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IN OUR POWER:

*Recharging Nova Scotia's
Energy System*



*Understanding Energy Terms:
Energy and Community*



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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.



Understanding Energy Terms: Energy and Community

Community energy: A community group, constituents, or governing body owns energy- generating assets or parts of transmission lines, or decides where their energy comes from. This type of energy is interconnected with energy democracy. It increases community resiliency, is more affordable, generates community revenue and provides clean power for all.

Community-choice energy: Communities create a joint purchasing authority to buy energy on behalf of their constituents. This includes automatic enrollment, and bill payers do not see a change in how bills are handled but likely see a decrease in power rates.

Energy democracy (energy fairness): The ability to choose where your energy comes from. This includes energy co-ops, municipal-owned utilities, community group-owned renewable energy and community-based energy purchasing. See our energy democracy fact sheet on this topic.

Energy monopoly: When you have zero choice where your energy comes from. This lack of choice often results in expensive power bills.



Energy poverty: A form of financial hardship typically defined as being unable to keep up with energy costs or having go into debt or sacrifice other necessities to do so. Most commonly, energy poverty is measured as spending six per cent or more of net income on energy bills. It also describes the nature of rising energy costs and reflects a broader affordability crisis within a given region. Nova Scotia has among the highest rates of energy poverty in the country.

Joint purchasing authority: A non-for-profit that procures/purchases electricity on behalf of one or many municipalities and its constituents. When multiple groups have purchasing power alongside an independent electricity system operator (IESO), this can enhance competition for energy purchases and generation, increasing clean electricity on the grid and lowering costs for customers.

Municipal-owned utility: A municipality owns a utility such as water or power. The utility owns transmission lines and may own generation assets. Nova Scotia has five municipal utilities, many over 100 years old.

They are:

- [Antigonish Electric Utility](#) (Town of Antigonish)
- [Berwick Electric Light Commission](#) (Town of Berwick)
- [Lunenburg Electric Utility](#) (Town of Lunenburg)
- [Mahone Bay Electric Utility](#) (Town of Mahone Bay)
- [Riverport Electric Light Commission](#) (Village of Riverport)

