

Bioheat Opportunities for Remote and Rural Communities Workshop

April 19, 2016

Speaker Biographies



Dawn Lambe, Executive Director, Biomass North Development Centre

As Executive Director at Biomass North Development Centre, Dawn is leading Biomass North's latest project: implementing the Northern Ontario Bioeconomy Strategy, developed in partnership with the Union of Ontario Indians. This strategy focuses on regional economic development through sustainable bioenergy solutions, biocomposite and biochemical innovation, and the development of demonstration projects across northern Ontario. Dawn also sits on the board of the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association, representing communities and industry partners in northern Ontario.



Emily Cormier, Energy Project Manager, EDC of Wawa

Emily Cormier is a Project Manager with experience in Forest Resource Inventory (FRI), and Energy Planning. She is currently employed at the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa as the project lead responsible for developing the Wawa Energy Plan and Wawa Five Year Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan.

Emily received a Bachelor's of Social Science in International Development and Globalization from the University of Ottawa and a Master's Degree in International Business from Hult International Business School in San Francisco, California. She is presently working on a Professional Certification in Energy Innovation and Emerging Technologies from Stanford University.



Francis Gallo, Project Director, Biomass North Development Centre

As Project Director with the Biomass North Development Centre, Francis manages the planning, coordination, delivery and communication of projects and initiatives with a focus on developing Ontario's bioeconomy. Francis works in collaboration with communities, academia, and the private sector to increase opportunity awareness, perform market and technical research, organize events and trade missions, broker relationships and, overall, contribute to one's community or business strategic objectives. Prior to his involvement with Biomass North and the former Biomass Innovation Centre, Francis has a background in smart energy planning and implementing renewable energy strategies, as well as worked in the water resources sector towards source protection planning and water quality monitoring. Francis is professionally driven by enhancing economic development opportunities while balancing environmental sustainability, and as a northern-Ontarian is motivated by his ambition to create viable employment opportunities for those, like himself, who aspire to work and live in northern Ontario.



Sarah Marchionda, Manager, Research & Education, QUEST

Sarah is the Manager of Research & Strategic Initiatives at QUEST - Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow. She sits on the national research team and leads research to support the advancement of Smart Energy Communities in Canada. She currently leads the Community Energy Planning: Getting to Implementation in Canada initiative and provides research support to QUEST's eight provincial and regional Caucuses. Sarah is a Candidate Member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Canadian Institute of Planners. She holds a Post Baccalaureate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Ryerson University (2014) and a Bachelor of Commerce from McGill University (2010).



Brent Gilmour, Executive Director, QUEST

As Executive Director of QUEST - Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow, Brent Gilmour is responsible for the overall coordination of QUEST's research, engagement, and advocacy activities to advance Smart Energy Communities in Canada. Brent also oversees QUEST's eight provincial and regional Caucuses and the Smart Energy Leaders' Dialogue.

Brent was involved with the initial launch of QUEST in 2007 in his previous role with the Canadian Urban Institute's (CUI) in the capacity of Vice President, Urban Solutions. Prior to joining the CUI, Brent was the Strategic Coordinator responsible for the establishment of the University of Toronto's Sustainability Office (USO) and was an independent research consultant specializing in community energy innovation.

Brent is a registered professional planner with 12+ years of specialized knowledge in the areas of integrated community energy, transportation and land-use planning; downtown revitalization; and, public infrastructure investment.

Along with his work at QUEST, Brent has remained active in the industry and with community engagement. Brent is an occasional instructor with York University, Osgoode Hall Law School and has served on several boards, including EcoSpark (formerly Citizens' Environment Watch) where he is past chair and was the chair of Recent Graduates for Trinity College at the University of Toronto. Brent holds a Masters of Science in Planning from the University of Toronto, a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Toronto and is an alumnus of Massey College.



Sandra Yee, Mechanical Engineer, FVB Energy Inc.

Sandra is a Mechanical and Project Engineer with FVB Energy Inc., a specialty consultant firm that works solely the design and development of district energy and combined heat and power systems. Sandra currently manages district energy projects and acts as a design engineer for many of FVB's feasibility studies, design, and construction projects out of the Vaughan (Toronto) office. She assists with development of new district energy business, feasibility studies, distribution system planning, energy transfer station design and energy plant design as well as providing project management and support during the construction phase of district energy projects. Sandra holds a BSc. In Mechanical Engineering from the University of Alberta.



Mylon Ollila, Energy Resources Manager, Wahgoshig First Nation

Mylon works for Wahgoshig First Nation managing governance development and energy resources. He is responsible for the development of the First Nation's governance model; community-owned energy projects; the "duty to consult" on energy industry projects within traditional lands; and long-term energy planning. Born and raised in northern Ontario, Mylon achieved a Master of Arts degree from the University of Waterloo. His background includes international development work in rural Zambia and several years as an underground miner.



Jamie Stephen, Founder and Managing Director, TorchLight Bioresources

Dr. Jamie Stephen is the Founder and Managing Director of TorchLight Bioresources, a cleantech and bioproducts consulting and project management company. He is also a Fellow at the Queen's University Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy. His work ranges from enterprise strategy and policy analysis to fuel and conversion technology assessment. Jamie has managed cleantech and bioproduct projects for a broad variety of public and private sector clients including technology developers, investment funds, national and provincial governments, First Nations, start-ups, and Fortune 100 companies. Projects have focused on industrial growth strategies, facility feasibility, technology deployment hurdles, and investment prioritization. Jamie holds a Masters in Chemical and Biological Engineering and a PhD in Forestry from the University of British Columbia. He has published numerous reports and papers on bio cleantech investment, operating risk, and industry advancement, and has travelled extensively in North America, Europe, and Asia investigating existing and emerging technologies and bioeconomy development strategies.



Steven Tait, Lands and Resources, Sachigo Lake First Nation

Sachigo Lake First Nation is an Oji-Cree community located in the Unorganized Kenora District of Northern Ontario, approximately 425 km north of the town of Sioux Lookout and 115 km south of the boreal forest tree line. It is a member of the Windigo First Nations Council and the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, and is an adherent to Treaty 9. With a total Band membership of roughly 900, some 490 members reside on reserve, predominately within the main community, which is located on the northwest shore of Sachigo Lake. A feasibility study was recently completed for Sachigo Lake First Nation, to assess the feasibility of installing a biomass district heating plant as well as additional, associated economic opportunities. This study was undertaken through a collaboration between Confederation College, Lakehead University, Biothermic Renewable Energy Systems Inc., and Sachigo Lake First Nation.



Dominik Roser, Research Manager, FPInnovations

Dominik Roser, Ph.D. is the Manager for Forest Biomass and Wildfire Operations research programme at FPInnovations. Dr. Roser's research group is focused on improving the competitiveness of Canada's emerging bioeconomy.

Before moving to Canada in October 2012 he worked for the Finnish Forest Research Institute, where the focus of his work has been on the technology and know-how transfer of Nordic forest biomass harvesting systems. His work brought Dominik to many remote communities across Europe in order to help them establish viable and sustainable biomass heating systems. He was also chairing an international network to improve research related to the use of forest biomass for energy and was Finnish team leader for the International Energy Agency's Bioenergy Tasks 31 & 43. In September 2014 Dr. Roser has joined the board of directors of Decentralized Energy Canada.

Dr. Roser holds a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Minnesota, a M.Sc. degree in European Forestry and a Ph.D. in Forest Engineering from the University of Eastern Finland.



Brian Kurikka, CEO, Cloud River Resources

Through his company Cloud River Resources, Brian provides consultation, business/economic development and marketing services, with a primary focus on bioenergy and value added wood products to clients that include small to medium sized business, forestry, mining, land developers, municipalities, First Nations and post secondary educational institutions..

From 2002 - 2015 Brian provided leadership to Confederation College's Forestry Program, Natural Resource Centre and The Office of Applied Research. Brian was instrumental in the development of the OPG BioEnergy Learning and Research Centre, which focused on the bioenergy sector and included biomass volume analysis, biomass harvesting and recovery trials, biomass heat pre-feasibility studies, biomass quality studies and air emissions research in biomass combustion.



Steven Law, Renewable Energy Engineer, Ministry of Energy and Climate Change

Steven Law is a licensed Professional Engineer in the Province of Ontario with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Guelph. Mr. Law has worked for the last 5 years at the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change as the Renewable Energy Engineer within the Standards Development Branch. Steven is a combustion expert who works on programs pertaining to air emissions from biomass energy systems. He directed the air emission testing and research at Confederation College in 2015 and is the lead author for the new guideline for small wood-fired combustion systems currently under development. Steven is also a voting member of the CSA harmonized Standards Mirror Committee to assist with adopting biomass fuel standards in Canada.