

Wellspring: Moving Forward on Climate Justice

Report #2 -- Camp Fircom and Renewable Energy

The morning workshop I attended at the conference was a presentation by Fircom's site director Neil Carrodus and solar engineer Eric Smiley of Viridian Energy Co-operative.

Up to 2011, Fircom used diesel fuel to generate all electricity needed for its operations. The diesel cost for 2011 was approximately \$100,000. Then the camp began to install solar panels and made a major reconfiguration to the architecture of the battery system: now it has three sets of panels on the roofs of two buildings, providing 12.5 kW which, when not directly used, is stored in large banks of batteries. Thanks to that solar energy and the reconfiguration, the cost of diesel in 2014 was reduced to approximately \$40,000.



photo: Viridian Energy Co-operative

The flow of water in the creek that runs through Fircom has been measured, and a micro-hydro installation could provide another 5-8 kW. This could allow Fircom to operate nearly diesel-free except in the summer peak season, and reduce the diesel costs by another \$10,000 annually. The cost of micro-hydro is estimated to be \$30,000 to \$40,000. Is this a project for which environmentally-conscious churches could provide financial support to Fircom?

– Jon Carrodus

For more information, see <http://www.viridianenergy.ca/portfolio/> and look at Fircom Part 1 and Fircom Part 2.