



– MARCH, 2012 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee

The subcommittee is expecting to attend the Environment and Transportation Standing Committee meeting April 25th when the response to the report regarding Ojibway Shores will be addressed.

A motion requesting support for the Lake Erie Coastal Trail being developed by the Carolinian Canada Coalition will be brought forward at the April WECEC meeting. Accompanying this will be a letter of support for funding continuation that we will send to Carolinian Canada to be forwarded to various funding agencies.

In regards to requesting evaluation of potential PSW or endangered species habitat properties within Windsor-Essex County, the subcommittee has decided to evaluate public land based on certain criteria (yet to be determined) and develop a list of prioritized lands. These top properties will then be brought forward to City and County Council with the recommendation to have them evaluated for significance.

2. Renewable Energy Media Campaign with Generator Design

After meeting with several solar energy companies as well as the Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation we are excited to report that we have received significant campaign support. We have more than doubled our investment dollars which means that we will be able to launch a substantial campaign. The target launch date is Earth Day, April 22nd.

Public Education Campaign Goal

To educate the public about how solar energy and technologies benefit the residents of Windsor-Essex County and improves our lives.

Objectives:

- Increase understanding of the innumerable benefits of solar energy and technologies
- Encourage access to solar energy technologies
- Demonstrate the value of solar energy and technologies, in a variety of modalities, to our region
- Through education, encourage the use of solar energy technologies and applications within our region
- Create a series of factoids to reduce the complexity of explanations, and dispel the myths surrounding solar concepts and technologies
- Raise awareness of solar energy technologies as a science, technology and engineering discipline

3. Student Representatives

Two student applications will be evaluated at the April WECEC meeting and sent to City and County Council for approval.

4. Water Quality Subcommittee

This subcommittee met with a representative from OMAFRA during our March meeting. We were very interested to hear about the large role that soil erosion is playing in the increase of nutrients to the Great Lakes. At the April WECEC meeting the subcommittee will bring forward a motion urging the governments of Canada and Ontario to renew the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem*.

IMPORTANT UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Food Matters Windsor Essex

On March 3rd I attended a local food forum called “Growing Food Partnerships” organized by Food Matters Windsor Essex County. The session was extremely valuable and there was a great amount of representation from various food sectors in attendance. Presentations were made by Go for Health Windsor Essex, the Ontario Student Nutrition Program, and the Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable. Following the presentations, we brainstormed and discussed various local food issues in Windsor Essex County and formed working groups to begin investigating these issues further.

It is recommended that WECEC re-vitalise the Local Food sub-committee in order to bring issues forward to City and County Councils.

2. Earth Day 2012

Earth Day 2012 will take place on Sunday, April 22nd at Mic Mac (displays and activities) and Malden (native plant garden) Parks. The theme this year is local food – “I like my food naked, near and natural”. The Committee has purchased a booth and so will need volunteers during the day from 10am until 3pm. At the April WECEC meeting the group will discuss having a skill testing question draw to win the bike purchased last year for the Enviro Expo (which has been cancelled).