



CONNECTING COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY  
RENEWABLE ENERGY-EFFICIENCY-REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE-COMPOSTING

# ECO RENDEZVOUS



## Biomass/Biofuels and Wind Energy

The 18<sup>th</sup> community event and 5<sup>th</sup> renewable energy series Eco Rendezvous – Biomass/Biofuel and wind energy was held on May 4, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Toronto - Mississauga at 10am. Biochar Ontario partnered with EnvironFocus to organize the event. Biochar AGM followed immediately after Eco rendezvous. It was a good partnership. The event was well attended. The purpose of the event was to provide *an* informal forum to create awareness of biomass/biofuel and wind energy as available environmental solutions in a way that is understood by the public. It was also about linking existing small -medium size businesses to an interested audience (Residents or businesses). On display was Sumagreen, a bio-soil amendment product. Speakers and renewable businesses at the event were:

- Phillip Raffi, Managing Director of NXT Level Energy Inc. - An Energy Management and Consulting Firm providing various turnkey Energy Solutions in Canada & the USA.
- Bernard Fleet Ph.D., D Sc., FRSC Adjunct Professor, School of Environmental Applied Science & Management, Ryerson University and Director of Business Development, The Mobious Group – Topic: Energy Storage: The Missing Link for Renewables
- John Walker, Owner and President of Walker Renewable Energy - A Niagara-based enterprise that has developed an entirely new way of producing high quality biochar.
- Larry Gooder, Business Development Manager of Borealis Wood Power Corp - A Borealis power plant converts wood chips to a gas that fuels a CHP engine to produce electric & thermal power.
- Wilson Hago, Ph.D., Director of Biochar Research for Cool Planet Energy Systems, Inc. - Cool Planet has developed ground breaking, disruptive technology that economically converts non-food biomass into sustainable, high-octane gasoline.

There was a breakout session where participants were divided into 3 groups to discuss and present a topic. Each group was assigned to create a scenario from the developing and developed world and describe how biomass/biofuel and wind energy can be integrated sustainably into each community. From the outcome of the session, it was clear that the north and the south had different challenges in terms of their ability to successfully integrate this energy mix. In the south, the challenges identified include – beliefs/culture, security, lack of knowledge/skills transfer, and lack of available funding. In the north, the challenges identified include lack of knowledge/information transfer, public perception, lack of government backing and renewable energy not a priority for businesses and residents as all are already connected to the grid.

Opportunities highlighted include: opportunities for collaboration between the renewable energy businesses in the north with communities in the south in areas of capacity building with assistance

from funding agencies and investors. There is need for renewable energy businesses in the north to think outside the box in order to be successful within their communities. The challenge will be viewing current Ministry of Energy – incentives programs for businesses and homes as a business opportunity to integrate and market their renewable energy products and services to the community.

Participation at the workshop was excellent as usual. The content of the workshop enabled participants leave with a clearer understanding of the two renewable energy options. Feedback from participants was excellent. Eco Rendezvous met its objective and more sustainable partnerships were developed. An awareness of the necessity for organizations to participate in sustainable development of communities and to promote clean technology was planted and the understanding that actions that are taken need not be done singly but as a group was promoted. Presentations and report have been made available at <http://environfocus.com/library/> or view by clicking [here](#). Pictures from the events can be viewed at <http://environfocus.com/photo-gallery/> or view by clicking [here](#)

The next renewable energy workshop will be on Hydrogen fuel cell and Wind energy and is scheduled to take place September 28, 2013 at Holiday Inn Express & Suites Toronto – Mississauga, 40 Admiral Blvd, Mississauga, ON. Opportunities for Partnerships, speakers and product/services displays are available. More information is available at <http://environfocus.com/envirbuzz-events/2013/09/eco-rendezvous-wind-energy-and-hydrogen-fuel-cell/>.