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MEDIA RELEASE

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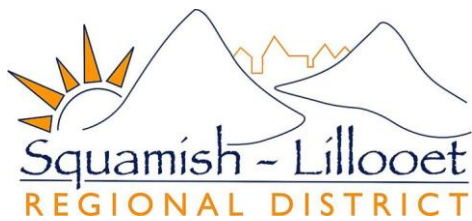
SLRD Launches Energy Resilience Task Force

The inaugural meeting of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Energy Resilience Task Force will be held on Wednesday, March 31st, 2010. The Task Force, representing a broad range of expertise from community stakeholders throughout the SLRD, will examine the issue of “peak oil,” and how the SLRD and member communities can prepare for energy resilience and security in the future. This will be the first regional task force of its kind in Canada.

Peak Oil is the term given to the peaking of the production of fossil fuels from cheaper, easily accessible sources, resulting in reduced supplies and higher costs in the future, as witnessed by price spikes in recent years when demand outstripped supply. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), while oil extraction technology has improved until now to increase the supply from known sources, these sources are being depleted and the rate of discovery of new oil sources has been far exceeded by the rate of consumption of existing sources.

Part of the SLRD’s comprehensive energy and emissions strategy, the Task Force’s mandate will be to:

1. Review current and credible data and information with respect to peak oil and energy production and related societal implications;
2. Seek community and business input on the impacts to various sectors and to propose “actionable” solutions;
3. Develop recommendations to the SLRD Board in 2010 on strategies that the SLRD can take to mitigate the impacts of declining energy supplies in areas including, but not limited to: transportation, tourism, business, energy and infrastructure, housing, food and agriculture, the environment, health care, social service, communications, land use, emergency planning and the delivery of SLRD services.
4. Propose methods of educating the public about this issue in order to create positive behaviour change among businesses and residents in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.



“Increasing energy security and moving towards affordable, clean, and reliable energy sources is important for the future social, economic, and environmental well-being of our communities,” notes SLRD Chair Russ Oakley.

Reporting to the SLRD Board of Directors, the Task Force will review background information and identify potential strategies to support energy resilience. Public open houses will be held throughout the SLRD later this year to provide an opportunity for a comprehensive review of potential strategies and feedback from the community.

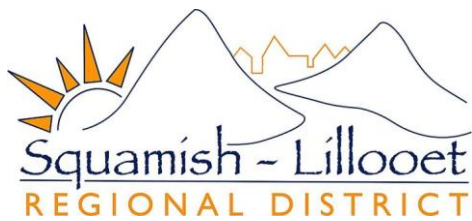
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Backgrounder attached



Energy Resilience Task Force

BACKGROUND

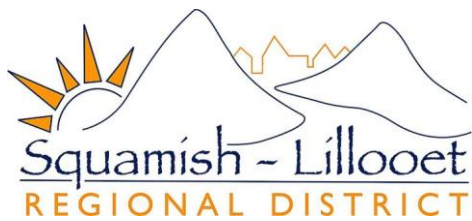
Overview

Peak oil theory was developed by M. King Hubbert, Chief General Geology consultant to Shell Oil. In 1956, he accurately determined that U.S. domestic oil production would peak between 1965 and 1970. Hubbert's predictions were accurate, as U.S. oil production peaked in 1970. After that time, the U.S. became ever more dependent on imported oil. As a result, the U.S. became vulnerable to socio-political upheavals, and was subject to an oil embargo in 1973, characterized by fuel shortages, and skyrocketing oil prices.

The theory that world oil production will reach a peak is the basis for peak oil theory. After the peak, the world will experience a decline in oil supply. World oil supply is finite, therefore decline is unavoidable. Peak oil is said to have occurred when about half or slightly more of the ultimately recoverable oil has been produced. Peak oil does not mean that no more oil exists, but that global production can no longer be maintained or increased. Declining oil production creates an inability for production supply to meet demand and therefore prices increase. This situation is compounded by increasing demand created by a growing world population base.

The theory of peak oil generally applies to peak natural gas, which has a similar production curve, although in the case of natural gas, the peaking time is thought to be later than that of oil. These fuels can in many cases be substituted for each other, and together, they account for close to 70% of the primary energy used in the world. In Canada, natural gas production is close to its peak, while in the U.S. gas production appears to have already peaked, creating a dependency on imported natural gas that must be liquefied for transport and then re-gasified for distribution.

Predictions about the exact timing of oil and gas peaking vary, however, most researchers predict peaking to occur most certainly before 2020. The date of peak production is important, however, it is more important to begin to plan for the consequence of peak production rather to argue if or when it will occur, because it surely will occur sooner than later, and the implications deserve serious consideration.



Why an Energy Resiliency Task Force?

<i>Problem Defined (issues and key question)</i>	<i>Desired Outcomes (result if problem is addressed)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to address climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global liquid fuels are facing peak production and will not keep up with demand within the next 5 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies in place to address liquid fuel reductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional transportation of people, goods and food will be affected by the growing imbalance between supply and demand for liquid fuels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food security ○ Energy independence ○ Transportation based on efficient and renewable energy sources ○ Building and community design that focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liquid Fuel for heating and electricity will be affected by liquid fuel scarcity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local energy strategies that allow for independence from the electricity grid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business instability caused by economic contraction and dependence on fossil fuels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable and successful business sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising costs, unstable economic circumstances and limited fuel supplies cause social instability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable and marginalized populations have a safety net.