

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**EAC Response to Carbon Capture and Storage Announcement**  
***Research Needed, But don't Let Fossil Fuel Subsidies Come at Expense of Clean Energy Options***

**Halifax** – The Ecology Action Centre has given clear, but cautious, approval to today's announcement to research the potential for carbon capture and storage in Nova Scotia.

"We don't know if we have the geology to safely store carbon in Nova Scotia. Some independent research in this area is warranted to explore this potential solution to climate change. This is a component of a comprehensive climate plan for Nova Scotia," said energy coordinator, Brendan Haley.

The EAC supports carbon capture and storage as a solution, provided that the carbon is fully disposed of instead of temporarily stored. Thus far "deep saline aquifers" are shown to be reliable and secure. The EAC says "enhanced oil recovery" where CO<sub>2</sub> is injected to recover more fossil fuels is not a carbon reduction solution, but a subsidy to the fossil fuel industry that might not reduce GHGs.

While the EAC is supportive of taxpayer investments to acquire geological information, it says that taxpayer subsidies to fossil fuel industries are not needed for the development of carbon capture and storage.

"Fossil fuel industries will invest in carbon capture and storage if we put the right price on carbon through regulations and carbon pricing. Beyond geological research, the government should be implementing a carbon price of at least \$30-\$50 per tonne if it wants to encourage carbon capture and storage. Without the right regulations from the federal government, the bulk of the federal funding for CCS amounts to an unneeded subsidy to the fossil fuel industry, located mostly in Alberta."

"The federal government needs to abandon its widely discredited "intensity-based" regulations and bring in real caps on emissions consistent with the reductions called for by climate science if we want to see wide deployment of solutions like carbon capture and storage[1]," said Brendan Haley.

Given the uncertainties associated with carbon capture and storage, the EAC says the top provincial and federal government priority should be a massive scale-up of the renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions that exist today, and the research that can increase their use in the future. It notes that at the same time that the federal government is investing in carbon capture and storage, the future of the Wind Energy Institute in PEI appears to be uncertain.

"I hope this federal funding for a fossil fuel industry based solution is not coming at the expense of the work of PEI's Wind Energy Institute or other renewable energy options. The research that is being conducted in PEI on renewable energy storage could pay much higher dividends with regards to economic innovation and GHG reductions in the Atlantic region," said Brendan Haley.

For a comprehensive climate policy, in addition to CCS research, the EAC says it is expecting to see hard caps on industrial carbon pollution and a massive scale-up of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Nova Scotia's upcoming budget and release of its climate action plan.

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[1] "The Bali Mandate" from a recent UN meeting calls for reductions 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020. In contrast, the federal government's target will see GHG emissions be 2% above 1990 levels by 2020.