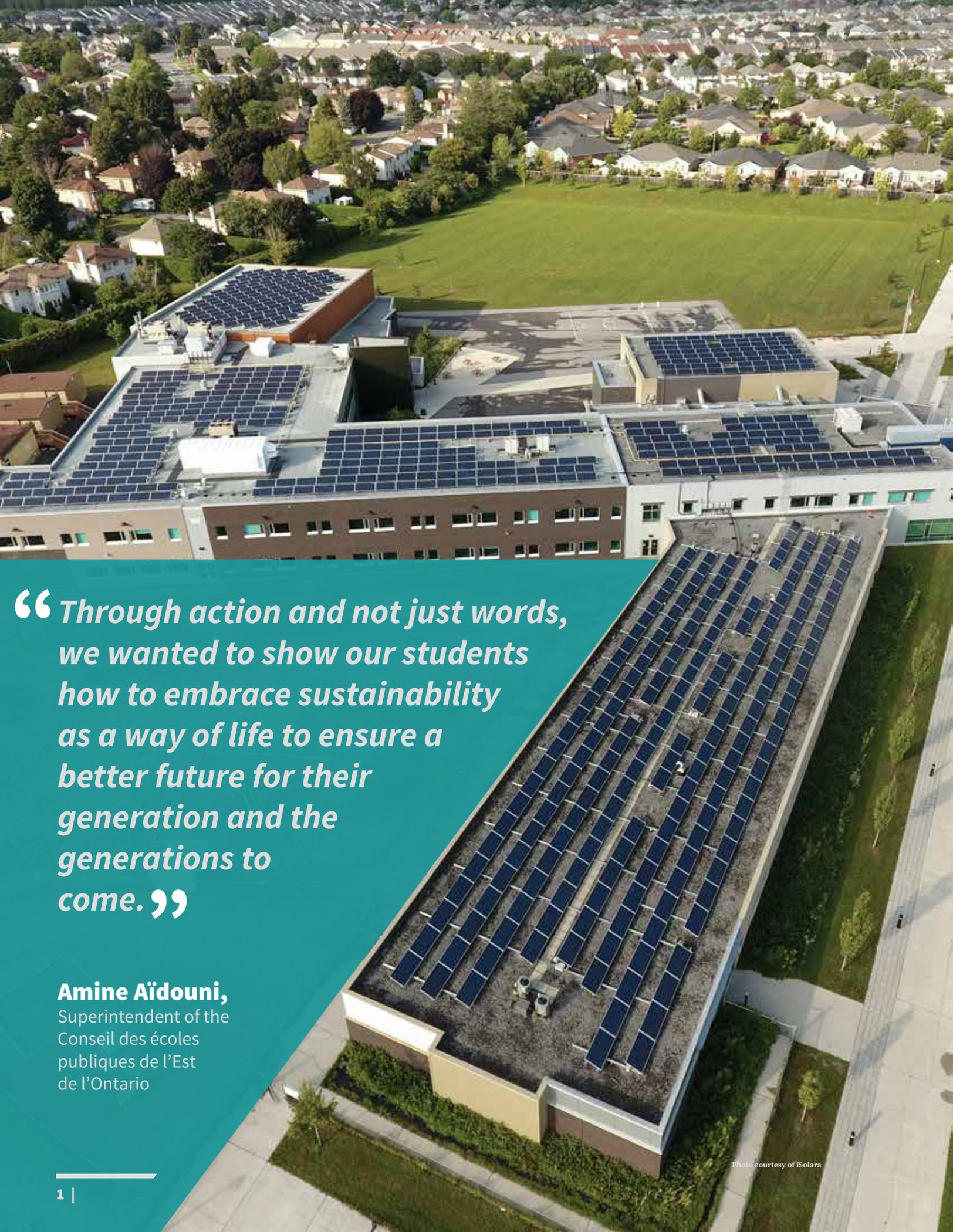


# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2017





*“Through action and not just words, we wanted to show our students how to embrace sustainability as a way of life to ensure a better future for their generation and the generations to come.”*

**Amine Aïdouni,**  
Superintendent of the  
Conseil des écoles  
publiques de l’Est  
de l’Ontario

Photo courtesy of iSolara

# COMMUNITY

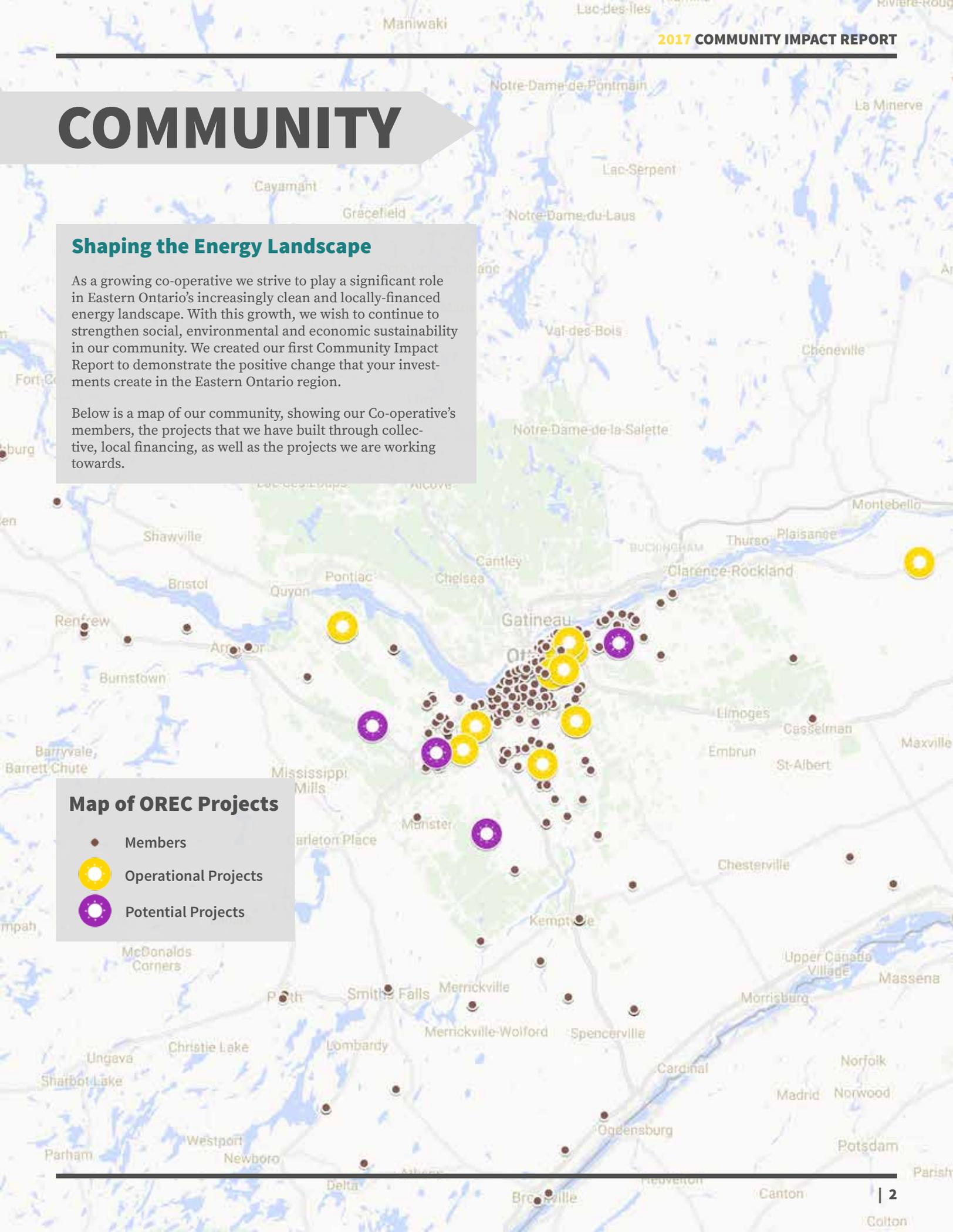
## Shaping the Energy Landscape

As a growing co-operative we strive to play a significant role in Eastern Ontario's increasingly clean and locally-financed energy landscape. With this growth, we wish to continue to strengthen social, environmental and economic sustainability in our community. We created our first Community Impact Report to demonstrate the positive change that your investments create in the Eastern Ontario region.

Below is a map of our community, showing our Co-operative's members, the projects that we have built through collective, local financing, as well as the projects we are working towards.

### Map of OREC Projects

- Members
- Operational Projects
- Potential Projects



# PEOPLE

691

## Why Members Join



Renewable Energy Development

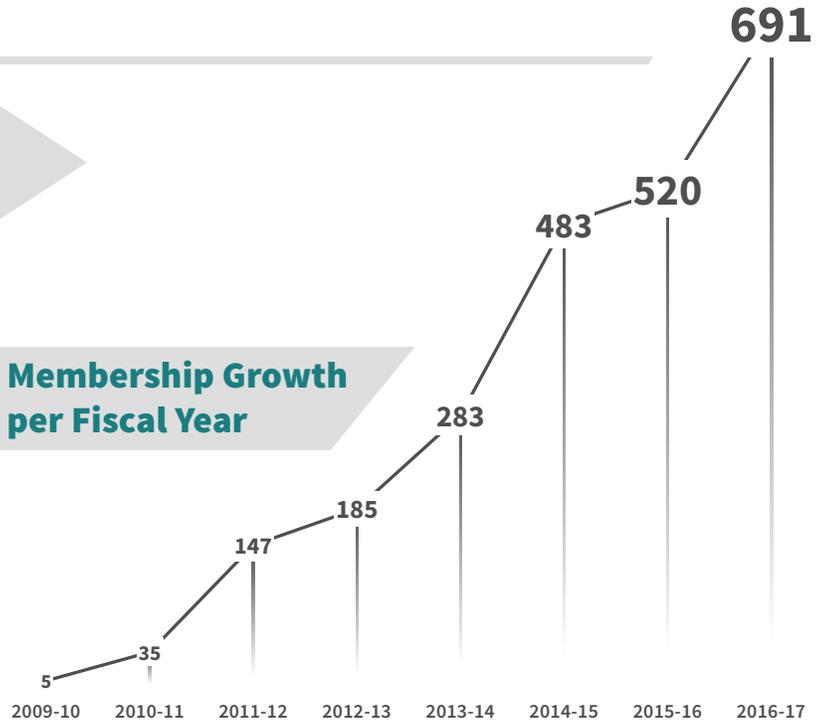


Local Impact Investment

Climate Change Mitigation



## Membership Growth per Fiscal Year



**4000 STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS WITH THE CO-OP'S SOLAR PROJECTS**



**5 SOLAR POWER PROJECTS ON NON-PROFIT AND CO-OP HOUSING**



**1<sup>ST</sup> IN CANADA SOLAR PROJECT CO-OWNED BY CO-OPERATIVE AND INDIGENOUS GROUP**



**5 FREE ENERGY AUDITS CONDUCTED ON NON-PROFIT AND CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING**

## In the Community

The Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative continued to raise awareness of the energy transition at 60 events, including project tours, film screenings, and various community events.



Board members Roger Peters and Sally McIntyre cook up lunch at a community BBQ in Alfred.



Over 300 people deepened their knowledge of community power at two film-screenings co-hosted by the Co-operative, Ecology Ottawa, The German Embassy, and SMARTNet Alliance.

In 2016-17, the Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative was driven by over 2000 hours of volunteer time between its Board of Directors, its members, and its supporters.

# PLANET

## Advancing Solar Energy

The Co-operative strives to be a strong and informed voice in conversations on Ontario's energy future. Staff and directors represent membership on the following boards and committees:

- City of Ottawa Official Plan Sounding Board
- Ottawa Chamber of Commerce Environment and Sustainability Committee
- Ontario Sustainable Energy Association Net Metering Committee
- Ontario Federation of Community Power Co-operatives Chair
- Independent Electricity System Operator Local Advisory Committee

The Co-operative provides data to several University of Ottawa research projects with the aim of advancing solar energy in the region.

**4,500,000 kWh**  
of clean energy produced  
= **1,300 METRIC TONNES**  
of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions  
mitigated from the provincial grid  
**TO DATE!**<sup>[1]</sup>

**14 PROJECTS**  
= **1,500 MWh** generated  
= **339 METRIC TONNES**  
of mitigated GHG emissions  
**in the last year!**

ENOUGH  
TO POWER  
**165 HOMES**  
FOR A YEAR

Investment of  
**\$20,000** amounts  
to a **25%** reduction  
of the average  
Ontarian's  
carbon  
foot-print<sup>[2]</sup>

<sup>[2]</sup> The average Ontarian has a carbon footprint of 12.6 metric tonnes. A \$20,000 investment with OREC would enable the mitigation of 3.4t GHG from the Ontario grid.

The recently completed 500 kW ground mount project in Alfred ON. The first of its kind in Canada thanks to the innovative partnership between Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative and Keewayin First Nation

<sup>[1]</sup> To date, the Co-operative sells all electricity generated to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). Although all Renewable Energy Certificates are owned by the IESO, investments from the community make possible these clean energy projects and the resulting greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Photo courtesy of Devon McKinnon Photography

# PROFIT

## Keeping it Local

The Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative is combatting a problematic trend in the province. In Ontario, most energy dollars leave the local communities where power is consumed. For instance, of the \$1.6 billion spent on electricity in 2014 in London, Ontario, only 12% remained in the local economy.<sup>[3]</sup>

Such a study has yet to be conducted for Ottawa.

**\$7 Million**  
invested



INVESTORS

Average investment of  
**\$17,681**

**\$661,623**  
returned to investors

**98%** of  
capital goes  
directly into  
projects



PROFITS

**\$2.5 million**  
paid to local labour

**\$170,000** in grant funding  
ensuring that overhead  
costs remain low

**\$35,362**  
in local  
economic  
activity<sup>[4]</sup>  
per average  
investment



COMMUNITY

**\$60,500**

annual lease payments to local project  
hosts, such as schools and non-profit  
and co-op housing



PROJECTS

## Community Power

A study conducted by the Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative found that the community power sector will drive an estimated \$5.2 billion of additional economic activity over the life of its current Feed-In Tariff (FIT) contracts. Every dollar earned through the FIT program results in \$2.2 being spent in the provincial economy.<sup>[5]</sup>

[3] QUEST, (2016) "Community Energy Planning: The Value Proposition", page 18.

[4] Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative, (2016) "The Power of Community", page 5.

[5] Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative, (2016) "The Power of Community", page 14.

# FUTURE

## Energy Horizons

The Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative has grown dramatically in our first seven years. Collectively, we ensure that our voice is heard as we consistently push for progressive and sustainable change in the Eastern Ontario region. We are always seeking to create new, innovative mechanisms for community-financed energy infrastructure.

Here's what we have been working on in the past year:

- Conducting five free energy audits for non-profit and co-operative housing buildings with the aim of financing deep retrofits where access to capital is often a barrier
- Creating a model for third party net-metering to generate clean energy for local institutions
- Working towards creating a community net-metering model that would allow investors to receive energy credits applied directly to their utility bills

Pictured above and on the cover page is GP JOULE's PHLEGON single axis tracker HD True North Series, an innovative technology that has been implemented on the Co-operative's Alfred Project. Photos courtesy of GP JOULE.



25ONECOMMUNITY

BEAU'S ALL NATURAL BREWING

BETTER LIVING HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE

BRIDGEHEAD

BULLFROG POWER

CARBON613

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN ONTARIO

CONSEIL DES ÉCOLES CATHOLIQUES DU CENTRE-EST

CONSEIL DES ÉCOLES PUBLIQUE DE L'EST DE L'ONTARIO

COOPÉRATIVE D'HABITATION LAFONTAINE

EASTERN ONTARIO RUGBY UNION

ECOLOGY OTTAWA

EILEEN TALLMAN CO-OPERATIVE HOMES OF OTTAWA-CARLETON

ELECTRIC VEHICLE COUNCIL OF OTTAWA

ENVIROCENTRE

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF OTTAWA

GERMAN EMBASSY OF CANADA

GP JOULE

HOVEY INDUSTRIES

IMPACT HUB OTTAWA

ISOLARA SOLAR POWER

JOAN HAYSOM

JOHN SMITH RIDING STABLES

KEEWAYWIN FIRST NATION

KIN VINEYARDS

LA SIEMBRA CO-OPERATIVE

LEIDOS

MARTIN GRATTON

MEDIASTYLE

OCTOPUS BOOKS

OTTAWA CO-OPERATIVE NETWORK

OTTAWA COMMUNITY IMMIGRANT SERVICES ORGANIZATION

PEACE AND ENVIRONMENT RESOURCE CENTRE

SMARTNET ALLIANCE

SUSTAIN KANATA NORTH

SUSTAINABLE EASTERN ONTARIO

SUSTAINABLE NORTH GRENVILLE

TERRA20

THIRD WORLD BAZAAR

TOWNSHIP OF ALFRED & PLANTAGENET

TRANSITION OTTAWA

TRANSITION PERTH

TUCKER HOUSE

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

WINDMILL DEVELOPMENTS

WOMEN IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

# OUR SUPPORTERS



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