

Web Account Policy Review - response to discussion paper on regulating NS Power emissions

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Subject: response to discussion paper on regulating NS Power emissions
CC: <policy@gov.ns.ca>

To the Honourable:

Barry Barnet, Minister of Energy
David M. Morse, Minister of Environment
Murray K. Scott, Minister of Economic and Rural Development

We have the opportunity right now to build a sustainable and green Nova Scotia. Our work to protect and preserve our environment can at the same time provide substantial economic benefits to all Nova Scotians.

Mandating a fair price for renewable energy producers is a key policy that could transform the way we produce electricity in Nova Scotia. What we need is a system in which any individual or group can provide renewable energy to the grid - whether from solar, wind, or water technology - and receive a fair price in return. It is crucial that we begin a feed-in tariff system as soon as possible. When power is generated locally, we regain our self-sufficiency and strengthen local economies. When producers of clean renewable energy can sell power to consumers on the grid we all benefit. This is not a dream but a reality that is already taking place worldwide. Germany and Scandinavia provide highly successful working models for this strategy.

Unfortunately, the approach characterized by your government's discussion paper on regulating Nova Scotia Power's emissions does not take full advantage of the opportunities to build a clean, green, prosperous Nova Scotia. Instead, it suffers from the mistaken perception that environmental and economic goals oppose each other. Environmental protection does not have to come at the cost of economic well-being. It is important that we get beyond an approach to our problems where we only think in terms of sanctions and regulations. We need to recognize the abundance of wealth that we possess through renewable energy, and the opportunities that this could provide in terms of generating greater development and growth in rural Nova Scotia, and an overall enhancement to the resiliency of our province.

As we transition to a green economy, there are tremendous opportunities for Nova Scotia Power and for independent energy producers to thrive by providing the clean and reliable energy our province needs. Renewable energy is a source of prosperity that can benefit us all. Rather than focusing government policy solely on what is negative in current system, I urge you to support visionary policies that will build on our strengths and empower Nova Scotians to supply their own clean energy and reap the rewards.

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