

Nova Scotia's Electricity Future

A Plan for 2015 - 2040



Nova Scotia has a new plan for its electricity future. It includes more accountability, more predictable power rates, support for technology and innovation, a regulatory system that is easier to understand, and more competition for both large- and small-scale generation.

Our Electricity Future reflects what we heard from Nova Scotians and sets us on a path to a cleaner, more innovative electricity system over the next 25 years.

Accountability

Nova Scotia Power and the Utility and Review Board (UARB) will be more accountable to ratepayers.

The Utility and Review Board will

- establish performance standards for Nova Scotia Power related to power reliability, storm response, and possibly customer service
- impose penalties of up to \$1 million, if required

We will work together with Nova Scotia Power and the UARB to more clearly and consistently explain electricity system decisions and processes to Nova Scotians.

Predictable and Stable Rates

Predictable power rates make it easier for households, businesses, and institutions to budget for their electricity costs. To ensure more predictable rates, the plan

- ensures a period of rate predictability and stability (2017–2019)
- requires Nova Scotia Power to file a fuel plan
- encourages an increase in renewable energy sources, which generally have more stable fuel costs and long-term contracts
- encourages regional cooperation to provide more options for low-cost energy

Innovation

Over the next four years, innovation for Nova Scotia will be about testing, monitoring, and learning. Data collected from new pilot projects will help the province shape future policies and programs. Innovation funding will

- support installing solar panels on community buildings through the Community Buildings Solar PV Pilot Program
- fund research through the Electricity Innovation Pilot Program
- encourage projects focused on storage, solar, tidal energy and new ways of managing electricity use
- collect more data through adjustments to the Net Metering Program

Competition

Less of our electricity comes from Nova Scotia Power and more is generated using renewable sources of energy. Soon, we'll have even more clean energy options –from hydro, solar, and tidal:

- In 2016, renewable electricity providers will be able to sell directly to Nova Scotia businesses and consumers through the Renewable to Retail Program.
- The Maritime Link and increasing cooperation between the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick utilities will provide new electricity options.
- A fair, competitive process will be used to select local, cost-effective projects that promote rate predictability and stability.

To find out more about Our Electricity Future, visit novascotia.ca/electricityfuture

