

Solar Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization founded in 1980 that is dedicated to the advancement of the solar industry in the province. Solar NS has an all-volunteer board, 35 corporate members, and over 2000 enthusiastic individual members. Part of our mission is to education and inform the Nova Scotian public on solar. This issue provides updates on some of the exciting developments in a breakthrough year for solar in Nova Scotia. ***If you find this issue helpful please consider joining us as a member!***



Solar Nova Scotia NEWSLETTER

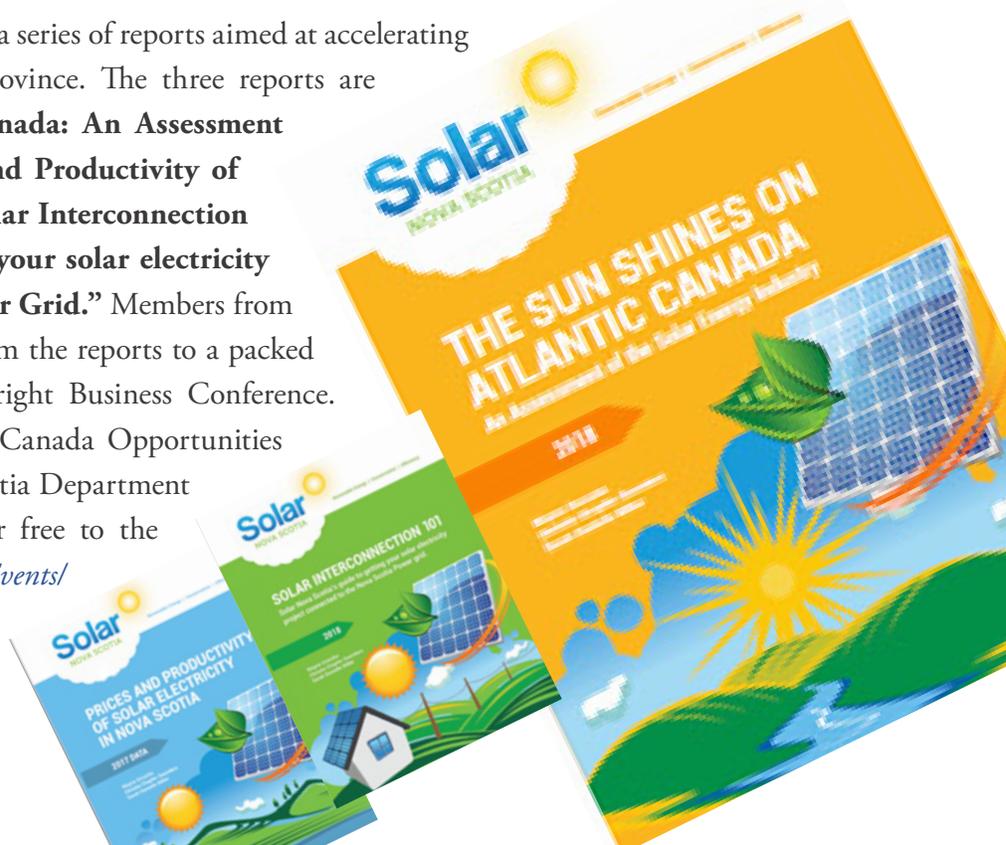


www.solarns.ca

FALL 2018

Solar Nova Scotia Wraps up Work on Industry Studies

Solar Nova Scotia has wrapped up work on a series of reports aimed at accelerating the growth of the solar industry in the province. The three reports are entitled “**The Sun Shines on Atlantic Canada: An Assessment of the Solar Energy Industry**,” “**Prices and Productivity of Solar Electricity in Nova Scotia**,” and “**Solar Interconnection 101: Solar Nova Scotia’s guide to getting your solar electricity project connected to the Nova Scotia Power Grid**.” Members from Solar Nova Scotia presented key findings from the reports to a packed house at Efficiency Nova Scotia’s recent Bright Business Conference. The project was co-funded by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Solar Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Department of Energy. The reports will be available for free to the public at: <http://www.solarns.ca/News-and-Events/Solar-Industry-Study>



Successful Solar CEDIF continues to attract Nova Scotian investors

The Solar Scotia Energy CEDIF (Community Economic Development Investment Fund) has launched its third share offering which is now available for investment. This share offering is a follow up to the previous 2 successful share offerings that raised a combined \$1.7 million. Money raised through the current offering will be used to fund leases of residential solar systems in Nova Scotia. To date, 58 Nova Scotians have leased solar systems through the Solar Scotia Energy CEDIF at a rate of 3.5% for 10 years. The current investment period runs until Dec 3, 2018. Investors in CEDIFS in Nova Scotia may be eligible to receive equity tax credits totaling 65% of their invested amount. For further information about Solar Scotia Energy please contact info@solarscotiaenergy.com, visit www.solarscotiaenergy.ca, or call (902) 812-1050.

HRM's Solar City sees huge growth in 2018!

HRM's innovative Solar City Program is eclipsing expectations for 2018! Thanks in large part to a heavy winter marketing campaign and the new SolarHomes rebate, program participation has been increasing steadily, with no signs of slowing down. As of October, the program has financed 112 new solar energy systems, valued at approximately \$2,700,000. This brings the overall program total to \$3,690,000, in approved financing. While the program offers property assessed clean energy financing to all feasible solar technologies, there has been a clear shift toward solar electric. Approximately 91% of the committed program financing will be for PV installations, adding 1.15MW of capacity to the grid. By encouraging property owners to contact several solar contractors and evaluate each based on price, experience, and quality, the value being offered has remained high while costs have steadily decreased. This open market approach is contributing to the uptake in solar electric across the municipality. In addition to private residences, the program is also open to charities, cooperatives, not-for-profits, and places of worship. A notable place of worship that recently installed a 47.6 kW system through the Solar City Program, is the Woodlawn United Church in Dartmouth.

CANSIA Hires in Nova Scotia



Lyle Golberg, the new Nova Scotia-based Policy and Regulatory Affairs manager for the Canadian Solar Industries Association (CANSIA), presented recently on the organization's policy goals for Nova Scotia at the 2018 Bright Business Conference held in Halifax. In the presentation, Lyle noted that consumption of solar electricity is limited in NS by Nova Scotia Power's 100 kW net metering cap, the requirement for generation and load to be in the same distribution zone, and the absence of a solar garden model. Lyle recommended that Nova Scotia introduce more sizing and siting flexibility by removing the current 100 kW net-metering cap, allowing for virtual settlement of generation and load, and clarifying rules for "third parties." Lyle also recommended that the next Iteration of NSP's IRP in 2019-2020 should consider widespread uptake of smart-metering, storage & electric vehicles and focus on 2030 GHG and Renewable Electricity Goals. For more information on CANSIA visit their website at www.cansia.ca

Sign up for the Solar City Program today at: <https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/solar-projects>



Antigonish Community Energy Coop Gears up for Next Group-Solar-Buy

The Antigonish Community Energy Co-op has been hosting a number of information sessions as it gears up and seeks residential and business participants for its next group-buy solar project. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/AntigonishCommunityEnergyCoop/events/>

The ACE Co-op is a volunteer run not-for-profit organization that organizes bulk purchases of solar panels for residential, commercial and community buildings. Members of the co-op commit to a 2% Anti-Poverty Fund level on all group purchases that will help a community organization with an installation.

For more information on ACE Co-op visit: <http://www.acecoop.ca/>

New Solar Assist Platform will help Nova Scotians Navigate Changing Solar Landscape in NS

R&G Strategic Communications together with the Clean Foundation and support from the Nova Scotia Department of Energy is creating a new platform called SolarAssist to provide a portal that will help Nova Scotians “go solar” and navigate the rapidly growing solar industry in the province.

According to R&G Director of Strategy, Sarah Riley Rosen, the firm recently completed a survey and plans to role out an initial version of the platform by the end of October. An updated and enhanced version of the website will be released at the end of November.

The platform will be available at <https://solarassist.ca>

Solar Homes Launches

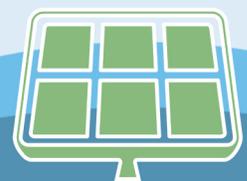
The new Efficiency Nova Scotia SolarHomes program that provides up to a \$10,000 rebate for residential PV installations launched this summer in Nova Scotia. The program is funded by the Government of Canada’s \$56 Million-dollar commitment to Nova Scotia from the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund.

The program provides a \$1/watt rebate for Nova Scotia homeowners to install eligible solar PV systems using installers approved by Efficiency Nova Scotia. For more information visit <https://www.energyncs.ca/service/solarhomes/>

Solar Nova Scotia Elects New Officers

Solar Nova Scotia has elected new officers in 2018 with Christie Chaplin-Saunders as the new chair and David Brushett as the new Vice Chair. Christie is a lifelong entrepreneur and mother of two Olympic sailors who brings new ideas, vision and leadership to the organization. David Brushett is an Efficiency Nova Scotia On-site Energy Manager for Halifax Regional Municipality, director of Solar Scotia Energy CEDIF and former energy manager for Cape Breton Regional Municipality and NSCC Faculty Member, Gord Wilkie and retired CPA Hamish Malkin stepped down from their roles as Chair and Vice Chair respectively after leading Solar NS through an exciting period of growth for both the organization and industry in general. Gord will continue his involvement as a member of the board. Solar Nova Scotia thanks them for their excellent contributions.

Dan MacKay and Don Roscoe remain the Secretary and Treasurer of the organization.



Indigenous Communities Harvesting the Power of the Sun!

Kings South MLA Keith Irving recently announced that 11 Mi'kmaq organizations had their applications approved in the 2nd round of the Solar for Community Buildings Program. This included 10 proposed 72 kW installations and 1 proposed 48 kW installation. <https://www.kingscountynews.ca/business/first-nations-communities-on-the-front-line-of-solar-power-adoption-252216/>

The Solar for Community Buildings Program, created by the NS Department of Energy and administered by the Clean Foundation, enables eligible community groups and organizations to generate up to 75 kW of solar PV electricity on their roofs or properties and to sell it to their utility under a 20-year contract. The program will re-open to applications from non-profit, municipal, indigenous, and educational organizations again in 2019. For more information visit: <https://novascotia.ca/solar/solar-electricity-community-buildings.asp>

New 40kW Solar Installation Coming Soon to NSCC Ivany Campus

The Ivany campus is excited to announce that they will soon begin construction on their 40 kW Solar for Community Buildings project. (<https://energy.novascotia.ca/renewables/solar-energy/>).

The installation is being done by Doctor Solar and Atlantica. The south-facing array will consist of approximately 120 Canadian Solar Panels at 340 Watts each. The site of the project is shown here.



NSCC Students to Undertake International Solar Projects!

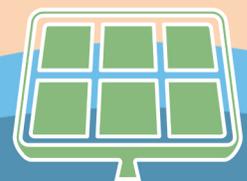
NSCC International engages faculty, staff and students on international learning opportunities. This year there will be two solar related opportunities for faculty and students.

The Weather Station Project will provide an opportunity for students from the School of Trades and Technology to travel to Grenada in the Caribbean to participate in a two-week program in May to design and implement extensions to environmental data acquisition systems on the island.

The Kenya Solar Project is a faculty and student international learning program with the purpose to use innovative solar energy solutions at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic (KCNP) in Mombasa, Kenya. The program will provide an opportunity for students to create a “solar bench” where students, staff and the community could charge small devices such as mobile phones.

The Kenya project of building a solar powered USB / phone charging bench comes from the two built at the Ivany campus in Dartmouth.

Both benches were built from trees that had fallen on the campus site. They consist of solar panels, battery, charge controller and USB ports. Visit: <http://international.nsc.ca/>



Meet our Newest Corporate Member



Solar Ascent specializes in designing and installing solar energy systems for homeowners and businesses in Nova Scotia. They were trained at Solar Energy International, are NABCEP certified, and they have a rich background in renovations contracting throughout HRM. They know the importance of quality workmanship and attention to detail.

Based in Halifax, Solar Ascent promises to work with you to design a system that is customized to your home and your needs. Renewable energy is an exciting new world that can be intimidating at times, but at Solar Ascent, they're making solar simple!

Contact: john@solarascent.ca | solarascent.ca | (902) 225-3905

Special Thanks to all our Corporate Members!



To sign up for a corporate or individual membership please visit us at our website www.solarms.ca

