

Community Feed-in Tariff Program Review Backgrounder

In 2010, the Government of Nova Scotia released the [Renewable Electricity Plan](#)—a plan for Nova Scotia to work toward cleaner energy and stable prices. The plan outlines the path toward 25 per cent renewable electricity in Nova Scotia by 2015 and 40 per cent by 2020.

One of the initiatives under the *Renewable Electricity Plan* is the [Community Feed-in Tariff](#) – or COMFIT. The COMFIT program was launched in September 2011 and has received over 100 applications for community-based renewable electricity projects.

The program is an important part of the province's overall energy strategy to build a diverse, secure, sustainable and affordable electricity supply for Nova Scotia.

It provides municipalities, First Nations, co-operatives, not-for-profit and other eligible groups an established price-per-kilowatt-hour for projects that produce electricity from renewable sources, such as wind, biomass, in-stream tidal and run-of-the-river hydroelectric developments.

From the outset, the province committed to continual improvement of the program and a review once it was up and running. This is meant as a tune-up to ensure the program is meeting its objectives and is aligned with operational realities.

The review was announced during the Canadian Cleaner Energy Conferences Feed-in Tariff Forum in Halifax September 24, 2012. It will include public consultation and discussions with those in the program and will examine:

- applicant eligibility;
- geographical distribution;
- eligible technologies;
- quantity of energy being offered;
- community engagement and support;
- experiences from previous projects; and
- administration.

During the review, the department will not accept applications for wind projects of more than 50 kilowatts. Projects already in the application system will be processed.

At the same time, the province will hire an outside consultant to do an analysis of the current climate and market for solar photovoltaic (PV) in different areas of the country. It is expected that the results of this review will determine the next steps in assessing potential for solar PV energy in the province.