

EAC Coastal and Water Issues Committee

October 2011 newsletter



Joining CWIC

The Coastal and Water Issues Committee's monthly meeting is the place to be if you care about Nova Scotia's rivers, lakes, wetlands, coasts and groundwater. Getting involved with CWIC is a fantastic opportunity to meet people who share your interests in water and coastal issues. You can gain excellent work experience, find out what's happening in the environmental movement; and make valuable contacts. All while helping the EAC, the community and the environment! Join us for snacks, conversation, awareness and action.

CWIC meets on the last Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Ecology Action Centre, 2705 Fern Lane in Halifax.

The Ecology Action Centre

The Ecology Action Centre has acted as a voice for Nova Scotia's environment for over 38 years. The EAC was voted #1 Activist Organization by readers of The Coast magazine for six years running. Since 1971, the EAC has been working to build a healthier, more sustainable Nova Scotia. Today we have over 1000 members, 250 volunteers and staff.

Last Month's Meeting

Our September meeting included a presentation by groundwater coordinator, Jennifer West, on hydraulic fracturing. The talk covered fracking methods, health and environmental concerns and an overview of where oil and gas exploration is occurring in Nova Scotia. The group also discussed the Ecology Action Centre's ongoing strategic planning exercise.

Our Mission

The Coastal and Water Issues Committee (CWIC) works towards helping communities be more sustainable through the protection and management of Nova Scotia's coastal and freshwater ecosystems.

**Learn more
about us at:**

**[www.ecologyaction.ca/
content/coastal](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/content/coastal)**

Facebook:

**"act for our coast now"
"nofrac"**



Recent Highlights of our Work



Our next meeting is **Thursday, October 27th at 5:30 pm.**

We will be talking about the newly released coastal strategy and wetland policy and ways you can take part in the public consultation process.

Coastal

We are very pleased to announce the province's release of the draft Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy. We are encouraged that the strategy included coastal governance as a priority issue, and identified goals including establishing coastal development standards and setting targets for cleaning up polluted coastal areas. This is an important step toward a provincial Coastal Act. The strategy is available at: www.gov.ns.ca/coast

Our latest Voices for the Coast video features 10 new voices from across the province is now online. Check out what people are saying about Nova Scotia's coast at: <http://bit.ly/p5O4Rf>

Wetlands

The long awaited Wetland Conservation Policy was also released last week. We believe it is a significant improvement in provincial wetland protection. The new policy commits to no further loss of ecologically significant wetlands, such as salt marshes, as well as the requirement that wetland professionals be involved in assessing wetland boundaries and functions. You can view the policy online at:

www.gov.ns.ca/nse/wetland

Freshwater and Groundwater

Jocelyne Rankin, EAC's Water Coordinator is back in the CWIC office after a year spent in New Zealand conducting research on climate change impacts on freshwater resources for an urban coastal catchment. She is grateful to Fred and the rest of the team for filling in for her during her sabbatical. Jocelyne will be working on strengthening the Water Caucus of the NSEN and encouraging the provincial government to move forward on implementing the provincial Water Strategy.

We are actively planning a regional conference on fracking in Nova Scotia that will be held in mid-November. Through guest speakers, local experts, activists and each other, participants will learn about the socio-economic, health and environmental impacts of fracking.



The CWIC team includes:

Coastal Coordinator, Jen Graham
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Water Coordinator, Jocelyn Rankin
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Groundwater Coordinator, Jennifer West
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Adaptation Research Coordinator, Veronika Breszki
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Local Adaptation Researcher, Scott Aucoin
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Please call or email to learn more about our work and how you can take action for our coast and water systems



Ecology Action Centre
40 YEARS OF ACTION