

Our World

Community Collective

227 members

www.ourworldcommunity.org

OWCC for the North Okanagan, believes that best way to effect change is to focus the power generated by large numbers of people to democratically identify concerns and move towards solutions which support a healthy and sustainable future.

Cast Your Vote!!!



Meetings

We meet the first and third Thursday of every month.

@6:00 P.M.

For more information, phone Darren at 542-3379.

Welcome OWCC members and non-members! We are very excited about this issue of our publication! In this issue, we are running a poll to identify solutions to the number one concern, Polluting of the Earth.

In our first OWCC Poll, we identified the greatest concerns of North Okanagan residents. The top four concerns out of 29 were "Polluting of the Earth," "Wildlife and Habitat Destruction," "Lack of Public Representation in Government Decision-Making," and "Government Accountability, Responsibility and Transparency (see Issue 6, OWCC Newsletter for the results)."

In our second Poll, we determined the underlying root causes of the number one concern, Polluting of the Earth (see Issue 7, OWCC Newsletter for the results).

Each time we vote, we invite our entire member base to participate in designing the Poll. For the last three months, interested participants have been working on determining solutions for pollution. Now it's time to vote on those solutions. Our vote runs from September 1st to October 31st. With this Poll, we would like to improve the percentage of voter participation, which in the last two Polls was 70% and 71% consecutively.

If you're reading this and you're not familiar with OWCC, part of our concept is to create a simple system where we can be directly involved in the government decision-making process. Membership is free and the minimum we require our members to do is read the newsletter and vote. The bigger our numbers, the more powerful our voice.

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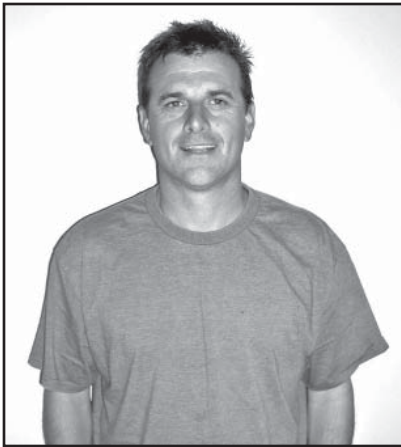
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Vegi-Powered Vehicles: The Wheels of the Future

OWCC is in the initial stage of organizing a community biodiesel project. We are currently in the process of building a small-scale dual-tank processor. Where it goes from there will depend on public interest. With such tremendous increase in fuel prices, decline in fossil fuel availability and concern for the harmful effects of emissions, biodiesel has become a desirable, clean-burning alternative. See page 2 for more details.



Towards Direct Democracy



Darren Seymour, a founding member of OWCC, is running for MP in the next Federal election.

One of the founding members of OWCC, Darren Seymour, has decided to run for MP as an Independent in the next Federal Election. With Darren Seymour as MP, his entire annual salary, approximately 144 thousand dollars minus taxes (taxpayer's dollars), will go towards building the OWCC system where people can be directly involved in government decision-making at all levels of government. Money will be used to expand the newsletter and to create a secure, user-friendly voting system and website. We will be hiring someone to consistently update and organize the expanding OWCC database.

For the past two and a half years OWCC founders Darren Seymour and Denise Walterhouse, together with other active OWCC members, have invested time, energy and resources into building the OWCC foundation. Now that the system is in place, we believe OWCC will expand more rapidly with Darren's base salary as MP. We feel that interest in OWCC will heighten as more people realize that they will be able to work directly *with* their Federal Representative (Darren Seymour) in order to make decisions and find resolutions to best serve their community and their country. The OWCC concept endorses a true democratic system, one that advocates a *responsible* government with *responsible* citizens.

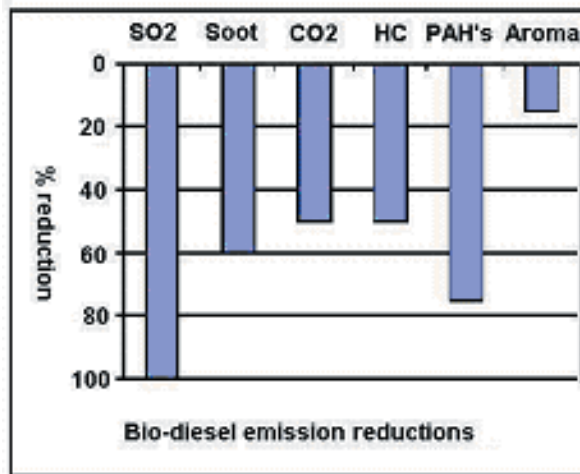
Vegi-Powered Vehicles

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In its pure state, biodiesel is made from 80-90% vegetable oil, 10-20% alcohol and 0.35-1.5% catalyst. Biodiesel can be used in its pure form or blended with petroleum in any percentage. The use of biodiesel in a conventional diesel engine results in substantial reduction of unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter compared to emissions from diesel fuel. In addition, the exhaust emissions of sulfur oxides and sulfates (major components of acid rain) from biodiesel are essentially eliminated compared to diesel.

In the United States, there is a growing number of truckstops selling B20, which is a biodiesel blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel. Biodiesel is available in 50 States through suppliers and more than 50 public pumps dispense biodiesel in the U.S. The National Biodiesel Board estimated a sales volume increase of 500,000 gallons of biodiesel in 1999 to

25 million gallons of biodiesel in 2003. In the U.S., Biodiesel is registered as a fuel and fuel additive with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and



meets clean diesel standards established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Neat (100 percent) biodiesel has been designated as an alternative fuel by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the US Department of Transportation (DOT). In Canada, the biodiesel market is

expected to increase substantially over the next few years due to rising interest in environmental issues and fossil fuel reduction. Already, the government has made a move to reduce Federal taxes to encourage the production and sale of biodiesel.

In 2003, UBC piloted a Biodiesel Initiative Project to provide a working Biodiesel lab as a model for others to follow and to promote awareness and understanding of the Biodiesel process through education.

In Greater Vancouver, Burnaby opened its first Biodiesel Fuel Station, selling B5 (95% petroleum diesel blended with 5% biodiesel). The biodiesel portion of the blend of biodiesel and diesel is exempt from road tax. These are exciting developments for the biodiesel industry in Canada.

Contact OWCC if you are interested in working on the Biodiesel Project.

Fill Out the Ballot

Place a number in each box to represent how you feel about each "solution" to the underlying root causes of pollution (1-agree, 2-disagree).

- OWCC will build its member base to produce a strong voice in government decision-making, and to form a network for putting together community projects that will reduce pollution.
- OWCC will conduct a survey for residents of the North Okanagan to identify the top qualities they wish to see in the area they live in. We will set up a committee to work with our local representatives to generate new community plans for the various North Okanagan regions based on survey results, as well as model other favourable community plans.
- OWCC will create a list of companies that are moving towards sustainability and a list of companies that are doing the most damage to the planet. We will identify harmful products corporations sell, make the public aware of the damage, then encourage the use of alternatives that are better for our planet.
- We will use our own CBC Network (which we pay approximately \$600-800 million of our tax money a year to operate) to identify, learn about and vote on how to solve issues we deem important. We will imitate the Greatest Canadian show, broadcasting one night each week, but instead of picking the Greatest Canadian, we will start solving issues and be involved in the Government decision-making process.
- We would like Canada to join Italy's initiative to open up communications with all other countries to create a more fair and just monetary system. OWCC will hold a conference in Vernon to promote awareness and understanding of our currently flawed monetary system. We will request that our North Okanagan MP attend the conference. As well, we will send an open invitation to all other MPs and the public.
- **For Vernon residents only (identified through Postal Codes)
We want the Vernon City Council to adopt the same practices that the Kelowna City Council has in regards to expense accounts. All expenses have to be pre-approved before any city taxpayer's money is spent.

**Due to recent events involving the former Mayor of the City of Vernon, we decided to include this Poll question.

Your vote's important! Sign up today. Fill out this ballot and Membership Form, then mail it to the address below or go online to vote @ourworldcommunity.org.

OWCC Membership Form

Last Name _____

First Name _____

City _____

Postal Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Please return form to:
Our World Community Collective
7688 Okanagan Landing Rd.
Vernon, BC V1H 1G9

- I am already a member.
- I am a new member.

Affordable Professional Web Design
~
Erynn Watson
www.watsonsweb.com

A big Thanks to Erynn for designing and hosting OWCC's web site!



Our World Community

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Bi-Monthly

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Reminder!!! Our World Community would like to support anyone interested in participating in the North Okanagan Community Challenge (NOCC).

The NOCC is a local pilot project funded by the Federal Climate Change Action fund until March 2006. The Challenge encourages residents to take the One-Tonne Challenge – the joint effort of individual Canadians to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 20%. Many area businesses and organizations have joined the Challenge by encouraging friends, colleagues and coworkers to get involved. Over 37 “Challenge Champions” have registered to date including Our World Community.

Our World Community would like to invite our members, and others who read our newsletter, to join local residents who have already committed to taking action on climate change. Over 621 North Okanagan Residents have registered with the Challenge as of August 30th, 2005!

If you'd like to get involved, read over the NOCC brochure attached to this month's newsletter. The brochure contains a list of climate friendly actions that you may choose to undertake. The actions are given a value, so you can determine when your commitments total one-tonne. Once you've found four to six actions that you'd like to commit to, you can go on-line to www.nocc.ca and register (don't forget to include "Our World Community" as your Challenge Champion). You may also call 545-5072 to register by phone if you prefer.

The effects of climate change are being experienced around the world and here in the Okanagan. The Challenge asks every Canadian to do what they can to reduce the impact our life-styles are having on the global climate. If you're already leading a climate friendly life, you may find it difficult to reach a one-tonne goal, but you can probably find one or two commitments to undertake. And, you'll be adding your voice to the growing number of local residents who are taking action by joining the Challenge.



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