

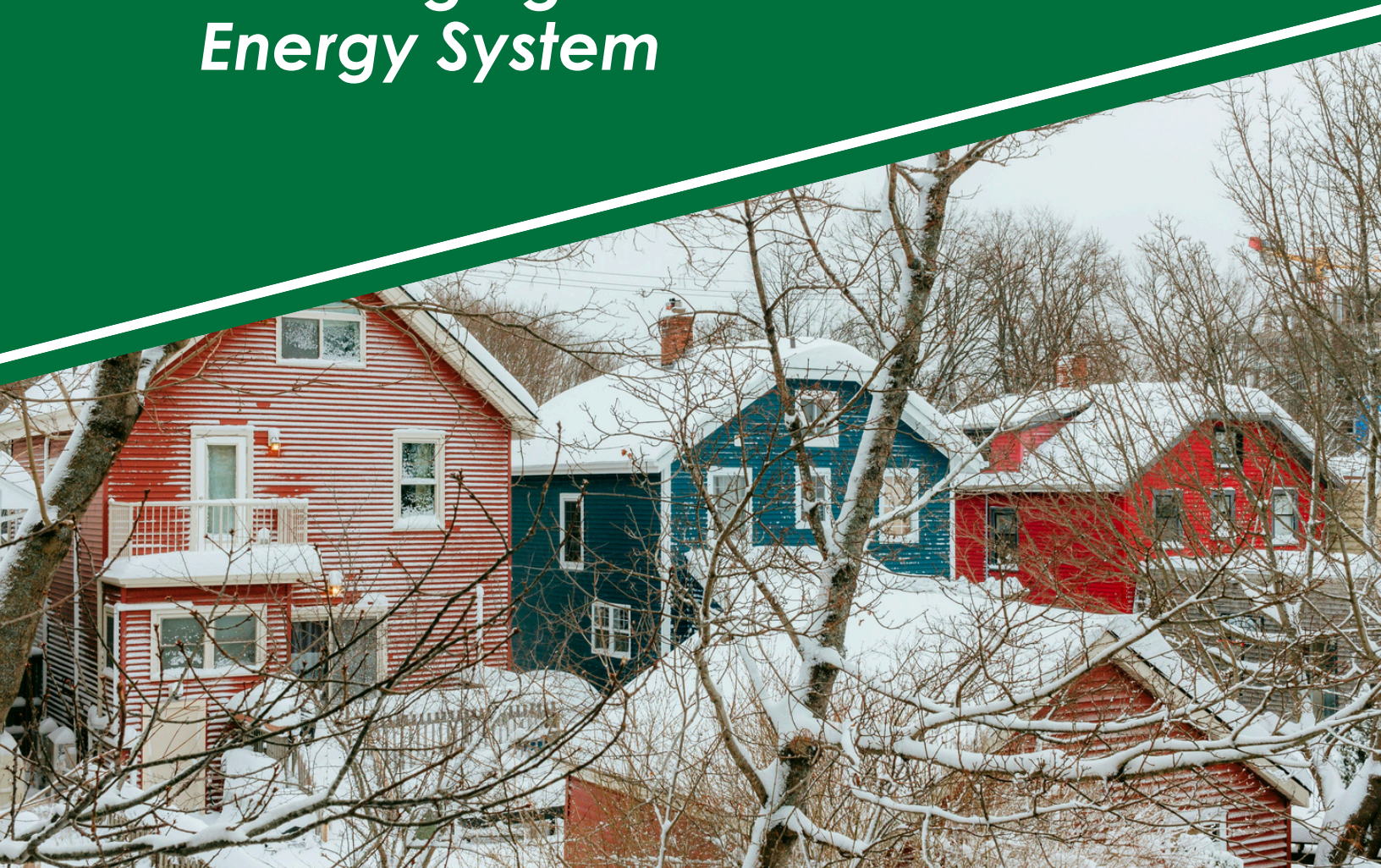
July 2026



Ecology Action Centre

IN OUR POWER:

*Recharging Nova Scotia's
Energy System*



*Canada Greener Homes
Affordability Program*



In Our Power: *Recharging Nova Scotia's Energy System*

Our energy system must meet the needs of all Nova Scotians. This is not wishful thinking. Energy is a human right, essential for health, safety, comfort and access to information. A system that is reliable, affordable and sustainable is essential.

We need that system now.



What is the Canada Greener Homes Affordability Program?

The **Canada Greener Homes Affordability Program** provides low-to-median-income homeowners and tenants with no-cost retrofits such as insulation and heat pumps.

Launched in 2025, the program operates in participating provinces including British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Why are these types of programs important?

Demand for energy affordability is high, persistent and growing. This is the conclusion of both the [Heat, Housing and Affordability in Atlantic Canada](#) report and the [Nova Scotia Energy Poverty Task Force](#).

With costs continuing to climb, Nova Scotia households are struggling with their energy bills. This is especially true for those



operating oil-heated homes, among the least efficient and most expensive to maintain. In Nova Scotia, 31.5 per cent of homes rely on oil for primary heating.

Do these types of programs work?

Without a doubt!

The **Canada Greener Homes Grant Program**, a precursor to the current initiative, was one of the country's most widely used home-retrofit grants. After years of strong demand, the program closed well before its planned 2027 deadline.

Another equally successful federal initiative is the **Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program** (OHPA) launched in 2023 to help low- and modest-income homeowners transition to more efficient, sustainable heating solutions. As the name suggests, it assists households to switch from oil to cold-climate heat pumps. This program is currently at maximum capacity, and new applications in Nova Scotia are being placed on a standby list.

More than 9,000 Nova Scotian households switched to heat pumps since the OHPA launch. **It's estimated they saved \$1,500 to \$4,700 per year on energy bills**, freeing up money for



essentials like groceries and medicine.

What's needed for these programs to succeed?

Two factors are essential to include in programs like the Canada Greener Homes Affordability Program.

First, they must recognize energy poverty as an issue and support low-income households. Second, they must include renters. Unfortunately, Nova Scotia's version of the program does *not* include renters.

Provinces also need to take advantage of available initiatives.

Only five provinces (British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick) have secured available federal funding under the Affordability Program. This funding — in the tens of millions of dollars — when matched by the province, shows what is possible when the different levels of government collaborate to take action on energy affordability.



Resources

Ecology Action Centre. [Heat, Housing and Affordability in Atlantic Canada: 2026 Report.](#)

Ecology Action Centre. [Report of the Energy Poverty Task Force: May 2024.](#)

Natural Resources Canada. [Canada Greener Homes Affordability Program.](#)

Nova Scotia Energy Poverty Task Force. [Home Energy Affordability Program \(HEAP\),](#)

