



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 31st, 2007

Ecology Action Centre Asks If Nova Scotia Will Meet Renewables Goal *“Says Request for Proposal System can lead to contract failures”*

Today is the deadline for producers to offer bids to Nova Scotia Power Inc. to develop renewable energy. Yet, the Ecology Action Centre is asking how many of the bids provided and contracts signed will actually result in the final development of clean energy.

Currently, the only way to develop renewable energy in Nova Scotia is for producers to answer *Requests for Proposals* from NSP. Producers then bid against each other to win contracts. Yet, the EAC says that past experience in North America has shown that only 50% of contracted projects are actually built.

One major reason for this “contract failure” is that producers engage in under-bidding as they compete in the Request for Proposals. The EAC is worried that “contract failure” will result in an inability for the province to meet its own renewable energy goal of having 10% of the Nova Scotia’s electricity produced from new renewable energy sources by 2013.

But the EAC says there is an answer to this dilemma in the form of a “feed-in tariff”. Leading jurisdictions such as Germany, Spain and Denmark have fixed the price for each kilowatt-hour of renewable energy generated to spur development. This system has been more successful in developing renewable energy by reducing the uncertainty and gaming associated with Nova Scotia’s current practice.

An added benefit is the increased participation of farmers, co-ops and municipalities. The opportunities for local ownership and more geographically distributed renewable energy can reduce the “Not in My Back Yard” attitudes that are cropping up in Nova Scotia.

“We need to make sure we will meet the province’s renewable energy goal, and that we meet it in a way that maximizes economic development benefits for Nova Scotian communities,” said EAC Energy Coordinator, Brendan Haley.

The EAC says the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change* as well as the *Economist Magazine* has acknowledged the success of feed-in tariff policies. In addition to being adopted by more than 30 countries worldwide, provinces such as Ontario and British Columbia are piloting a form of feed-in tariff in Canada.

“If we are really serious about fully integrating the environment and economy to become one of the most sustainable places in the world as expressed in the government’s *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*, we need to look at what the leaders in renewable energy are doing,” said Brendan Haley.

For More Information Contact:

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See EAC Publications available at <http://www.ecologyaction.ca>

- 1) [Pathways to Sustainable Energy Prosperity in Nova Scotia: Renewable Energy Chapter](#)
- 2) [Electricity Feed-Laws: A Standard, Fair Price to Power Renewables in Nova Scotia](#)