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**Re: Microgeneration Discussion Paper**

December 1, 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

Imagine if the building code required that new houses generate twenty percent of their energy requirements using renewable technologies. Imagine if the best investment going was photovoltaics on your rooftop. Imagine if a wind turbine could be bolted onto a roof and plugged into an electrical socket, running the meter backwards without noise or vibration. Welcome to the world of microgeneration.

Attached is a fascinating discussion paper by Will McDowall that explores the idea of microgeneration for the Canadian context. The paper:

- makes the case for microgeneration technologies as part of a transition to a low carbon economy;
- explores the way in which microgeneration has captured the imagination of the public and policy-makers in the UK;
- discusses barriers to microgeneration in Canada;
- outlines government initiatives to overcome those barriers; and
- draws some conclusions, and suggests elements for a microgeneration strategy for Canada.

While microgeneration is no magic bullet, experience elsewhere has shown that with effective policy support, microgeneration can make a real contribution to energy policy goals. In the coming months we will be undertaking an economic study to accurately assess the potential of microgeneration to contribute to Canada's efforts to combat climate change- this information will give us what we need to ensure microgen is a realistic component of the energy policy of every political party in Canada. **We are looking for sponsors of this work.** If you are interested, please contact me or the report's author, Will McDowall.

The paper draws on contributions from various NGOs, government officials and business people, and has been reviewed by a broad range of stakeholders. We thank them very much for their time. There is latent energy around the idea of microgen that we predict will crystallise in the near future!

The paper is joint venture of Sustainability Solutions Group Workers Cooperative and the Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Community Development at Royal Roads University. Funding was provided by the Climate Change Action Network.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Yuill Herbert

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