

July 2026



Ecology Action Centre

IN OUR POWER:

*Recharging Nova Scotia's
Energy System*



*Renewable Energy
Mythbuster*



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.



Renewable Energy Mythbusting

MYTH #1: Renewables are not reliable enough to power our grid

FACT: Renewables are very reliable. In fact, 80 per cent of Canada's energy grid is already renewable largely thanks to hydro-dams. In Nova Scotia, that figure is much lower. In 2023, 42.5 per cent of energy was generated from renewable sources, primarily wind and imported hydro. This level will increase – and soon. The province has a legislated target to reach 80 per cent renewable electricity by 2030.

MYTH #2: Natural gas plants are the cheapest form of energy

FACT: Natural gas requires a complex, interconnected network of pipelines, processing plants, storage facilities and terminals designed to gather, transport and distribute gas from production sites to end-users. This can be very expensive to build—the gas and diesel plants proposed for Pictou County,



Nova Scotia would cost us at least \$2 billion. Natural gas is also subject to high market volatility.

Across the country, but particularly in Atlantic Canada, there are significant challenges in securing natural gas turbines for immediate grid needs. This leads to potential gaps in energy capacity. The issue is fuelled by a global surge in demand for natural gas, with backlogs for new turbine deliveries stretching into the late 2020's and even longer. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are actively seeking gas generation to bolster their grids against peak-demand issues. N.B. Power has said if they had to start a new procurement process, a solution might not be available until 2031, leading to possible generation shortfalls between 2028-2032.

MYTH #3: We need a lot of methane gas for fast-acting dispatchable energy

FACT: Not true!

Some gas is required, but only to the extent we are using it today. Energy-efficiency measures, battery storage, renewables and smart grid planning can alleviate the need for large-scale gas plants and create a cleaner, healthier environment while ensuring energy is affordable and reliable.



MYTH #4: Solar panels will not pay for themselves

FACT: Solar panels are becoming increasingly more affordable. One issue is the high upfront costs. These costs are coming down, but they are still a barrier. However, in the long term, solar panels will reduce costs, and rebate programs (if available) can help mitigate upfront costs. It is important to push for better access to clean energy sources. Community-scale solar gardens, for example, are one way to bring larger-scale renewables to a community and reduce individual cost burdens. Plug-in solar, or balcony solar, has also proven itself in other countries, such as Pakistan, as a cheap and easily accessible source of energy (including for renters).

MYTH #5: Renewables are more expensive than fossil fuels

FACT: Onshore wind is one of the least expensive forms of energy to produce in Nova Scotia. Solar and wind costs have plummeted by up to 90 per cent since 2010, with over 90 per cent of new renewable projects in 2024 being cheaper than fossil fuel alternatives, even when carbon pricing is factored in.



Resources

Canada Energy Regulator. [Nova Scotia Energy Profile](#)

Erica Butler, CBC News. [N.B. Power needs gas plant approval before April 2, or the deal may be off](#)

Clean Energy Canada. [Addressing common myths around renewable power](#)

Penn State Institute of Energy and the Environment. [Why gas turbines are in short supply — just as the grid needs them most](#)

Kylie Brezden, The Energy Mix. [Balcony Solar a Largely Untapped Option in Canada](#)

