

New Opportunity for Groups Interested in Community Renewable Energy

North Bay, ON, November 16, 2011 – Workshops will be taking place in the Blue Sky Region for a select group of individuals. Four groups of people from communities within the Blue Sky Region will be participating in a series of four workshops that are intended to vision a desirable energy future and explore opportunities for developing locally owned renewable energy projects.

Community renewable energy projects include initiatives such as the installation of solar panels on the roof of a local church, school or community centre, or a windmill on the outskirts of town, or a biomass or landfill gas project (similar to the [Landfill Gas to Energy Project](#) in North Bay) or even a water power generation facility (like the recently opened facility in the Village of [South River](#)).

Invitations to participate in the workshops are open to anyone in the Blue Sky Region. If this is something that interests you, then please speak with others in your community about this initiative (such as local businesses, schools, churches, community organizations, local government, family and friends) and consider submitting a group application. To learn more, please visit the Blue Sky Renewable Energy Initiative Website (www.blueskyenergy.ca).

The Blue Sky Renewable Energy Initiative received funding through the [Community Energy Partnerships Program](#) (CEPP) and is being run through the Biomass Innovation Centre at Nipissing University. The CEPP is a grant program of the Ontario Power Authority that supports community power in Ontario.*

This funding is being used to develop a website (www.blueskyenergy.ca) to provide information and resources on renewable energy technologies, case studies, regulatory requirements, funding opportunities and for those who are interested, the ability to network and share experiences with the development of renewable energy projects. The funding is also being used to host workshops with the four groups of residents and stakeholders - referred to as the “Community Energy Shift Project”.

Invitations to participate in the Community Energy Shift Project have been sent to all 31 municipal and First Nation Councils in the Blue Sky Region. “We have enough funding to host workshops with only four groups and so we will be selecting those groups who demonstrate the greatest level of community interest in the project,” said Mike Purcell, project manager Blue Sky Renewable Energy Initiative.

The deadline for submitting an application is December 15, 2011 ([application form](#)).

“The education grant is a great opportunity for us to help communities in the Blue Sky Region understand the current opportunities in Ontario to bring renewable energy projects to life” said Megan Smith, project manager of the Biomass Innovation Centre at Nipissing University.

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