

Climate Times

ENE's Monthly Report from Eastern Canada

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The Monthly Report

This e-newsletter will focus on energy and climate-related news regarding legislation, regulations, Request for Proposals, government programs, private sector initiatives, and other relevant announcements from Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador as well as significant federal announcements. It will also reference actions from the state side that impact provincial issues.

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to our regular news feed and to pass along information that ENE may include in future issues, contact Leslie Malone, Policy Associate – Canada, at lmalone@env-ne.org or 902-628-1493.

The goal is to increase wind generating capacity on PEI to 500 MW and satisfy 30% of local demand with renewables by 2013.

PEI Releases Wind Development Strategy

On October 17, Premier Robert Ghiz announced the government's 10 point plan for wind energy development on Prince Edward Island (PEI). The goal is to increase the wind generation capacity on PEI to 500 MW by 2013.

Satisfying this goal will require approximately 350 MW of new capacity. Of that, 50 MW will be required to meet the new

Renewable Portfolio Standard commitment to supply 30% of the electricity used on PEI will be supplied by renewable resources in 5 years.

The remaining 300 MW will be developed in two phases and will be primarily destined for export markets.

An RFP will be issued by the province this fall. The target date of

commissioning is 2011 for the first 100 MW and 2013 for the remaining 200 MW.

In addition to the targets, the plan establishes a platform for future developments and includes information on royalties, land leases, transmission planning, etc.

For a copy of the plan, visit:
www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/wind_energy.pdf

ENE (Environment Northeast) is a nonprofit organization at the forefront of efforts to combat global warming and promote clean energy and clean air solution in New England and eastern Canada. ENE researches, develops and advocates innovative policies to tackle the region's environmental challenges while promoting sustainable economies. ENE has offices in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Prince Edward Island, Canada.

N.B. Releases Community Wind Report

The New Brunswick Department of Energy has released a report by Yvès Gagnon (Université de Moncton) and Mathieu Landry that outlines a possible model for community wind development in New Brunswick (N.B.).

This report is a product of a public consultation process which Mr. Gagnon, with the support of NB Power and the New

Brunswick System Operator (NBSO), held in 2008.

N.B.'s Renewable Portfolio Standard is 10% of local sales by 2016. This corresponds to approximately 575 MW of wind capacity. The report recommends that, as an initial pilot project, 100 MW of the RPS be developed through a Community Wind Energy

Program. The report goes on to recommend that wind plants developed under this program not exceed 15 MW and that the utility should purchase the power through a feed-in tariff at an initial price of \$0.09/kWh.

The full report containing 29 recommendations is available at: <http://www.gnb.ca/0085/index-e.asp>

N.B. Power Releases Quarterly Report

New Brunswick Power, the province's publicly owned utility, has released its first quarterly report.

The series of quarterly reports is intended to inform the public on the company's progress in 10 key areas.

Among other topic areas, the performance indicators focus on limiting rate increases; efforts to reduce electricity consumption; the on-going refurbishment of the Point Lepreau nuclear plant; and, reducing CO₂ emissions – which

includes analyzing the impacts of carbon regulatory regimes.

NB Power's quarterly report is available at:

http://www.nbpower.com/en/corporate/about/Qtrly/QuarterlyReport_eng_June2008.pdf

"It's just a matter of time before a direct and hefty financial cost is attached to greenhouse gas emissions, either in the form of a cap-and-trade system or possibly a carbon tax." (p7)

Nova Scotia "Fast Tracks" Building Energy Code

On October 17, the Government of Nova Scotia released proposed amendments to the province's building and plumbing regulations that would improve the energy efficiency standard of new homes and small buildings. The minimum standard is to be set at EnerGuide80 levels

effective April 2009.

The proposed changes were initially scheduled to take effect in 2011.

"These efficiency measures will pay for themselves within five years through reduced heating costs, and will continue to pay dividends for the entire lifespan of the building,"

said Mark Parent, Minister of Environment.

The deadline for public comment is December 3, 2008. The proposed regulations are available at:

www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/buildingcode/

Nova Scotia Updates Appliance Regulations

Effective October 1, 2008, Nova Scotia's Energy-Efficient Appliances Act regulations have been updated to ensure that the appliances and equipment originally covered, as well as new additions, meet a minimum standard for energy efficiency and an energy performance requirement.

Products in the updated regulations include:

- Wood burning appliances
- Household electric ranges
- Household clothes washers & dryers
- Refrigerators
- Air Conditioners
- Lighting products
- Water heaters
- Furnaces
- Heat pumps

The Energy-Efficient Appliances Act and the updated regulations – with each specified efficiency standard and energy performance requirement – are available at:

<http://www.conservens.ca/legislation>

N.S. Expands Energy Efficiency Programs

Conserve Nova Scotia, a government agency, recently announced new programs as part of its winter heating efficiency program – Heat Smart.

Homeowners that have completed an energy audit may apply for a zero-interest loan of up to \$5,000 for energy upgrades. The loans are repayable over five years.

Loan amounts are

determined by the increased energy performance of the house as determined through a post-upgrade audit. Those that qualify under the low-to-modest income EnerGuide program can apply for an advance of \$1,500.

A furnace rebate program was also announced on October 24. Homeowners can apply to receive a \$500 rebate for replacing

an old furnace with an energy efficient model.

Heat Smart is a new \$92 million program to provide heating assistance to Nova Scotians this winter. It also includes the Heating Assistance Rebate Program which delivers heating fuel rebates to low-income customers.

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Québec Election Call Anticipated

Media outlets (Globe & Mail; CBC; Montreal Gazette) are reporting that Premier Jean Charest will likely call an election during the week of November 3 with a

possible election date set for December 8, 2008.

The provincial Liberals were elected to a minority government in March of 2007.

Public opinion polls following the recent federal election suggest that the Liberals hold a lead.

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www.env-ne.org

