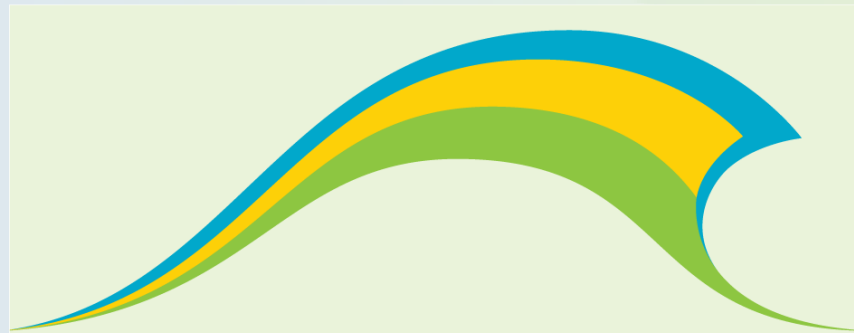


Community Renewable Energy in Nova Scotia

Réseau de recherche pour mesurer la
DIFFÉRENCE COOPÉRATIVE



Measuring the Co-operative Difference
RESEARCH NETWORK

Wayne Groszko - March 14, 2012




Ecology Action Centre
action is our middle name



COMMUNITY ENERGY
cooperative
Renewing the energy in our community

Community wind turbine in Nova Scotia



What is different about this wind turbine?

Colchester-Cumberland Windfield

Community wind turbine in Nova Scotia

What is different about this wind turbine?

It is owned and operated by the local community in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia

Colchester-Cumberland Windfield



Beneficial Features of the CCWF Spiddle Hill Wind Energy Project

- It is proudly owned and operated by several hundred members of the local community in the Tatamagouche area and Nova Scotia.
- Profits from the sale of electricity are distributed to local member shareholders – money that stays circulating in the local community.
- Local individuals and companies are empowered to participate in the implementation of this project and future projects.

Community Power Success

- The Colchester Cumberland Windfield is a success story in community renewable electricity (Community Power).
- What factors led to its success, and how can we facilitate more such projects?



Community Renewable Electricity (Community Power) – success factors

- To be successful, Community Power needs:
 - Affordable access to the electricity grid to sell the renewable electricity it will generate.
 - An acceptable selling price for renewable electricity, to cover costs and a moderate return.
 - A regulatory environment that is conducive to raising the capital for the project, in equity and debt financing.
 - Access to expertise, support and advice.

Community Power in Nova Scotia – How is it being facilitated?

- The Nova Scotia Community Feed-in Tariff program (COMFIT):
 - Offers pre-determined rates for selling community-based renewable electricity into the grid.
 - Defines a process for projects to connect to the distribution grid.
 - Allows Community Economic Development Investment Funds (CEDIFs) to be used to raise equity.
 - Has an application process with some guidance, but does not provide comprehensive advising on projects.

Nova Scotia COMFIT (Community Feed-in Tariff Program)

- Eligible energy types are:
 - Wind energy
(49.9 ¢/kWh small, 13.1 ¢/kWh large)
 - In-stream tidal electricity
(65.2 ¢/kWh)
 - Run-of-river hydroelectricity
(14.0 ¢/kWh)
 - Biomass combined heat and power (CHP)*
(17.5 ¢/kWh)

* CHP projects must use their heat on the same property, but have relaxed project ownership rules.

Nova Scotia COMFIT (Community Feed-in Tariff Program)

- Eligible proponent groups are:
 - Co-operatives*
 - Community Economic Development Investment Funds (CEDIFs)*
 - First Nations
 - Municipalities
 - Universities
 - Non-profit organizations*

* with a majority of members residing in Nova Scotia and at least 25 members residing in the municipality where the project will be located.

What is a CEDIF?

- Community Economic Development Investment Fund:

*“A CEDIF is a pool of capital, formed through the sale of shares (or units), to persons within a defined community, created to operate or invest in local business. It cannot be charitable, non-taxable, or not-for-profit, and must have at least six directors elected from their defined community.”**

* <http://www.gov.ns.ca/econ/cedif/background/>

Nova Scotia COMFIT program: How is it going so far?

- Started in 2011
- 95 project applications so far
- 20 have been approved, as of Feb. 27, 2012, amounting to a capacity of ~ 51 MW
- Mostly wind energy projects to this point
- Total projects submitted to date amount to a capacity of ~ 250 MW (if all were built)

Nova Scotia COMFIT program: Who has a project approved so far?

- University: 1
- First Nation: 1
- Not-for-profit: 1
- Private Corporation: 1 (CHP)
- Municipality: 3
- CEDIF: 6
- The 20 projects approved so far are led by 13 organizations, the largest portion of which are CEDIFs. 12 of the 20 projects are CEDIF-owned.
- There are no co-operatives on this list.

Nova Scotia COMFIT program: How about co-ops?

- The program seems to be successful so far.
- It is open to participation by co-operatives.
- Co-operatives are eligible to run CEDIFs too.
- This represents an opportunity for co-ops.

Co-ops and renewable energy

- There are also many other ways for co-ops to engage in the community renewable energy movement.

How can co-ops engage in the renewable energy opportunities in Canada today?

- As co-operative project leaders / developers
- As land owners
- As investors
- As workers
- As purchasers of equipment, services and energy

How can a co-op engage in the renewable energy opportunities in Canada today?

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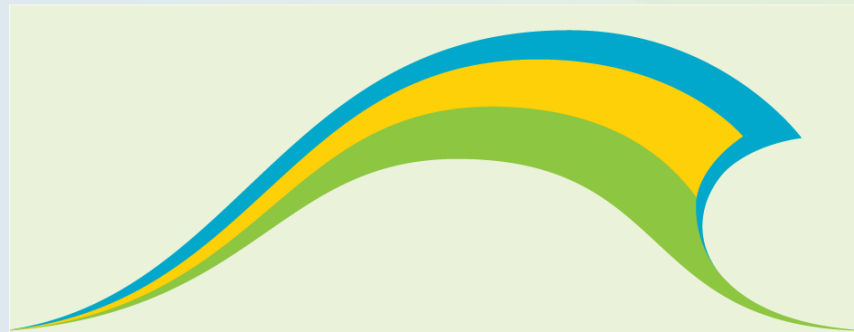
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- As investors
 - e.g. SolarShare, Ontario
- As workers
 - Consultants, manufacturers, installers, retailers
- As purchasers of equipment, services and energy
 - Neighbourhood solar co-op, housing co-op, dairy, etc.

Conclusion

- Community renewable energy is a rapidly growing field, with supportive policies in Nova Scotia.
- There are many opportunities for co-operatives to work in community renewable energy.

Thank you for participating!

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