



Report Card

Student: Government of Nova Scotia
 Term: 2007-2008

SUBJECT	COMMENTS	FINAL GRADE
Energy Assistance	<p>Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Failures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Government opposed a Charter Challenge to the <i>Public Utilities Act</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The government opposed a human rights challenge that would have resulted in energy affordability for low income electricity customers. • <u>HST tax cut has not helped</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Millions of dollars in revenue could be used to fight energy poverty and improve energy efficiency. • <u>Salvation Army Good Neighbour Program runs out of money in Cape Breton</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salvation Army Good Neighbour Program funds were depleted early in February leaving many families without a source for emergency assistance. ○ Although the Province announced an emergency \$200,000 donation to assist the Salvation Army, this problem highlights the need for a provincial wide Energy Poverty Reduction Strategy. <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take responsibility and implement a low-income energy assistance program. • Implement a <i>Universal Service Program</i> for oil and electricity that would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a fixed credit to ensure no low-income Nova Scotian is forced to spend no more than 6% of their income on energy bills. • Create an arrearage management plan for electricity with payments based on % of income. • Include a consistent crisis intervention plan to prevent the worst impacts of energy poverty. 	<h1>F</h1>

SUBJECT	COMMENTS	FINAL GRADE
Energy Efficiency	<p>Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Province commits \$1.6 million dollars to the Residential Energy Affordability Program (REAP) to assist low income households become more energy efficient</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conserve Nova Scotia expands low-income pilot project to identify 200 homes for energy efficiency upgrades. <p>Failures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low income households cannot currently apply for the REAP program. <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a mandatory requirement for a minimum of 15% of all energy efficiency program spending¹ to be dedicated to low-income households. • Ramp-up electric and non-electric energy efficiency investments to expand efficiency services for all Nova Scotians. • Make low-income efficiency program comprehensive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure all income-qualified customers can apply, including tenant, multi-family and social housing. 	<p>B</p>

¹ Includes Conserve Nova Scotia spending and electric energy efficiency investments that will be funded by electric ratepayer investments

SUBJECT	COMMENTS	FINAL GRADE
Overall	<p>Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income energy efficiency program slowly expanding. <p>Failures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government actively opposes universal energy affordability plan for low-income electric customers. • In the middle of winter, the province delegates their responsibility to implement low-income energy assistance to a charitable organization. • No inclusion of low-income energy advocates in provincial poverty reduction strategy. <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an energy poverty reduction strategy in Nova Scotia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide energy affordability by providing fixed credits on energy bills instead of less effective “Keep the Heat” rebates. ○ Aggressively increase energy efficiency investments while ensuring 15% of investments made in low-income households. 	D-



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Comparison to Last Year

SUBJECT	2006-2007	2007-2008	COMMENTS
Energy Assistance	F	F	<p>For the second year in a row, the Province received a failing grade in Energy Assistance because they have not taken any meaningful steps to provide energy assistance for low income consumers.</p> <p>The government has actively opposed energy affordability programs at the Utility and Review Board.</p>
SUBJECT	2006-2007	2007-2008	COMMENTS
Energy Efficiency	B	B	<p>Low-income energy efficiency programs are slowly expanding in Nova Scotia, but require a significant improvement in both investment and comprehensiveness of program design over the next year to keep pace with need for improvement.</p>
Overall			
	D+	D-	<p>Lower grade than last year due to even worse performance on energy assistance coupled with steady, but slow progress on energy efficiency.</p>