

May 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)From the Solar Nova Scotia Canadian Solar Home Design Manual, "House Design & Planning".

Towards a 100% renewable energy future for Nova Scotia

Solar Nova Scotia's newsletter provides news of Solar Nova Scotia, of the progress of solar and net zero energy in Nova Scotia over the past two months, of coming solar-related events, and links to articles about the changing context for solar and net zero energy across Canada and around the world.

Upcoming Solar Nova Scotia courses in Sydney

Solar Basics: On Friday, June 23, from 6:30 - 9:00 PM, Don Roscoe will be giving Solar Nova Scotia's solar basics course at the James McConnell Library (50 Falmouth St). The course will cover solar electricity, hot water, and hot air, as well as passive solar. Solar Basics is free, and all are welcome.

Passive Solar Construction: On Saturday, June 24, from 9:00 – 5:00, Don Roscoe will give a one-day course for carpenters and contractors interested in learning how to build passive solar homes on air recirculated heat storage slabs. This course will be given at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre. It will cover: passive solar basics; ground insulation (instead of frost walls); heat storage slab construction (techniques and details); air recirculation and filtration systems (design and components); and system balancing and controls. Registration is \$60 for individuals, \$80 for couples, and \$50 for students and seniors. Coffee will be provided, but not lunch. Participants can lunch at the adjoining Kijus Restaurant.

For more information see <http://solarns.ca/sydney>

Solar News for April and May



Natalie Leonard's Passive Design Solutions held an Open House April 15 to demonstrate that a Net Zero passive house can have an equal or better market value than a code built house. [The 2,290 sq ft house in Long Lake Village, Halifax](#) was built from a Passive Design Solutions stock plan, adjusted for the developers' covenants. The house is on the market for \$484,900. With heating costs estimated at \$250 a year, the house exceeds the passive house standard.



Nova Scotia's government [has announced \\$700,000 from its Smart Energy Innovation Program](#) to support projects of seven Nova Scotia renewable energy researchers or businesses. The projects focus on integrating renewable energy into the grid and ways to store and manage energy efficiently. [Green Power Labs](#) and SUNLINX will receive \$500,000 to work with Nova Scotia Power and other partners to integrate solar power and energy storage in a building controlled by smart software and internet communications.



The EAC [hosted an environmental issues election debate](#) at Dalhousie University on May 16. Clean energy and climate change were key issues addressed. You can watch the debate on the [EAC facebook page](#).

Joe Rogers, Nova Scotia's building code coordinator, spoke about the NS Building & Energy Code on May 17. This was part of the EAC Built Environment Committee's "[Aiming for Net Zero" Speakers Series](#).

The EAC will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Alderney Landing Library on June 19 at 6pm. Everyone is welcome.

Nova Scotia Capital's Arthur Bagely told CBC Radio/Information Morning's Don Connolly that the [Solar Scotia Energy Inc.'s](#) Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) is attracting investors, particularly from the 50+ age group, who are interested in locking in their energy costs for the next 25 – 30 years.

The Nova Scotia Government launched a limited "[Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Program](#)" in April. "We're excited about this new opportunity for community groups and First Nations to generate solar electricity at their buildings," said Gord Wilkie, chair of Solar Nova Scotia. Gord was in Antigonish for the launch. "[This is a great way for communities to be involved and learn first-hand about the benefits of solar energy.](#)"

The program allows all Nova Scotian non-profit organizations to compete for 20-year contracts to generate electricity from a maximum of 50kW of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and sell to their utilities. Applicants must fill in a [workbook/application form](#), in which they will be expected to describe how they

organizations are encouraged to complete their workbook while awaiting further news.



The Smart Grid Innovation Network (SGIN) hosted an Energy Innovations Forum in Fredericton, New Brunswick, April 4 and 5. [See the Press Release for the Forum](#). Among presenters were Patty Durand, President & CEO of the non-profit American [Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative](#); Frédéric Delrieu, the e-mobility product lead for [Volvo's Nova Bus](#), makers of electric buses; and Alexandre Pavlovski of Halifax's [Green Power Labs](#).

The Canadian clean-tech industry will miss out on \$ billions in revenue and Canada will miss out on thousands of new jobs if the funds promised in the Federal budget are not made available urgently according to the [2017 Canadian Clean Technology Industry Report published by Analytics Advisors](#).

The Canadian House Builders Association presented a webinar on its [Net Zero home labelling program](#) on April 27, which CHBA members can access from the webinar archive.



[Smart Grid Canada's annual conference](#) will be held this year at the Chelsea Hotel in Toronto from September 11-13, 2017. A detailed conference program will be published soon.

[Green Energy Futures](#) is a Canadian multi-media series documenting the clean energy revolution as it gains momentum. It has produced 169 episodes to date. A recent episode in this series is about Landmark's Net Zero Energy house in Edmonton (see below).

Alberta

The Alberta government will provide up to \$36 million over two years for [a rebate program to encourage rooftop solar panels on homes and businesses](#).

Edmonton's mayor was among those who showed up for the launch of Landmark's Net Zero Energy 1,230 sq.ft. house, priced to sell in Edmonton at \$399,737. "The price difference between a standard Landmark home and the net-zero home is not that much. The choice could be as simple as choosing a 1,200 sq. foot net-zero home or a slightly larger 1,500 sq. foot home for close to the same price. But only one model has its utilities paid for life!" [The house has Landmark's first "0" Gigajoule EnerGuide sticker](#).



Solar Alberta offers two [SEI Grid-Direct Solar Training Courses in July](#).

BC

350+ leaders from 105 municipalities from 12 countries. Of these, more than a dozen municipalities have, like Vancouver, committed to reaching 100% renewable energy.

[Vancouver will now require any new building for which a change in existing existing land use regulations is being requested to build to net zero energy standards.](#)

Ontario

The Endeavour Centre is offering a new full-time sustainable renovation program, from September 5 until December 22, in Peterborough. The program is open to students with or without construction experience. More details are available on the [program's web page](#).



Around the World

[A Bloomberg New Energy Finance \(BNEF\) report](#) says electric cars in Europe and North America will be cheaper to buy and to operate than gas cars within eight years.

USA

[Elliot Negin](#) thinks Trump's Koch-funded appointees will have difficulty stalling clean energy's momentum in the US. Too many states are moving forward despite the rolling back of federal programs.

The Arizona Utility, [Tucson Electric Power \(TEP\)](#), has signed a deal to buy solar power at below 3 cents per kWh, another sign that a shift to renewables has become "[unstoppable](#)."

The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) will hold "[Grid Evolution Summit – A National Town Meeting](#)" on the future of electricity at the Washington DC Hilton from July 25 - 27, 2017.

In the context of the Summit, SEPA will provide [a workshop on Tuesday, July 25th on Distributed Energy Resources \(DER\) Fundamentals.](#)



[The 12th Annual North American Passive House Conference](#), "Optimizing the Path to Zero Energy Construction & Communities" will take place in Seattle Washington Sept. 27 – Oct. 1.

UK

British fund manager, BMO Global Asset Management, is divesting itself of its shares in fossil fuel companies. BMO is excluding companies with fossil fuel reserves from its responsible funds range.

Sweden

See the update on Sweden in [Global Buildings Performance Network \(GBPM\): Building Policies for a Better World](#) about how Sweden will work towards net zero emissions by 2045 ([Solar NS Newsletter March 2017](#)) in the building sector. “The package of measures supporting energy renovations range from mandatory building codes that target renovation, energy taxes, mandatory and voluntary labelling schemes and education and training schemes.”

India

[Indian solar power prices have undercut fossil fuel prices and hit a record low.](#)

Jordan

[The first solar-powered refugee camp in the world is now connected.](#) Solar is providing electricity to about 20,000 of the 35,000 Syrian refugees in the Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan’s remote desert and will soon provide power to all residents.

China

[The world's largest floating PV power plant \(40MW\)](#), has been successfully connected to the grid in Huainan, a coal-rich city in south Anhui province.



Sierra Leone

[Solar Era Holdings](#), an independent power producer based in Sierra Leone, is seeking EPC contractors for a 5 MW PV project in Bo, the second largest city in the country. Interested project developers must submit their offers by June 16, 2017.

Iran

The recent Iranian presidential election campaign reflected a growing commitment to addressing pollution by supporting renewable energy. [In February, Iran inaugurated a solar plant with two 7 MW units. In April, it inaugurated a 10 MW plant.](#) By 2018, the Renewable Energy Organisation of Iran (SUNA) hopes to attract \$10 billion of direct private investment for wind and solar, and by 2025, \$60 billion. German, Italian, Indian, Korean, and Japanese energy companies are all checking out the opportunities.



The solar powered pontoon boat, Firefly, is available for free tours, rentals, etc. Built in 2010, rigged with a homemade solar panel in 2011, it's a great boat for fishing and the roof can be used as a diving board. For more information call Dan Baker at 902-430-5501 or email him at vmdano@gmail.com.

Other news!

If you have solar news, particularly Nova Scotia solar news, please share it with us at woolfrey@chebucto.ns.ca.

Thanks from your newsletter team: Alison, Michael, and Joy.

Solar Nova Scotia Membership

Solar Nova Scotia has three kinds of members:

Ordinary members receive the newsletter, may volunteer, and can attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Contributing members and Corporate members, in addition, provide important financial support for Solar Nova Scotia's work.

All members are welcome to join in the solar conversation on Friday evenings around 5:00 PM at the Lions Head Tavern and Grill, corner of Robie and Sullivan Streets.

To renew or to become a member please see www.solarns.ca/about-us/Become-a-Member. Alternatively, you can send your information and, for contributing and corporate members, a cheque to: Solar Nova Scotia, 83 Old Scotts Road, McGrath's Cove, N.S. B3Z 3V2.

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