

Energy Solutions for Vancouver Island

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

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News

Main events of 2010

The last year has seen ESVI active in a number of ways.

- Our submission to the B.C. Utilities Commission examination of future power grid infrastructure was snapped up by quite a few interested parties as it showed how a smart grid could delay having to add more power lines in the province, saving a lot of money as well as making the grid more reliable. The B.C. government suddenly stopped the hearing and has since scaled back the public input into the future

of utilities in our province (also true under the former NDP government). However, our submission has had an effect, and B.C. Hydro (which has again taken over the responsibility for the B.C. Transmission Corp) is a leading utility in North America on this emerging technology.

- We played a significant role in the Mid-Island Co-op's Green Solutions Tradeshow last April with two full tables of information and hand-outs.



One of our booths
(this one in Duncan)

- We organized, with community involvement, a very successful transportation forum, November 13th at Bowen Park Social Centre (Nanaimo). Bringing together local leaders with notable speakers and panelists, with lots of public interaction, participants caught a vision of a more sustainable and

efficient way to design cities and move people and goods around.

- Our monthly articles, published in the Nanaimo News Bulletin, features articles on energy conservation and efficiency measures in buildings and transportation. This is the longest-running energy-focused column on V.I.
- Our influence is far greater than our size would suggest! Your membership and participation makes this all possible. Do bring a friend to our AGM (below)!

AGM Sunday, January 16, 1 p.m.

@ Brechin United Church, 1998 Estevan Road, Nanaimo

This year's AGM will again feature Ludo Bertsch, a founder of ESVI and internationally-recognized smart-grid designer. He was very well received by members and guests at our last AGM. As B.C. Hydro will soon be

installing smart meters in our homes, amidst the controversy they have generated elsewhere, we wanted to bring Ludo back to help us better understand what the fuss is about!

Mark this on your calendar!



Ludo Bertsch

Check out our website
www.esvi.ca

AGM Schedule

1:00 Pot-luck lunch (finger foods best)
2:00 Theme speaker, Ludo Bertsch
4:00 – 4:30 AGM



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There you will find
part articles, the trans-
portation forum, a
membership form, and
more.

The Purposes of the Society are:

- a) To pursue and promote solutions for meeting Vancouver Island's energy needs in socially and environmentally responsible ways so as to facilitate economic and social development.
- b) To support and promote energy conservation efforts on Vancouver Island.

Highlights from the 20/20 Transportation Forum

Held in Nanaimo on November 13th

Subtitled "A Vision for Sustainable Communities by 2020" about 100 people participated in lively conversations, engaging with some locals offering practical solutions and received excellent visioning from our two key-note speakers:



Tania Wegwitz from B.C. Transit started us off with a wide-ranging look at transportation and community design. She did so with humour and wit! By the way, since our event she gave birth to a 9lb 3oz baby boy (December 13). Both are doing well.

Professor Patrick Condon helped us imagine an intelligently designed community utilising practical street-cars and localized businesses. He is a UBC professor and author of *Seven rules for sustainable communities: Design strategies for the post-carbon world*



Their presentations and others are available on our website (www.esvi.ca)! Look under the transportation link.

What is the big deal about "smart meters"?

Smart meters will give consumers and BC Hydro a "real-time" reading of power consumption, giving consumers detailed information about their power consumption moment-by-moment (not just over two months). Meter reading personnel will be gone, as the data will be sent electronically. Some consumers are concerned about privacy issues (theft of data). Grow-ops may be especially hard-hit, as they will be easily detected.

Details:

- B.C. Hydro's 1.8 million commercial and residential smart to be installed between July 2011 and December 2012.
- Overall benefits: improves reliability, lowers operating costs, provides revenue protection (e.g. from theft), service improvements (in home feedback), allows for advanced applications (such as distributed generation, electric vehi-

cles, micro-grids), provides energy and conservation savings (time-of-use rates, feedback, direct control of energy use), improves employee/public safety, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, creates a range of jobs/opportunities in BC, and optimizes energy resources.

- Costs up to \$930 million, generating over \$1.5 billion in benefits over 20 years.