



POWERING NOVA SCOTIA'S ENERGY FUTURE

Policy Priorities 2026

A collaborative roadmap for customer-owned energy,
electrification and customer choice



Why This Matters

Nova Scotia has an opportunity to become Canada's leader in customer-owned clean energy.

Over the past decade, Nova Scotia has emerged as a Canadian leader in customer-owned clean energy. More than 13,000 customers now participate in net metering¹, businesses and communities are investing in solar energy, and the Province has built a strong policy framework to support customer-owned energy.

Now it's time to turn those plans into action. By protecting policy certainty, implementing Nova Scotia Power's Distributed Energy Resource Integration Roadmap³, advancing electrification, delivering on Clean Power Plan⁷ commitments, and strengthening regional collaboration⁶, Nova Scotia can improve affordability, enhance energy security, attract investment, and create skilled jobs.

This publication outlines Solar Nova Scotia's policy recommendations to strengthen affordability, energy security, customer choice, and economic growth through customer-owned clean energy. We look forward to working with governments, regulators, industry, and communities to build a more affordable, resilient, and customer-powered electricity system.

David Brushett, P.Eng.

Chair, Solar Nova Scotia



Five Priorities for a Stronger Energy Future

A practical roadmap to strengthen affordability, energy security, customer choice, and economic growth.

Protect Net Metering

Provide long-term policy certainty. Protect investment confidence and customer choice.

Implement the DER Integration Roadmap³

Move from planning to implementation. Modernize the electricity system and unlock customer-owned energy.

Advance Electrification

Grow electricity use in transportation, buildings, and industry. Improve affordability and energy security.

Deliver the Clean Power Plan⁷

Implement existing commitments. Accelerate community solar, commercial solar, and customer-owned battery storage.

Strengthen Regional Collaboration⁶

Work with Atlantic partners to build a more integrated electricity system that improves reliability, affordability, and opportunities for customer-owned energy.



Solar Ascent, Riverport Community Centre

AT A GLANCE



13,000+

Net-Metering Customers¹

5

Policy Priorities

2030

Implementation horizon

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



✓ **Lower electricity costs**

✓ **Greater energy security**

✓ **Increased Private Investment**

✓ **Skilled jobs**

Protecting Policy Certainty

Net Metering and the Right to Self-Generate

Long-term policy certainty is the foundation of private investment and industry confidence.

Why It Matters

Stable net metering policy has enabled more than 13,000 Nova Scotians¹ to invest in customer-owned clean energy while supporting local jobs, customer choice, and private investment.

Long-term policy certainty will encourage continued investment, strengthen industry confidence, and give customers the certainty they need to invest in customer-owned clean energy.

Solar Nova Scotia Recommends

- ✓ **Protect** existing net-metering customers from retroactive changes.
- ✓ **Affirm** the right of Nova Scotians to self generate.
- ✓ **Develop** a long-term roadmap for net metering.
- ✓ **Ensure** future changes are transparent, collaborative and evidence-based.
- ✓ **Establish** a permanent government-industry advisory committee.



Nova Sun Power, HRM Mackintosh Depot

KEY FACTS



13,000+

Net-Metering Customers¹

655 MW

Forecast Net-Metering Capacity by 2036²

27 kW

Residential self-generation limit

BENEFITS



- ✓ **Investment Certainty**
- ✓ **Customer Choice**
- ✓ **Increased Private Investment**
- ✓ **Skilled jobs**

Unlocking Distributed Energy

Implementing the DER Integration Roadmap³

Modern compensation and procurement mechanisms will unlock the full value of distributed energy.

Why It Matters

Nova Scotia Power developed the Distributed Energy Resource Integration Roadmap³ at the direction of the Nova Scotia Energy Board to help integrate customer-owned energy into the electricity system.

The next step is implementing the policies, compensation, and procurement mechanisms needed to turn the roadmap into action.



Watts Up Solar, Lake Banook Project

Solar Nova Scotia Recommends

✓ **Implement** the DER Integration Roadmap³ with clear timelines, accountability, and annual public reporting.

✓ **Develop** fair compensation mechanisms that recognize the value customer-owned energy provides to the electricity system.

✓ **Establish** transparent procurement pathways that allow distributed resources to compete alongside traditional utility investments.

✓ **Create** long-term procurement and incentive programs that provide investment certainty for customer-owned batteries and other distributed energy resources.

✓ **Launch** a 50 MW customer-owned battery aggregation program by 2030 as part of Nova Scotia's commitment to approximately 400 MW of battery storage.⁷

KEY FACTS

12

DER Integration strategies³

28

Implementation initiatives³

50 MW

Customer battery aggregation target



BENEFITS



✓ **Faster DER integration**

✓ **Smarter electricity system**

✓ **Greater customer participation**

✓ **Lower long-term system costs**

Advancing Electrification

Growing Clean Electricity Use

Strategic electrification can improve affordability, strengthen energy security, and maximize the value of Nova Scotia's clean electricity investments.

Why It Matters

Nova Scotia is preparing for a major expansion of renewable electricity generation. To maximize the value of these investments, electricity demand must grow alongside clean electricity supply through transportation, buildings, and industry.

Electrification reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels, strengthens energy security, lowers emissions, and spreads electricity system costs across more electricity sales, helping improve long-term affordability.

Solar Nova Scotia Recommends

✓ **Develop** a Provincial Electrification Strategy with measurable targets for 2035 and 2040.

✓ **Modernize** the demand-side management cost-effectiveness framework so beneficial electrification can compete fairly with traditional energy efficiency investments.

✓ **Expand** support for electric vehicles, heat pumps, electric water heating, and managed charging.

✓ **Integrate** electrification into load forecasting, generation procurement, transmission and distribution planning, and demand-side management.

✓ **Leverage** federal funding and incentive programs to accelerate electrification while minimizing provincial costs.



Highmark Power, HRM Fast Charger, Upper Tantallon

KEY FACTS



2.4 GW

New onshore wind planned by 2035⁴

Transportation • Buildings • Industry

Priority sectors for electrification

2022

Strategic electrification added to NS's demand-side management legislation⁵

BENEFITS



✓ **Lower electricity costs**

✓ **Greater energy security**

✓ **Reduced fossil fuel dependence**

✓ **Better utilization of clean electricity**

Delivering the Clean Power Plan

Advancing Community Solar, Commercial Solar, and Customer-Owned Energy

Customer-owned energy strengthens grid resilience, expands customer choice, attracts private investment, and helps Nova Scotia deliver on its Clean Power Plan commitments.

Why It Matters

Nova Scotia's Clean Power Plan⁷ established achievable commitments for community solar, commercial net-metered solar, and battery storage. Delivering these commitments will diversify electricity supply, strengthen local businesses, increase customer participation, and complement utility-scale renewable energy investments.

Customer-owned energy can also reduce pressure on the transmission and distribution system, improve resilience, and ensure more Nova Scotians benefit directly from the clean energy transition.

Solar Nova Scotia Recommends

✓ **Deliver** the Clean Power Plan commitment to develop 50–100 MW of community solar by 2030.⁷

✓ **Support** the deployment of approximately 200 MW of new commercial net-metered solar by 2030⁷.

✓ **Launch** a 50 MW customer-owned battery aggregation program by 2030 as part of Nova Scotia's broader commitment to 400 MW of battery storage⁷.

✓ **Evaluate** distributed energy alongside traditional utility investments when they can provide equal or lower system costs.

✓ **Publish** annual progress reports on distributed energy deployment to ensure accountability and transparency.



Natural Forces Solar, Oxford Frozen Foods

KEY FACTS

50-100 MW

Community solar by 2030⁷

200 MW

Commercial net-metered solar by 2030⁷

50 MW

Customer battery aggregation



BENEFITS

✓ **Greater customer choice**

✓ **Increased private investment**

✓ **Improved grid resilience**

✓ **Local jobs and economic development**



Working Together on Atlantic Canada's Electricity Future

Supporting Regional Collaboration and Distributed Energy

As Atlantic Canada's electricity system evolves, customer-owned energy should be part of the regional solution, not an afterthought.

Why It Matters

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have agreed to explore closer regional electricity planning, including the potential creation of a Maritime regional system operator⁶.

Closer regional cooperation has the potential to improve reliability, reduce costs and make better use of renewable electricity across provincial borders. As this work moves forward, customer-owned energy technologies, including rooftop solar, batteries, electric vehicles and flexible demand, should be fully considered alongside traditional utility infrastructure from the outset.

Solar Nova Scotia Recommends

✓ **Ensure** customer-owned energy resources, including rooftop solar, batteries, electric vehicles and flexible demand, are fully considered in the planning and decision-making of any future regional electricity system operator.

✓ **Require** regional electricity planning to evaluate customer-owned energy resources alongside traditional utility investments.

✓ **Include** distributed energy experts and industry representatives in regional advisory and technical working groups.

✓ **Work** together to remove barriers that prevent customer-owned energy from participating across Atlantic Canada..



Atlantic Canada Solar Summit, Halifax, NS

KEY FACTS

3 Provinces

Exploring closer regional collaboration⁶



1 Regional Vision

Potential Maritime system operator⁶

Customer-Owned Energy

Must be considered in regional planning

BENEFITS

✓ **Better regional planning**

✓ **Lower long-term system costs**

✓ **Greater energy security**

✓ **More Customer Choice**



References

¹ Nova Scotia Power Inc. *2025 Net Metering Report*. Halifax, NS, 2026.

² Nova Scotia Power Inc. *2026 Load Forecast*. Halifax, NS, 2026.

³ Nova Scotia Power Inc. *Distributed Energy Resource Integration Roadmap*. Prepared at the direction of the Nova Scotia Energy Board. Halifax, NS.

⁴ Nova Scotia Independent Electricity System Operator *2026 10-Year System Outlook*. Filed with the Nova Scotia Energy Board, 2026.

⁵ Province of Nova Scotia. *Public Utilities Act (R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 380)*, as amended in 2022 to expand demand-side management to include strategic electrification and demand response.

⁶ Governments of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. *Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Regional Electricity Co-operation and System Integration*. July 23, 2026.

⁷ Province of Nova Scotia. *Nova Scotia's Clean Power Plan*. Halifax, NS, 2023.





A Stronger Energy Future for Nova Scotia

Together, we can build a more affordable, resilient, and customer-powered electricity system for Nova Scotia.

Solar Nova Scotia looks forward to working with governments, regulators, utilities, Indigenous communities, municipalities and industry to build a more affordable, resilient and customer-powered electricity system.



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