

Joint Letter: Atlantic Canadian LNG Exports Face Scrutiny Amid Global Renewable Surge

Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau

Minister of Natural Resources, Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson

Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Honourable Steven Guilbeault

Premier of New Brunswick, Honourable Blaine Higgs

Premier of Nova Scotia, Honourable Tim Houston

Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, Honourable Andrew Furey

Premier of Prince Edward Island, Honourable Dennis King

Date: April 10, 2024

Delivered on behalf of 28 organizations across Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Canada has a remarkable opportunity to lead the way and build a more sustainable, affordable, and healthy energy system for our region.

The recent decision by U.S. President Joe Biden to pause the approval of new liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports should make us stop and think. It's time for Atlantic Canada to follow suit and halt new LNG, shale, and fossil fuel projects and put the well-being of our people and our region before short-term corporate gains.

Most LNG and shale gas projects in Canada are marketed as crucial components of energy export strategies aimed at foreign markets. But [recent data](#) from Europe shows a combination of factors, including a substantial build-out of wind and solar infrastructure and increased energy efficiency aided by technology like heat pumps, led to greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation dropping by 19 per cent.

Notably, while coal generation decreased, it was not replaced by gas generation. In fact, both coal and gas usage decreased. Gas usage has declined consistently over the past five years, including a significant drop in 2023, indicating a continued trend away from fossil fuel dependency. Wind generation even surpassed gas generation for the first time, marking a significant milestone in our renewable energy journey.

The idea that Atlantic Canadian LNG exports would fill a demand in Europe is false. There is no need for Canadian LNG in Europe and Repsol abandoned its LNG facility plans in Atlantic Canada, considered the most viable of all planned facilities, in 2023, [citing economic infeasibility](#). The recent findings of an [LNG study](#) also challenge the notion that LNG is a cleaner alternative. Instead, it suggests that LNG transported by ships may produce nearly three times more greenhouse gas pollution than if the importing countries burned their own coal.

Given this recent shift, prioritizing foreign energy security through LNG and shale gas projects doesn't make sense. Instead, investing in Canadian renewable energy presents a more environmentally responsible and sustainable approach. By focusing on domestic renewable energy development, Canada can reduce its reliance on fossil fuel exports, mitigate environmental impacts, and bolster its own long-term energy security.

President Biden's recent decision to pause LNG and shale gas exports highlights the evolving global energy landscape. Renewables are projected to produce 35 percent of global energy within two years. The writing is on the wall. The future belongs to renewable energy, and Atlantic Canada has the opportunity to lead the way.

Moreover, investing in renewables offers numerous benefits beyond environmental sustainability. It can help alleviate energy poverty, reduce household heating costs, and create new economic opportunities for our region. Adding 10 per cent more renewables to the grid every year can accelerate our transition towards a cleaner, more resilient energy system. Evidence worldwide shows that renewables are the most [affordable form of new generation](#) and continue to decrease in cost.

We are aware LNG companies engage in heavy lobbying. They claim that LNG is a sustainable alternative. Still, the fact remains that pollution from fossil fuels, including gas, poses significant risks to public health, contributing to respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, and other health harms. By embracing smaller-scale renewable energy projects, we can mitigate these risks and create a healthier environment for all residents of Atlantic Canada. Communities must be involved in any proposed local energy development to ensure they are informed and consent to the project, particularly Indigenous communities and local First Nations, many of whom [oppose fossil fuel projects](#).

Let's shift our focus towards realistic regional energy solutions that embrace renewable sources such as wind, solar, and battery storage for local use over LNG, shale, and fossil fuel exports. These sources offer cleaner alternatives to fossil fuels and promise greater affordability and energy security for all residents of our provinces.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. We eagerly anticipate positive action from our provincial and federal governments in pursuit of a brighter, cleaner, and more prosperous future for Atlantic Canada.

Sincerely,

BeCompassionateNL

Belleisle Watershed Coalition Inc.

Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment (CANE)

Climate Change Task Force Unuma'ki–
Cape Breton

Coalition for Responsible Energy
Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB)

Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Council of Canadians - National

Council of Canadians - Fredericton

Council of Canadians - North Shore

Council of Canadians - PEI chapter

Council of Canadians - South Shore

Council of Canadians - Avalon

Council of Canadians - Kent County

Canadian Association of Physicians for the
Environment - New Brunswick

Canadian Association of Physicians for the
Environment -Nova Scotia

Canadian Association of Physicians for the
Environment - Newfoundland & Labrador

Ecology Action Centre

Energy Democracy Now! Cooperative

Grand Chief Ron Tremblay, Wolastoq
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Hampton Water First

Imaginons la Péninsule acadienne
autrement

Memramcook Action

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New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance
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PEI (Epekwitk) Fridays for Future Climate
Action Group

Sierra Club Canada

Sustainable Energy Group

Tantramar Alliance Against Hydro-Fracking

