



# Atlantic Vision for Clean Electricity

AN AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

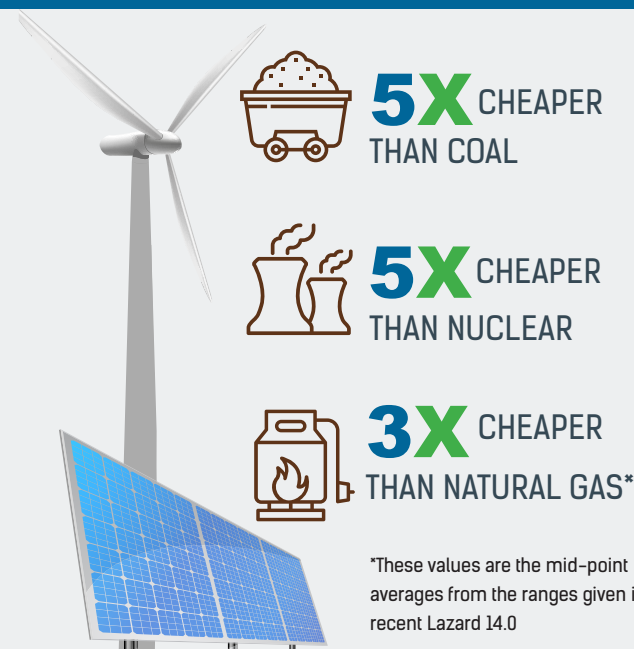
## KNOW THE FACTS:

### No one wants to pay **MORE** for electricity

Today, we can enjoy affordable electricity that we can rely on and that generates little to no pollution. New wind and solar projects are the **cheapest** forms of electricity on Earth. **Five times cheaper** than coal, **five times cheaper** than nuclear energy, and **three times cheaper** than natural gas\*. These technologies have advanced significantly in the last 10 years and are more reliable than ever, especially when paired with new transmission networks connecting existing regional hydroelectric power with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and short and long-term energy storage technologies.

\*These values are the mid-point averages from the ranges given in the recent Lazard 14.0

**Wind and solar** are now the **cheapest forms of electricity** on Earth.

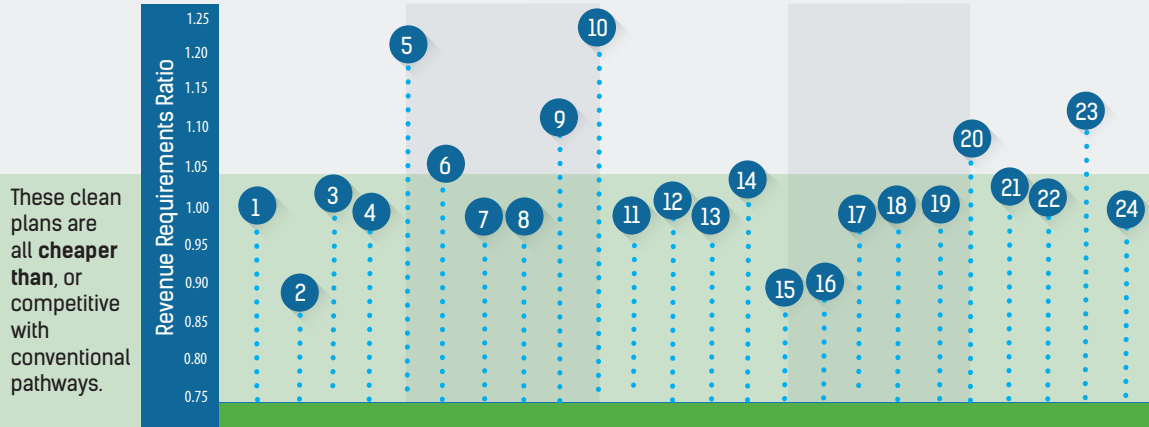


### Energy efficiency is a win-win-win.

With energy efficiency upgrades like heat pumps and building retrofits, we can stay warmer in winter, and cooler in the summer. Efficiency not only saves energy and fights climate change, but it brings real cost savings by **reducing energy bills** for families and business.



## CLEAN ENERGY PATHWAYS STUDIES:



A [new report](#) shows that cleaner energy pathways are often cheaper than business-as-usual energy pathways that compromise the health of our communities and our planet. In fact, 80% of the clean energy pathways studied were either less expensive or within only 4% of the cost of conventional pathways.

### Study:

1. Vermont Solar Market Pathway 2030
2. Vermont Solar Market Pathway 2050
3. Pennsylvania's Solar Future 2030
4. U.S. Electricity Futures Study 30%
5. U.S. Electricity Futures Study 80%
6. U.S. Electricity Futures Study 60%
7. U.S. Renewable Economic Potential (Full Capacity Value)
8. U.S. Renewable Economic Potential (No Capacity Value)
9. U.S. Deep Decarbonization Study 2030
10. U.S. Deep Decarbonization Study 2050
11. Nevada Energy IRP
12. California Statewide IRP
13. Portland General Electric IRP
14. Indiana Power Light IRP
15. Vectren IRP
16. Northern Indiana Public Service Company IRP
17. Xcel Minnesota IRP
18. Tucson Electric Power IRP
19. Tennessee Valley Authority IRP
20. Northwestern Energy IRP
21. Dominion Energy South Carolina IRP
22. Consumers Energy Michigan IRP
23. Nova Scotia Power IRP
24. New Brunswick Power IRP

## Did you know?

Our region has a strong history of **Indigenous-owned** and **community-owned** renewable electricity.

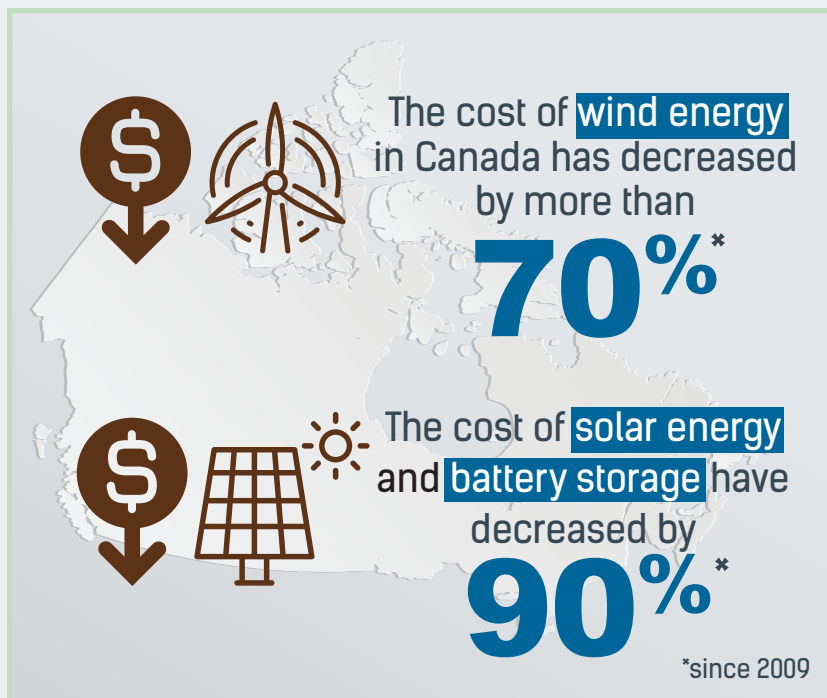


Through the [COMFIT \(NS\)](#) and [LORESS \(NB\)](#) programs, more than

**250 MW  
of projects**

owned by communities in our region have been built, meaning that even more of the **earnings, jobs, and local economic benefits** stay in our region.





## If we phase out coal by **2030:**



The **cumulative benefit** in Canada:

 **\$4.7 BILLION**

 **\$1.2 BILLION**  
In healthcare costs **avoided**.

Published by:

  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick  
Conseil de conservation du Nouveau-Brunswick  
[www.conservationcouncil.ca](http://www.conservationcouncil.ca)



Established in 1969, the Conservation Council serves as the province's leading voice for conservation and environmental protection. A strong public policy advocate, CCNB works to find practical solutions to help families and educators, citizens, governments and businesses protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the precious marine ecosystem and the land, including the forests, that support us.

# About the Atlantic Electricity Vision:

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick and the Ecology Action Centre are excited to launch the Atlantic Electricity Vision series of reports, webinars and research to show that affordable, reliable, sustainable electricity is possible in our region, right now. Cleaner electricity can help make us safer, more secure and healthier. We can use it to help make electricity affordable for everyone, reliable for when we need it, and cleaner for our health and for our planet.

Our definition of cleaner electricity has two components. First, cleaner electricity relies primarily on non-polluting sources like wind, solar and existing hydro technologies and it is used efficiently. These renewable technologies have lower environmental impact than electricity generated from coal, oil and natural gas that generate greenhouse gases when burned causing the global heating that is supercharging our weather. Second, our sustainable electricity portfolio needs to be affordable and reliable.

The Atlantic Electricity Vision series is focused on the transition to electricity that phases out coal and ensures our regional electricity system is 90 per cent emissions free before 2030 as required by federal policy and climate change regulations. As a key part of the Just and Green Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, clean electricity can build green careers, bring health and economic benefits to communities and help us emerge from the pandemic better off than when we began.

Two studies, *A Comparative Analysis of Select Legislated Electricity Regimes in Eastern Canada and the New England Region* and *A Comparative Analysis of the Legislated Electricity Regimes in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia* by East Coast Environmental Law (ECEL) for CCNB and EAC show that government rules stand in the way of spending more to help low-income households spend less on energy; prevent utilities from considering the social and environmental costs of our electricity choices, and fail to send long-term signals to plan now for a zero-emitting electricity system over the next 20 to 30 years.

In other words, the public interest is narrowly defined by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia legislation and regulations to focus only on financial costs to utilities and ratepayers. Government rules fail to consider environmental and social dimensions. This narrow understanding of the public interest poses barriers to securing the best outcomes for low-income households and our health through clean electricity portfolios.

A third report, *Comparative Analysis of Long-Term Resource Plans and Energy Scenarios* by the Energy Futures Group shows that electricity plans that favour cleaner electricity are cost competitive. In fact, of the 24 electricity plans reviewed, 80 per cent of the scenarios favouring efficiency and renewable energy were cheaper or within just a few per cent of the scenarios favouring conventional, polluting technologies.

We know that cleaner electricity is affordable, reliable and sustainable - and it's ready to be deployed right now. The major barriers keeping us from achieving the clean electricity system we deserve are the outdated laws, rules and targets in our region. We need to update the laws and processes that control how we plan for future electricity systems, in order to ensure a safer, more secure and healthier future with clean electricity. Not doing so is a political choice.

We need to avoid the financial and environmental risks, mistakes and delays that come with continued coal burning, new nuclear and large hydro power, and dependence on fossil fuels like natural gas.

We need to build electricity connections connecting Atlantic provinces and Quebec to allow renewable energy like wind and solar to be reliable at all times of year, by backing it up with existing hydroelectric capacity through two-way electricity trade with our neighbours.

