage more people to get excited about a future with electric vehicles. We also need to take into account the work of BC Hydro and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources on this front.
3. Due (in some part) to our efforts, \$35 million has been restored to the Live Smart program; though we do not have any details yet.

In a linked development, we are also working on an initiative that explores what might be possible if transport and heating fuels were not exempt from the 7% PST/HST, bringing in \$500 million a year that could be spent on energy efficient buildings and sustainable transport. If we can raise the funds, we hope to hire 2 people on short-term contracts to build a solid stakeholder base that would support such a move.

4. The issue of the proposed Site C dam is firmly on our radar, since a government decision is looming. This is a tricky matter, as we probably have as many members who would support the dam because of the power it could produce, as we have members who would oppose it, because of the farmland it would flood.

6. Our Solar BC program is extending the incentive for residential solar hot water installations to a further 200 systems. This means that if you buy a smaller system, there's \$2,000 available in rebates; if you buy a larger system, there's \$3,000. We are also working on building a regulatory environment that will support the permanent growth of the solar hot water industry. This includes attaching a loan for solar hot water or energy efficiency improvements to the property title or utility bill, not the owner, and introducing "The Merton Rule", which would require any development of more than ten units to get 10% of its heat from renewable energy. On April 13th, our webinar will be on the topic of Property Assessed Clean Energy Bonds (PACE Bonds). To learn how you can get things moving to install your own solar hot water system, go to www.solarbc.ca.

7. We have received \$67,000 in funding from three sources (BC Hydro, the Vancouver Foundation and the Bullitt Foundation) to develop Phase 2 of

our [Green Landlords Project](#), which we will soon be using to hire a full-time staff person who will work to implement the findings of our Phase One report.

8. Our [Climate Change Showdown](#), which was developed by young people in our Kamloops and Vancouver chapters for grades 5 & 6 students, is in the excellent hands of David McKee, who faced a massive budget shortfall at the start of the year, but has since raised \$120,000 in contributions, which is enabling the program to go ahead around the province.

9. Our membership goal is 1,000 by this summer, and we are now at 680 - so please encourage your friends to join and support our work. We get no external funding for our core work, so it all depends on us, and your support is invaluable. To become a member, or to switch to becoming an Energizer (monthly donor), call Tom or Lindsay at 250-744-2720 or [click here](#).

10. Peter Ronald and his family are doing as well as can be expected following the terrible tragedy that struck his family a month ago. They thank everyone for their really kind wishes, and need their privacy in order to be able to recover.

2. District Heating Sharing Systems (Art Sutherland)

See Art's powerpoint presentation posted to the Victoria chapter BCSEA webpage.