



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8th, 2007

Ecology Action Centre calls on Nova Scotia to Re-commit to Emission Reduction Targets

“Provincial climate change plans will be discussed next week”

The Ecology Action Centre is calling on the government of Nova Scotia to take action on the regional global warming pollution reduction targets that the province agreed to in 2001.

On February 11-12th, Nova Scotia’s Energy and Environment Ministers will be attending a *Ministerial Forum on Regional Energy and Environmental Solutions* in Quebec City. The EAC hopes this forum will rejuvenate action on climate change in the Eastern Canadian and New England region.

“This conference is occurring a week after the warning issued by the United Nations report on climate change and a week before the anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol entering into force. It is a perfect time for our provinces to take meaningful action against the climate crisis,” said Energy Coordinator, Brendan Haley.

The annual Conference of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers signed the 2001 Climate Action Plan. The first target is to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2010 with a long-term target to reduce emissions by 75-85%.

Since Nova Scotia signed the Climate Action Plan in 2001, its emissions have increased 16.5% above 1990 levels.

Environmental organizations in Quebec, Atlantic Canada and New England are calling on the Ministers to move towards adoption of the same vehicle emission standards as California, to maximize improvements in energy efficiency, and to create caps on industrial emissions.

Environmental representatives from Equiterre in Quebec, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, and Environment Northeast from New England will be attending the Quebec conference.

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2001 Climate Action Plan Backgrounder

The action plan identified the following regional global warming pollution reduction targets:

- 1) Reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2010;
- 2) Further reduce by, at least, 10% below 1990 levels by 2020;
- 3) Further reduce by 75-85% in the long-term to avoid dangerous interference with the atmosphere.

The international consensus is that an 80% reduction will be needed by 2050 to avoid dangerous climate change.

-The 2001 Climate Action Plan is available at <http://www.neg-ecp-environment.org/>

-You can see the Ecology Action Centre's annual grading of Nova Scotia's performance in reducing global warming pollution at http://www.ecologyaction.ca/energy_issues/Scorecard_2006.pdf

ENGO Priorities

1) Energy Efficiency

The National Roundtable on the Environment and Economy says improving efficiency through measures such as building retrofits can achieve 40% of a long-term reduction target. Many states in the region already have comprehensive energy efficiency strategies. Nova Scotia has recently created a new energy efficiency agency, named *Conserve Nova Scotia*, and the EAC says the agency is key to achieving the emission reductions needed.

"Efficiency is the most cost-effective way to achieve substantial emission reductions. The Conserve Nova Scotia agency need to be resourced to meet a target to make all efficiency improvements that are achievable and cost-effective," said Energy Coordinator, Brendan Haley.

2) California Vehicle Emission Standards

In Nova Scotia, emissions from vehicles such as SUVs have increased 60% since 1990. The California standards would reduce emissions by 30% from vehicles by 2016. Quebec's climate plan supports the standards and Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont have adopted them.

"The implementation of California standards will reduce emissions while saving consumers \$3,500 to \$5,000 in fuel costs over the lifetime of a vehicle," states EAC Transportation Coordinator, Stephanie Sodero.

3) Caps on Emissions from Power Plants

While New England is set to implement caps as part of a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Canada's federal government has yet to set hard caps on industry. In Nova Scotia, electricity generation creates 46% of our emissions.

"Nova Scotia's electricity sector's dependence on coal has created a severe misallocation of resources. We have to get ready for the coming carbon-constrained economy in which polluters will be penalized and clean industries will drive economic development," said Energy Coordinator, Brendan Haley.