

## ***Community Feed-in Tariff Program Review*** **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why is the COMFIT program being reviewed?**

From the very beginning, the province committed to continual improvement and reviewing the Community Feed-in Tariff (COMFIT) program once it was up and running. The initial success of the program has been overwhelming in terms of the interest shown by applicants and communities.

It is important for the province to take a look at the experiences of the past year, talk to those involved, and ensure the program is meeting its objectives and is aligned with operational realities.

### **Will any more COMFIT applications be accepted?**

The applications that are currently in the system or projects that have been registered will move forward, but no new applications for large wind over 50 kilowatts (kW) will be accepted during the review process. There may still be opportunities for small wind, in-stream tidal, run-of-the-river hydroelectricity, and biomass.

Most of the applications under COMFIT to date have been for larger wind projects at the 13.1 cent per kilowatt hour (kWh) rate and the department needs to assess where the province is with the approved projects in terms of the technical limit for wind.

### **Who will participate in the review?**

The department will be looking to talk to anyone who has participated in the program or would like to participate in the program. It is important for the department to know what went right, what went wrong, what could be improved, and how future potential participants view the program.

The department will also be soliciting feedback on specific components through the [nsrenewables@ gov.ns.ca](mailto:nsrenewables@gov.ns.ca) email address as the review unfolds.

### **Does the review mean the program will expand?**

The review will help determine the future direction of COMFIT, so it is difficult to say at this point where the program is going. Most of the projects to date are for wind and the province needs to be careful how much wind is put into the system, but there are other eligible technologies out there.

### **What happens after the review is completed?**

The department will look at the information to determine how the program can be improved and the appropriate future direction the program should take.

**Why are only large-scale wind projects being put on hold?**

Large-scale wind makes up over 90 per cent of COMFIT projects and it is important to assess the impact of this on the electricity system. There are technical limitations for how much wind can be put into the system due to its intermittent nature.

Biomass is not an intermittent source and makes up a very small portion of COMFIT. Tidal power—while extremely important to our overall energy plan—is naturally limited in the areas where it can be accessed and its potential under COMFIT is relatively small. There is already a five megawatt cap in place for small wind, so it has already been accounted for in COMFIT program planning.

**Will the review include solar photovoltaic (solar PV)?**

An external consultant will do an analysis of the current climate and market for solar PV energy both internationally and in different areas in the country. In addition, the review will include looking at the potential of solar PV in the Nova Scotia context. This will include analysis of the solar resource in Nova Scotia, as well as costs associated with manufacturing and installation. The review will help to provide an understanding of the opportunities and policy drivers and how the technology can potentially be integrated into the system. It is expected that the results of this work will determine the next steps in assessing potential for solar PV energy in the province.

**Will the review into eligibility look at expanding it to private business or individuals?**

No, the review will look at the inclusion of additional eligible entities, but will maintain the community-based policy focus of the program. Specifically, the department will be assessing the agricultural sector (farms) in relation to COMFIT biomass opportunities. COMFIT is meant to get communities involved in renewable electricity and create community-based projects. Private business and individuals may access the enhanced net metering program through Nova Scotia Power.