



# A Collective Approach to CDM Development and Information Sharing and Resource

The Cornerstone Hydro Electric Concepts Association (CHEC) developed out of the Organized Power Group that was formed as de-regulation came to the province of Ontario. CHEC, an association of 16 local distribution companies (LDCs) is modeled after a cooperative to combine resources and competencies to best meet the requirements of the changing electrical industry and provide a high standard of locally supplied customer service.

CHEC has allowed members to exchange ideas on a variety of issues facing utilities, to initiate combined solutions and to share insights on what worked and what did not. The cooperative format allowed a "think tank" environment to be created between members.

The current members of CHEC include: Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.; Collus Power Corp; Grand Valley Energy Inc.; Innisfil Hydro; Lakefront Utilities Inc.; Lakeland Power Distribution; Midland Power Utility Corp.; Orangeville Hydro Ltd.; Orillia Power Distribution Corp.; Parry Sound Power; Rideau St. Lawrence; Wasaga Distribution Inc.; Wellington North Power Inc.; West Coast Huron Energy Inc.; Westario Power; and, Woodstock Hydro Services.

The CHEC members submitted a combined Conservation and Demand Management (CDM) plan to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and upon approval of the individual

LDCs plans, moved forward with a cooperative effort on CDM implementation. CHEC initiated a CDM Steering Committee and established a coordinator's position to provide member support with respect to CDM.

While maintaining full control over their individual activities members benefit from sharing information and resources when there are similar projects and interests.

Through the work of the Steering Committee quarterly CDM meetings were initiated that brought member utilities together to specifically address CDM issues and to determine actions moving forward.

While providing a venue for sharing ideas and developing support and input for CDM initiatives the CHEC framework does not restrict the decision making of any one utility with respect to participating in any given CDM program. Each utility determines their CDM activity based on their plan, budget

and what best meets the needs of their customers. While maintaining full control over their individual activities members benefit from sharing information and resources when there are similar projects and interests.

CHEC, throughout 2005 delivered 92 CDM initiatives to their customers. These initiatives were reported to the OEB in a combined report with the TRC evaluation completed through a common TRC tool. The use of the common tool and the associated support simplified reporting and provided consistent results. The combined report allowed CHEC members to clearly see the positive impact of their collective effort rather than just reviewing their own results in isolation. The overview results include a total investment in programs of \$908,385, saving 29,760,750 kWh, with a TRC value of \$499,760 at a cost of \$0.0303/kWh.

To date the strength of CHEC has been the ability to share ideas and approaches for application on a local level. Where there have been wider based projects such as the "Lighten Your Electricity Bill" and "Switch to Cold" preliminary fact finding was completed by the CDM Coordinator with each utility completing further review to determine the fit into their delivery plans. Where utilities have undertaken programs on their own they are available to share information on the programs, delivery and results with others. In future this sharing

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should be further simplified by the use of a website for members. The relationship that exists between members due to their association in CHEC provides an easy vehicle for the sharing of information on relevant CDM issues (and many other issues relevant to LDC business).

On issues where there are a number of utilities that have a common interest one utility may take the lead to arrange a meeting to obtain further information and initiate a plan for moving forward. An interest in renewable energy saw a number of members come together to discuss pilot programs. As a result of this meeting and further work by members there are at least three pilot programs moving forward on renewable energy. As with other initiatives, members are watching the experience of these pilots to determine if such an endeavour would be appropriate in their service territory.

CHEC continues to evolve and with the recent announcement of further CDM funds members will work together to determine a path forward. CHEC will also be active in the Conservation Bureau's endeavours to design the future CDM structure. While encouraged by the level of dialogue, communication and planning that is occurring within the CDM industry, CHEC members continue to see the benefit of working together to meet the common vision of providing local services to their communities. ■

## Voluntary Blackout Day Challenge from City of Woodstock is Taken Up by Municipalities Across the Province

**Collective action has a way of creating positive momentum.**

The idea of having a **Voluntary Blackout Day** was conceived by the **Woodstock Environmental Advisory Committee (WEAC)** in 2005 to acknowledge the massive blackout that occurred on **August 14, 2003**.

While changes have been implemented and are ongoing to prevent this type of event from happening again, the power supply is facing new challenges. The **Voluntary Blackout Day** event is intended to bring these new issues - in particular, load growth, and the need for **Conservation and Demand Management** - to the public consciousness.

Beyond simply saving energy on one day of the year, the **Voluntary Blackout Day** is intended to raise awareness of our need to conserve, and through education about these important issues, to get people thinking about environmental issues and the need to protect and manage our **Power System** throughout the year.

This year **Woodstock's City Council** extended a friendly challenge from the **City of Woodstock** to all **Ontario Municipalities** to take part in this year's event, which was held on **Sunday, August 13, 2006**.

**"Be it resolved that the Woodstock City Council extends a friendly challenge to all municipalities in the Province of Ontario, to join Woodstock and surpass a reduction of 4% electricity consumption within their respective communities on Sunday, August 13th, 2006."**

The challenge was taken up by numerous communities across Ontario, including: **Arthur; Burlington (Burlington Hydro); Collingwood (Collingwood Utility Services); Elora; Fergus; Goderich (West Coast Huron Energy); Guelph (Guelph Hydro); Hanover (Westario Power); Holstein; Kitchener (Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro); Midland (Midland Power Utility Corporation); Mount Forest; Orillia (Orillia Power); Ottawa (Hydro Ottawa); Owen Sound; Parry Sound (Parry Sound Hydro); Prescott; Sarnia (Bluewater Power); Thessalon; Waterloo (Waterloo North Hydro); Woodstock (Woodstock Hydro); Windsor (ENWIN); Haldimand County; Township of Centre Wellington (Centre Wellington Hydro) including Elora and Fergus; Township of Galway-Cavendish and Harvey; Township of Lake of Bays; Township of Essa; Township of Wellington North, including Arthur, Holstein and Mount Forest.**