



# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Nova Scotia Sustainable Electricity Alliance Formed

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2010  
Time: 11:00-11:30 AM  
Location: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 1723 Hollis Street, Halifax NS. Room: Theatre

The media is invited to a press conference in Halifax on Tuesday March 2, which will formally announce the newly formed Nova Scotia Sustainable Electricity Alliance (novaSEA).

novaSEA is comprised of leading trade associations, environmental groups, First Nations, energy developers, academics and consumers. The Alliance has been formed as a result of a common mission to support the implementation of policies that facilitate the development of community based and community owned renewable energy production. Founding members include:

- Dr. Kenny Corscadden, Nova Scotia Agricultural College
- Lawrence McKay, United Steelworkers – Atlantic Canada
- Jeff Larsen, MaManna Renewable Energy, a part of Seaforth Energy inc.
- Dan Roscoe, Scotian Windfields
- Louis Joe Bernard and Jeffrey Feigin, First Nation and Technical Services (FNETS)
- Mike Layton, Environmental Defense
- Tim Weis, Pembina Institute
- Gretchen Fitzgerald, Sierra Club Canada – Atlantic Chapter
- Cheryl Ratchford, Ecology Action Centre

novaSEA supports the implementation of a feed-in tariff for community scale renewable energy development. International experience in renewable energy procurement has shown a *feed-in tariff* (FIT) to be the most cost-effective, to produce the most rapid uptake, and to provide the greatest reliability for meeting targets including providing stability in the face of economic shocks and downturns. Diversity of technology is also an important aspect to a successful renewable electricity sector. FITs are important for both proven and emerging technologies.

The costs of traditional fossil fuel energy sources such as Oil, Natural Gas, Coal and Heating Oil have all at least doubled and in some cases quadrupled over the past 10-15 years. This trend will only accelerate as these limited resources become scarcer and demand continues to rise. In addition to having volatile costs, 90% of energy consumed in Nova Scotia is imported, so the money spent on using this energy leaves our Province. Dan Roscoe at Scotian Windfields points out that, “Energy policy focused on locally owned renewable energy will help stabilize energy costs, and keep the money we spend on energy here at home.”

The development of community based renewable energy has potential to create green jobs in both urban and rural Nova Scotia. Lawrence McKay with the United Steelworkers of Atlantic Canada see this as a win-win, "With the outmigration of manufacturing jobs in this Province and Country the job loss has been devastating and the jobs that can be created with renewable energy are significant."

"As Nova Scotia's only manufacturer of wind turbines, MaManna has seen how FITs have benefited communities around the world. Recent wind projects in Italy and Scotland have been driven by FITs, and we expect to see Nova Scotians embrace more renewable energy when communities, businesses and homeowners can utilize FITs," said Jeff Larsen, MaManna Renewable Energy Director.

FITs create an open and transparent playing field that will help eliminate many of the barriers inherent in the current Request for Proposal system. This will create new opportunities for municipalities, first nations, community groups, farmers, co-ops and individual Nova Scotians alike. "Community based projects have the potential to provide new revenue streams for farmers, to enhance rural communities and in the creation of sustainable and cost effective energy independence" says Dr. Kenny Corscadden at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

Community based renewable energy will also help Nova Scotia meet its environmental challenges. Gretchen Fitzgerald, Director of Sierra Club Canada - Atlantic Canada Chapter, says "As an organization dedicated to empowering people, Sierra Club Atlantic is focused on pushing for FITs across our region: it will bring power to our communities in a way we have not experienced before, in a way that has created prosperity and self-sufficiency wherever it has been adopted."

Representatives will be available for interviews after the press conference. For background information, including the policy backgrounder please visit: [www.novasea.ca](http://www.novasea.ca)

To join the alliance please email [info@novasea.ca](mailto:info@novasea.ca)

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