

Keynote Speakers



John Farrell is Director of Democratic Energy at the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. He is widely known across North America as the guru of distributed energy.



Alex Love is the General Manager of Nelson Hydro where he directs innovative Energy Retrofits Programs and BC's first Community Solar Garden.



Alevtina Akbulatova is the Coordinator for BC Hydro's Net Metering program, overseeing solar and micro-hydro grid tie-ins from individuals across the province.

Additional Conference Features!

- KinderCare (Age 3+) with licensed daycare and activities
- Lunch may be purchased in the cafeteria
- People Power Demonstration
- Tour of Solar Scholarship Solar Array system
- Electric Bicycles and display tables
- Post Conference Tour of Jane Squier's Sustainable greenhouse. (Details and sign-up at the conference - \$10 supports the greenhouse project)

Conference Organizers

Ron Watts (Chair)
David Denning
David Elderton
Brigitte Hayes
Kjell Liem
Jim Meadows
Anne Parkinson

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2016 Community Energy Conference & Social Creating A Low-Carbon Future

April 23, 2016

at Gulf Islands Secondary School

8:30 — 9:30	Registration, coffee, tea and muffins, Meet and Greet
9:30 — 9:40	Welcome and Introductions – David Denning
9:40 — 10:00	Keynote: <i>Community Energy and Energy Democracy Are Alive and Well.</i> John Farrell, via video from Minnesota
10:00 — 10:30	Keynote: <i>BC's First Community Solar Garden - How We Did It.</i> Alex Love, Nelson Hydro
10:30 — 10:50	Keynote: <i>Community Solar in British Columbia</i> Alevtina Akbulatova, BC Hydro
10:50 — 11:10	Keynote: <i>Local Community Solar</i> Kjell Liem, CCEM, Salt Spring Community Energy Group
11:20 — 12:20	First Workshop Session
12:20 — 1:20	Lunch in the cafeteria - GISS Food Services Program
1:30 — 2:30	Second Workshop Session
2:30 — 3:00	BREAK - Coffee and Networking
3:00 — 4:00	Third Workshop Session
4:15	Social - GISS Cafeteria – Cash Bar, Snacks, Networking



Workshop Sessions

	Low Carbon Room	Wind Turbine Room	Solar Panel Room	PV for EV Room	Community Energy Room
WS 1 11:20- 12:20	<p>Cohousing: Building a Lower Carbon Community Michael J Tacon, Harbourside Cohousing, Sooke</p> <p>Now that the construction is complete, Michael will address the power of collective wisdom and consensus-reaching ability as key factors in the viability of effective cohousing. Conservation was the primary energy reduction strategy, so come learn how the BUILD GREEN GOLD certification and constant vigilance for new ways to reduce energy consumption are working in the cohousing environment.</p>	<p>Year Round Harvest Linda Gilkeson</p> <p>Did you know that 40% of Salt Spring's greenhouse gas emissions come from food? Most of it is due to transporting food from faraway places to our two local grocery stores. But you can eat more delicious nutritious food while lowering your carbon footprint at the same time. In this talk, Linda Gilkeson will cover crops and planting schedules for year round harvests along with low maintenance tips for growing the most food in the space you have.</p>	<p>Rooftop Solar 101 Simon Wheeler and Alevtina Akbulatova</p> <p>Thinking about solar on Salt Spring? Attend this workshop to learn about how much sun we get and an introduction to solar energy for hot water and electricity generation on Salt Spring. The different types of solar equipment, the necessary precautions when buying and installing and a brief review of the financial aspects will also be covered. A representative from BC Hydro will talk about connecting your system to the grid (net metering), while electrical safety aspects will also be covered.</p>	<p>Electric Vehicles - Save Money, Energy, and Carbon Julian Sale and Cameron Wall (Motorize Auto Direct)</p> <p>An information workshop about electric vehicles. What are their advantages and shortcomings? How far do they go and how long to charge? What models are available? What do they cost? What about government rebates and low-interest loans? What does the future hold for EVs? ... A great opportunity to get more informed by two regional EV experts!</p>	<p>Home Retrofits and New Home Design Presented by Alex Love (Nelson Hydro), Sam FitzZaland (GreenCity Builders) and Elizabeth White (retired designer-builder)</p> <p>Whether you are building a new home or retrofitting an existing one for energy efficiency, there's a lot to learn from these three experts. Alex will review Nelson's successful energy retrofit program while Sam will present lessons learned from his recent new construction experiences. Elizabeth will provide an overview of energy efficient housing in Canada, from the early days of R-2000 to Passive House and Net Zero, and what Salt Spring islanders are doing. The format for this workshop is 3 fifteen minute presentations followed by Q&A.</p>
12:20	<i>LUNCH</i>				
WS 2 1:30- 2:30	<p>An Introduction to Awesome E-Bikes David Elderton, Hill Eater E-Bikes</p> <p>What are e-bikes and why are they so awesome? Attend this session to explore the transformative power of electric bikes and what makes them such an efficient and eco-friendly way to get around. Learn which design is best for you and whether you should buy factory-made or convert a bike you already own. We will help you narrow your focus depending on expected use. You will also learn the basics of lithium batteries and why they are so important. The presentation will be followed by Q&A. Bikes will be available to ride after the conference so bring a helmet!</p>	<p>Low-Carbon Subtropical Food Growing on Salt Spring – Really? Jane Squier</p> <p>Jane Squier has pioneered sustainable agriculture on Salt Spring with her greenhouse production of Living Lettuce, beautiful basil, and more. In recent years, she developed innovations for growing foods previously considered impossible to grow here. Jane will share her journey in sustainable agriculture, highlighting her work with small scale biogas production using farm waste, and high-efficiency wood gasification greenhouse heating. She will also conduct a post-conference (Sunday) tour of her greenhouse and innovative projects. Sign up at the Conference.</p>	<p>Net Metering with BC Hydro Alevtina Akbulatova, Net Metering, Business & Economic Development, BC Hydro</p> <p>Connecting the energy produced by your solar array to BC Hydro is easy when you know how. Bring your questions to the expert from BC Hydro as she explains how it works technically, and what's required to get approval for connecting to BC Hydro's grid. This session is appropriate for both residential and business customers wanting to install units generating up to 100 kW in capacity.</p>	<p>EV Charging---From Home Charging to Growing the Regional Network Presented by Charlotte Argue (Fraser Basin Council), Jason Ware (electrician), & Janet Clouston ((SSI Chamber) Moderator: Andrew Haigh</p> <p>This session will cover EV programs and the outlook for the growing network of Level 2/DC fast chargers. Installation of Level 2 chargers at home and businesses will also be featured, with advice on charger types, electrical code requirements, cost-saving measures. Business owners will learn about tourism benefits of EVs and available EV Charger subsidies. Followed by Q&A.</p>	<p>Community Solar Regional Update, Part 1--Show & Tell Kjell Liem, CCEM, Salt Spring Community Energy Group</p> <p>Inspired by T'Souke Nation's visionary community solar panel installation, enabled by the improving economics of renewable energy, and fueled by friends and neighbors passionate about a healthy future for their children, we will hear directly from the Community Solar activists from around the region. Workshop 1 will describe local projects & activities to date. (Each group will have 5 minutes to present).</p>
WS 3 3:00- 4:00	<p>GreenerTravel / Lower Carbon Footprints David Denning, Salt Spring Community Energy Group</p> <p>The Paris COP21 Agreement requires Canada to commit to keeping planetary temperature rise to less than 2°C. To do this, we must keep our greenhouse gas emissions within Canada's Carbon Budget – a projected national carbon footprint that is our fair share of the world's total carbon budget. This workshop will explore how travel contributes to our greenhouse gas emissions and will provide an up-to-date picture of ways to reduce our travel carbon footprints.</p>	<p>Investing for a Post Carbon Future Stephen Whipp, Wolverton Securities Ltd.</p> <p>Are you concerned about investing in ventures that will exacerbate Climate Change? Would you like to invest in alternatives and solutions? This workshop will discuss ways to avoid the financial risks associated with investing in fossil fuels, while taking advantage of opportunities offered by climate change mitigation and the post-carbon economy. With over 15 years in the investment business, Steve will lead us through a discussion about intelligent ways to divest from fossil fuel investments and move to investing for the future.</p>	<p>Lessons Learned Off the Grid Andrew Haigh and Maxine Leichter</p> <p>You don't have to live off the grid to benefit from these energy conservation tips from the experts. Join Salt Spring residents Andrew Haigh and Maxine Leichter as each reveals what they have learned in over a decade of off-grid living. Learn how to reduce energy consumption, how to plan for low-energy usage in building design, and what they would do differently if starting over.</p>	<p>The Latest in Heat Pumps Graham Outerbridge and Cathie Newman</p> <p>Heat pumps can heat your home in winter and cool it in summer. Join us for a presentation on the suitability and efficiency of different types of heat pumps by local experts, and listen to the benefits from happy homeowner Cathie Newman. Learn about the different types, including ductless, and even models that hook into your radiant floor heating system to get the facts on how you too could save energy and money with a heat pump.</p>	<p>Community Solar Regional Update Part 2--Stepping into our Shared Future Panel discussion moderated by Kjell Liem, CCEM</p> <p>A panel discussion with regional leaders of the Community Solar movement: --there are shared aspirations and common barriers to the adoption of solar on community buildings and in local areas. Want to see a solar future in your community? This is the forum where that will be addressed.</p>
4:15	<i>SOCIAL</i>				