

May 26, 2010

Community Event Notice: Tidal Power Open House

Public forum on tidal energy development in Campbell River region

The public is invited to attend an open house discussing the potential of tidal energy for the region. The drop-in dialogue including the public, ocean power sector, researchers and government will be hosted by the Ocean Renewable Energy Group on at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 2 June at the Campbell River Community Centre.

Due to the strong currents of Discovery Passage, the Campbell River area presents a unique location with potential opportunities for harnessing tidal power. The event's opening speaker Mayor Charlie Cornfield says: *"Through our Green City Strategy, the City is committed to support the local development of sustainable energy sources. We are actively exploring the potential for a tidal power demonstration project in Campbell River. Tidal power could provide opportunities to develop the green economy, create local jobs, and help us become energy independent and ultimately reduce our environmental impact."*

The open house comes as the City proceeds with the first phase of a feasibility study exploring the potential for small-scale tidal power generation in the Discovery Fishing Pier vicinity. Additionally, Rivercorp and the Canoe Pass Tidal Energy Consortium are moving to capitalize on tidal energy in the narrow channel between Quadra and Maude Islands located north of Campbell River.

Rivercorp CEO Brad Bradbury says: *"the Canoe pass project will showcase commercial applications in tidal power generation and put Campbell River firmly on the map as the City leads the way in clean power technology development and application."*

The flow of water at Canoe Pass is currently held back by a rock-filled causeway built in 1942 by the federal Department of Public Works in an effort to increase water flow at the hazardous Ripple Rock. The project plans to replace the causeway with a new mechanical causeway and tidal energy generators, which would be tied into an existing adjacent power line running to Quadra Island.

The City's support for local tidal energy is a move directed by Council's support for renewable energy and environmental responsibility. Clean technologies such as solar, wind, wave and tidal power have been identified as the future of the global energy sector by the global scientific community. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded in 2008 that the demand for carbon-fueled energy sources such as coal, oil and gas must be massively reduced to avoid catastrophic climate change, and that communities must look to energy conservation and renewable energy.

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