



Ecology Action Centre Says Province Gambling With Renewable Target *Contest Guesses How Many Announced Renewables will be developed*

Halifax – In response to Nova Scotia Power’s announcement of 240 MW of renewable energy contracts awarded through a request for proposals, the Ecology Action Centre is hosting a tongue-in-cheek contest inviting Nova Scotians to guess how many of the projects will actually result in the final development of clean energy.

The EAC is attempting to draw attention to the history of “contract failure” under the *Request for Proposals* system that Nova Scotia currently uses to procure renewable energy. This ‘contract failure’ is due to under-bidding in the competitive process or because of a lack of support from local communities that see few economic benefits from turbines located in their communities.

The Centre is asking Nova Scotians to guess how many of the 240 MW announced will actually be built by 2010, when Nova Scotia Power is supposed to hit its first target. If you believe Nova Scotia will track past North American experience whereby 50% of projects fail and 50% succeed, the guess would be 120 MW. If you are more optimistic you can guess 168 MW (30% failure rate), or 216 MW (10% failure rate).

The Centre is asking Nova Scotians to send their best guess to guess@ecologyaction.ca.

“We really don’t know how many of the renewable energy projects that were announced today are actually going to result in clean energy developments. Nova Scotia’s current renewable energy policy is utilizing a system that has a history of producing failures, and that means whether or not we meet our environmental and economic goals is being left to chance,” said the EAC’s energy coordinator, Brendan Haley.

The EAC would much rather stop all the games and successfully develop renewable energy as quickly as possible, while also delivering economic development benefits to Nova Scotian communities by replacing the Request for Proposals process with a “feed-in tariff” to meet the province’s renewable energy goals.

Leading jurisdictions such as Germany, Spain and Denmark fixed the price for each kilowatt-hour of renewable energy generated through “feed-in tariffs”. 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 by creating financial certainty and transparency. By creating opportunities for direct economic development in rural communities through local ownership, the Centre says we can reduce the “Not in My Back Yard” attitudes that are cropping up in Nova Scotia, which could also jeopardize the development of renewable energy.

“Paying renewable energy what it is worth can reduce the uncertainty and ensure that we rapidly reduce our fossil fuel use while also providing opportunities for Nova Scotian communities to become direct beneficiaries of renewable energy developments,” said Brendan Haley

The success of feed-in tariffs have been documented in the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, the *Economist Magazine* and most recently in the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report* which called for immediate and swift action to prevent the most severe impacts of climate change.

“The real environmental and economic risk to Nova Scotia is not doing everything we can to successfully develop renewable energy to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels,” said Brendan Haley.

The Centre will not know who will win the contest until the first 2010 target date. But they are keeping their fingers crossed that renewable policy will change before that time.

For Further Information Contact:

Brendan Haley
Energy Coordinator
Ecology Action Centre
902-442-0199
902-222-8053 (cell)
energy@ecologyaction.ca

For Further Information on Feed-In Tariffs:

- 1) Pathways to Sustainable Energy Prosperity in Nova Scotia: Renewable Energy Chapter
(available at http://www.ecologyaction.ca/energy_issues/press_releases/2007/EACEnergy.pdf)
- 2) Electricity Feed-Laws: A Standard, Fair Price to Power Renewables in Nova Scotia
(available at http://www.ecologyaction.ca/energy_issues/energy_issues.shtm)
- 3) Nova Scotia Co-operative Council – Renewable Energy Project
(<http://www.nsco-opcouncil.ca/energy/default.asp>)