



## Potential Roles For Local Government In Sustainable Energy Policy

9:00 am May 7, 2008 at the Westin Hotel - Whistler  
(right next door to the Whistler Hilton where the LMLGA – AGM is being held)

### A workshop co-sponsored by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and the Community Energy Association

Communities are developing sustainability plans to meet the future needs of their citizens. Opportunities for partnerships and collaboration between local government and the private sector are shifting, particularly for renewable energy projects. This conference is a chance to explore this shift, the opportunities, and the challenges, in a frank and open way.

In many areas of North America and Europe, energy is sourced and managed locally, in a way that is integrated with other local services such as the provision of clean water and the treatment of liquid and solid waste. Is there a role for municipal governments and regional districts in B.C. to work more closely with B.C. Hydro, the growing independent energy sector and senior governments in the sourcing, distributing and pricing of energy? What powers does a local government have regarding green energy in the post bill 30 world?

At a time when local governments are being encouraged to find other sources of revenue and encourage sustainable energy practices – we need knowledge and new tools to do the job.

Is there an opportunity for locally-generated green energy to be locally consumed? Can locally controlled rate structures allow communities to balance power consumption and provide efficiencies benefiting the entire grid? Are there revenue opportunities for local government that harmonize with achieving local sustainability objectives?

These are complex questions and this all-day forum of experts will provide participants with informative and challenging ideas. If you are a decision-maker in local government please join us to learn and share your ideas as we work through the following proposed agenda of topics:

*(Draft Agenda – subject to change)*

1. **Introductions & welcome** (Richard Walton, Mayor of the District of North Vancouver)
2. **Communities and the Grid: A new relationship** (Dr. John MacDonald, Day4 Energy)
3. **Legal Capacity & Constraints Post Bill 30** (Don Lidstone, Lidstone Young Anderson)
4. **'Hot Air': Climate Change Policies So Far** (Nic Rivers, MK Jaccard & Assoc.)
5. **Tools & Resources – Concurrent Workshops:**
  - a. Supply-Side: Community Power Projects (Guy Heywood, Renaissance Power)
  - b. Demand-Side: Local Policy Instruments (Dale Littlejohn, Community Energy Asso.)

*Venue: Westin Hotel Whistler – 'Alpine Room' – cost of \$70 will include a buffet lunch  
To register fax or email the attached 'SUPPLEMENTARY SESSION REGISTRATION' to:*

**For further information call Eydie Fraser at (604) 270-8981 or Email: [info@lmlga.bc.ca](mailto:info@lmlga.bc.ca)**

*Space is limited so please register in advance.*

## Notes on speakers and presentations:

**Mayor Richard Walton** is mayor of the District of North Vancouver, having served as a Councillor and School Trustee for many years before his election in 2005. Richard was a high school English teacher, a Chartered Accountant and has had an extensive background in business ranging from resource to high technology, as a consultant and chief financial officer. His motivation for convening this workshop is a wish to ensure local governments are adequately equipped to address climate change and energy security in their communities.

**Dr. John MacDonald OC** is one of British Columbia and Canada's most respected academics and entrepreneurs. After founding MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates and leading it to global stature as a satellite imaging and information processing company – he went on to found Day4 Energy – a pioneer in solar energy. Day4 completed an initial public offering in December of 2007 and is expanding its solar panel manufacturing plant in Burnaby from 12 to 90 megawatts of annual production capacity.

From the perspective of a pioneer in technology – Dr. MacDonald will discuss his view of future renewable-dominated energy systems and the characteristics he believes such systems will exhibit. He has a view based on his experience that these will be adaptive systems that exhibit a great diversity of approaches, distributed generation sources and decentralization of knowledge and capacity to innovate. Our current electricity distribution grid is a large, inflexible and highly centralized system that may not be optimal for responding to the challenges of future energy management and the very interrelated challenges posed by climate change and the complex energy supply and demand issues that face human civilization. Dr. MacDonald's presentation will discuss the role that renewable energy sources can be expected to play in future electrical generation systems and how municipal governments can play a role in the realization of those systems.

**Don Lidstone QC** is an acknowledged authority in municipal law and legal counsel to local governments throughout BC. He will review the legal capacity of local government to take action in energy supply and demand management. He will discuss the impact of Bill 30 on local government's involvement in IPP development before and after enactment of the bill.

**Nic Rivers** is an engineer, academic and co-author with Mark Jaccard and Jeffery Simpson of a recent book on climate change policy entitled "**Hot Air: Meeting Canada's Climate Change Challenge**". His presentation will review policy initiatives of federal and provincial governments on the climate change file to date. He will be informative and sobering on the magnitude of the problem, the relative ineffectiveness of policy to date, and the need for more concerted effort in the future. The relative lack of success on the part of the two senior levels of government to date make it that much more important for local government to become knowledgeable and effective on the issue going forward.

**Dale Littlejohn** has been active in sustainable energy for over 10 years in a variety of roles that included being a consultant with Deloitte, a founding member of the BC Sustainable Energy Association and with Smart Growth BC. Dale is currently Manager of Outreach and Strategy for the Community Energy Association ("CEA"), which is the first stop for local government leaders addressing energy security and climate change.

The CEA has just published a Renewable Energy Guide for Local Governments including modules on "Heating Our Communities" and "Utilities and Finance". Dale will speak to the issue of local utilities and the policy instruments that local governments have to implement demand side management measures in their community with a particular focus on greenhouse gases.

**Guy Heywood** is a former banker with experience in power project financing. Formerly with the Royal Bank he has spoken to many audiences on the topic of public/private partnerships and infrastructure financing. Renaissance Power is a company that is attempting to bring renewable energy project management and financing solutions to local government. Guy will discuss the motivations that a local government might have to cause a power project to be developed in their jurisdiction – and the steps that would be entailed in pursuing such a project to a successful conclusion.

**Registration Form For The Pre-Conference Session:**

**Potential Roles For Local Government  
In Sustainable Energy Policy**

**Wednesday May 7, 2008 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)**

**Westin Hotel Whistler – Alpine Room**

*(right next door to the Hilton Whistler Resort where the LMLGA – AGM is being held)*

**Price: \$70**

Includes: Cost of room, lunch and materials from the session.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method:

Cheque: (attach cheque to the “LMLGA” for \$70)

Credit Card: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please fax to: (604) 270 9116 or email to: [info@lmlga.bc.ca](mailto:info@lmlga.bc.ca)**

**Call Eydie Fraser (604) 270 8981 for further information.**

***Please note:***

*This session is not part of the formal agenda for the LMLGA and offered as a supplementary program for those people attending (and for a limited number of people not attending) who are interested in this topic area.*