

May 2016

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL

CREATING JOBS, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL FOR NEW BRUNSWICK

Imagine a New Brunswick bustling from a thriving economy and growing employment for our young people that's fueled by clean, renewable energy and sustainable approaches to agriculture and forestry. It can happen here just like it is happening in provinces across Canada and in locations around the world. To make it happen, New Brunswickers need to say yes to a climate action plan that transforms our energy system and lowers risks to our health and safety from extreme events.

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB) urges the Provincial Government and New Brunswickers to support implementation of a comprehensive climate action plan that builds an innovative and competitive economy for our citizens. The CCNB climate action plan outlines our fair-share contribution to national efforts to negotiate a Pan-Canadian climate plan to help Canada reach national greenhouse gas reduction goals agreed to under the United Nations Paris Agreement. Canada is expected to legally ratify the Agreement in fall 2016.

Most greenhouse gas emissions come from making electricity and using carbon-based energy with smaller amounts coming from using fertilizers in agriculture and decomposing waste in landfills. In 2014, New Brunswick produced 14.9 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from the following sectors:

- 31% from generating electricity (coal, oil and natural gas);
- 25% from light cars and trucks, heavy duty vehicles and other transportation (gasoline and diesel combustion emissions);
- 6% from residential, commercial and institutional buildings (natural gas, oil space heating);
- 9% from waste (methane emissions from landfills, wastewater plants) and agriculture (nitrous oxide from fertilizers, energy use emissions); and
- 29% from industry (emissions from oil and natural gas).

The Conservation Council believes a New Brunswick climate action should include:

1. A legislated provincial greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 35 to 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 as the Province's contribution to the already agreed regional target set by Eastern Premiers and New England Governors.
2. Applying a modest provincial carbon price (either through a levy, like we have for pop bottles, or cap and trade program) to all fossil fuel emissions to generate financial resources to a fund that would invest in low-or zero-emitting projects included in the climate action plan.
3. Developing a provincial electrification strategy that prepares the province for a more electrified economy while ensuring stable rates and reliability. Measures would include:
 - a. Regulating a coal phase-out by 2030 to ensure fossil fuel resources are not used to generate electricity in NB or for export.
 - b. Adopting the National Energy Code for Buildings.
 - c. Setting aspirational targets for energy efficiency and conservation and renewable energy. These targets would build on New Brunswick Power's currently modest investments in energy efficiency and conservation, and aim to exceed the Province's renewable portfolio standard (current target is 40% of electricity supply). Additional measures should include:
 - i. Establishing 100,000 solar roofs program.
 - ii. Pursuing deep energy efficiency retrofits targeting 50% of all existing buildings and 100% of all social and low-income housing by 2030 with the aim of cutting energy consumption by at least 50%. Retrofits would include making homes and buildings renewable energy ready, including assessing options for rooftop solar and installing renewable energy and charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.
 - iii. Supporting a national and provincial electric vehicle strategy through commitments that provide incentives for the purchase and charging of electric vehicles with the aim of transforming the light vehicle fleet by 2030.
 - iv. Investing in additional non-polluting community energy supplies that generates incremental greenhouse gas reductions and increases community resiliency from climate change impacts.

- d. Reforming agriculture and forestry practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the capacity of soil and trees to absorb carbon.
 - e. Investing in formal and informal education and training that demonstrates to New Brunswickers the causes of climate change as well as the opportunities for all citizens to participate in solutions and that supports retraining and training of workers, particularly in the trades, including: general contracting, electrical engineering, renewable energy technicians, software engineers (for Smart Grid and other electricity-related innovations).
4. Adopting smart community land-use planning requirements to reduce climate pollution and adapt to climate change impacts that include soft as well as hard infrastructure. This could include, for example, retention ponds, rather than larger pipes to manage water flow.
 5. Incorporating a climate change adaptation and mitigation risk assessment and opportunities lens into all government, NB Power and Crown corporation's decision-making, procurement and infrastructure planning and investments.
 6. Including water conservation requirements in all investments in water and wastewater facilities to save energy and to reduce emissions, including methane.

New Brunswick has the third largest per capita emissions in Canada after Alberta, Saskatchewan (in 2013). New Brunswick does not have a greenhouse gas target for 2030. A comprehensive approach to climate change can bring the province's emissions down to levels in line with what scientists believe is required to adequately respond to climate change risks. The CCNB climate action plan has the potential to diversify New Brunswick's economy, create new jobs, especially in the construction and trades sectors, and position the province for the long-term.

The global response to reduce the pollution unbalancing the climate is accelerating and New Brunswick can do its fair share while protecting its citizens from the impacts of a more extreme climate and positioning our economy for the future.

For more information, contact:

Louise Comeau, louisecomeau@conservationcouncil.ca; 506 238 0355