



If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost, that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.
Thoreau

August 2010

Special points of interest:

Andrew Nikiforuk

What Those Who Killed The Tar Sands Report Don't Want You To Know

(<http://theyee.ca/Opinion/2010/07/15/TarSandsReport/>)

and

Alberta Hides Dirty Truth as US Demands Tar Sands Facts

(<http://theyee.ca/Opinion/2010/07/29/AlbertaHidesTruth/index.html>)

Tar Sands Shenanigans

In a recent investigative report, Andrew Nikiforuk (links on the side panel) discusses the recent cancellation of a tar sands report by the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, destroying copies of the final draft report.

Some of the uncomfortable evidence provided by a number of expert testimonies included the lack of federal regula-

tion, standards, or monitoring; significant leakage from tailing ponds; air pollution; and water stresses from over allocation. The Alberta government refused to participate or testify.

In a follow-up piece, Nikiforuk summarizes US concerns over a 2700 kilometer pipeline (TransCanada's proposed Keystone pipeline) that will effectively increase the carbon in-

tensity of transportation fuel by 37 percent, negating US efforts to improve pollution reduction standards.

The Alberta response has been a promise to develop unproven carbon-sequestration technologies at an estimated cost to the Alberta taxpayer of \$20 to \$60 billion over the next twenty years.

SAGE Planning a Position

For the October meeting, SAGE members are invited to present positions on local environmental issues, which will be used to focus the efforts of the group for

the next one to three years. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Topics will focus on Lethbridge as a sustainable community and might in-

clude: transportation, health, green building, energy, air pollution, or waste reduction and management.

A summary of the issue,

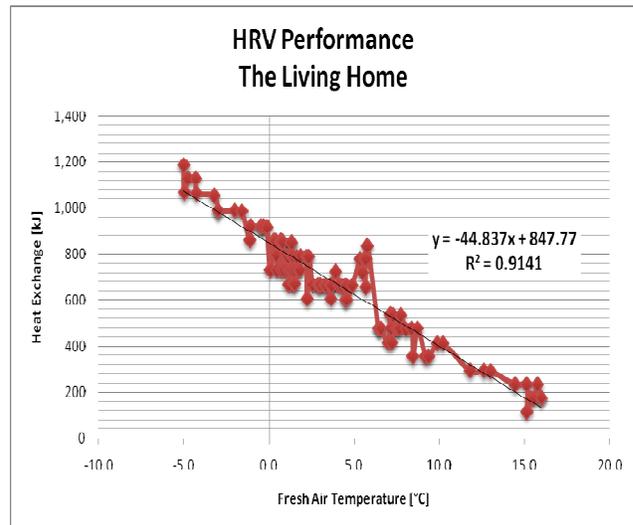
current benchmarks, potential projects, and potential partners would be useful to help make a plan.

You don't have to be an expert, just work on a topic that is of interest to you.

The Living Home—Update

The Living Home, a partnership between the City of Lethbridge, Cedar Ridge Quality Homes, and Lethbridge College, was completed this summer. The three-year project included the research and design of an environmentally friendly home by students in the School of Engineering Technologies and Interior Design, followed by construction, a public demonstration during the Parade of Homes, and student research. The final report is available at www.thelivinghome.ca.

The home performed as modeled, with 40% less heat loss than a standard home. In the year studied, it generated 2500 kWh of electricity with 2 kW of PV



solar panels. The payback for the \$21,000 investment is daunting, but costs continue to drop.

The heat recovery ventilator (installed to exchange heat from stale air to incoming fresh air) recovered 6.5 GJ of energy. The

attached research result shows that the performance improves with colder outside temperatures.

The learning from The Living Home is being integrated into the curriculum to benefit industry as future students share their experiences.

**When I see an
adult on a bicycle,
I have hope for
the human race.**

H.G. Wells

Coming Events & Sources:

October 20th - Oldman Watershed Council Science Forum at University of Lethbridge (presently seeking abstracts)
October 18-24 - Waterlution Innovation Lab 2010 for youth ages 18 to 35 (<http://www.waterlution.org/cwil/>)

Renewable Revolution: Low carbon energy by 2030 (download at <http://www.worldwatch.org/taxonomy/term/40>)

Southern Alberta Group for the Environment (SAGE)

A Leading Voice for a Healthy and Environmentally Sustainable Community.

Visit us at: <http://sage-environment.org/>

If you are interesting in getting involved, contact us at:

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