

An Assessment of the Current State of Policy to Enable Offshore Wind Development in Atlantic Canada





Scope of Work

Stantec, in collaboration with Energy + Environmental Economics (E3) has been engaged to complete an integration and transmission study to address knowledge gaps and help to realize Atlantic Canada's offshore wind potential.

Project broken out into three phases over 3 years: path to market evaluation, characterization of offshore wind resource potential, evaluation of investment and operation efforts.

An assessment of the policy environment to support the development of offshore wind was the first task of the first phase of the overall scope.

Net Zero Atlantic and NRCan are the project administrators and have engaged Stantec and E3 to complete the work. Funding is provided by Net Zero Atlantic and supported by NRCan.

net-zero
atlantic



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada



Federal Policy Overview

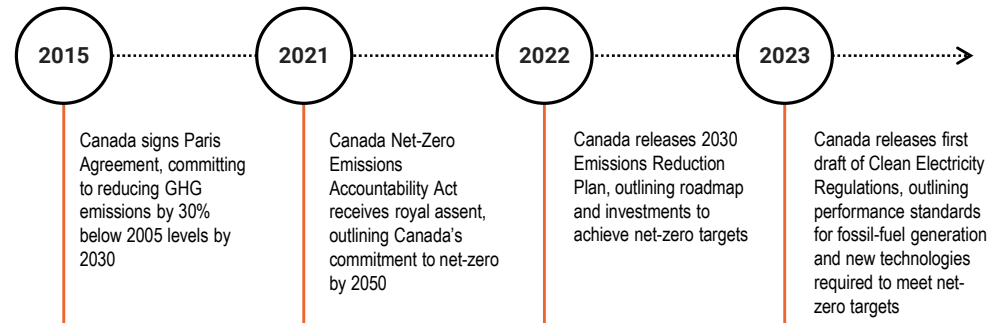
Policies are broadly aimed at reducing GHG emissions, with targets of net-zero by 2050

2030 Emissions Reduction Plan outlines roadmap and planned investments to guide emissions reduction efforts

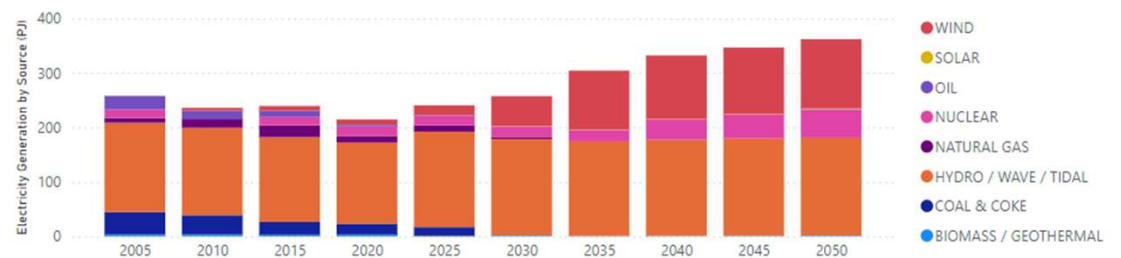
Clean Electricity Regulations outline performance standards to reduce GHG emissions from fossil fuel-generated electricity

Bill C-49 recently received royal assent

Canadian Federal Policy Development



Electricity Generation by Source for Atlantic Provinces, Under Canada Net-Zero Scenario





Nova Scotia

Current policy environment focused broadly on phasing out fossil fuel generation sources

Renewable Electricity Regulations

- Specific targets for penetration of renewable generation until 2030

Acts and Regulations outline standards and targets for penetration of renewable generation sources and GHG emissions reductions

Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act

- Sets GHG emissions reduction targets, including net-zero by 2050
- Outlines goals respecting climate change mitigation and adaptation and GHG emissions reductions

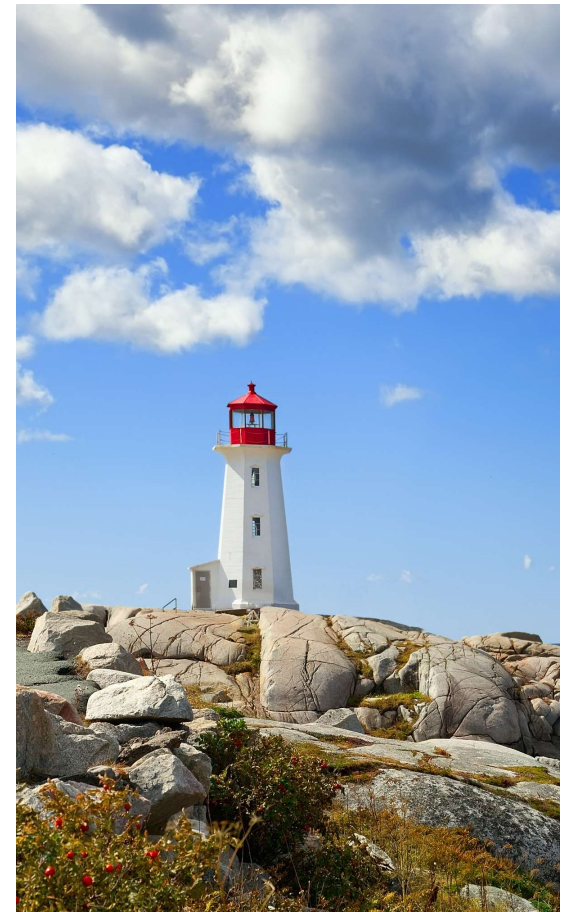
Significant restructuring of regulation of electricity in 2024 via Energy Reform Act

Segregation of NSUARB into Nova Scotia Energy Board and Nova Scotia Energy and Regulatory Boards Tribunal

Creation of Independent Energy System Operator

Bill C-49 in collaboration with Federal Government

Establishes new regulatory framework for offshore renewable energy projects in Nova Scotia





Prince Edward Island



Current policy environment broadly focused on reduction of GHG emissions within other sectors

Province maintains a target of net-zero by 2040

Renewable Energy Act

- Rules for renewable energy generators and net-metering agreements
- Foster emergence of new energy suppliers and enhance reliability of grid

Province's high penetration of wind generation positions electricity system as highly renewable

Net-Zero Carbon Act

- Mandates Minister to prepare annual reports on climate change risks and progress towards targets
- Focus areas including sustainability, energy transition, mitigation
- Sets target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040

Province details importance of continued investment in wind energy as an integral part of achieving net-zero targets

2040 Net Zero Framework

- Sets forth target of net-zero emissions by 2040 and strategies to achieve target
- Continued and future investment in wind energy
- Exploring waste to energy options – biofuels
- Investments in next generation technologies



New Brunswick

Policy to date is focused broadly on phasing out fossil fuel generation sources

Regulation 2015-60, pursuant to Electricity Act

- Objectives to source 40% of electricity from renewable energy
- Two programs launched to stimulate renewable energy projects
 - Small-scale initiatives – procurement set-asides
 - Large industrial – guaranteed price for generated renewable energy

Acts and Regulations outline standards and targets for penetration of renewable generation sources and GHG emissions reductions

Climate Change Act

- Sets GHG emissions targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050
- Climate Change Fund established to support climate change initiatives

Path forward strategy released in 2023 details goal of increasing wind power & Province working to understand and incent development of clean hydrogen production

Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027

- Outlined target of net-zero emissions by 2050
- Development of Clean Energy Strategy by 2025 for achieving net-zero electricity emissions by 2035



Newfoundland & Labrador



Policy environment establishes clear intent to developing offshore wind resources

2021 Renewable Energy Plan

- Outlines net-zero targets and specific actions to enable development of offshore wind
- Hydrogen Development Action Plan released in 2024 to understand and establish green hydrogen industry

Significant milestone in 2022 with lifting of wind development moratorium in the province

MOU signed with Federal Government establishing provincial regulatory oversight on offshore wind projects

Bill C-49 in collaboration with Federal Government

Establishes new regulatory framework for offshore renewable energy projects in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges in Policy Environment

Political Environment

Change in governing party = change in priorities
Recent provincial, US federal elections

Siloed Efforts Amongst Atlantic Provinces

Each province has plans and strategies
Broad, regional approach appears absent

Technical Industry Challenges

Pace of electrification uptake
Changing design standards

Opportunities for Policy to Drive Offshore Wind

Continued Collaboration and Consistency

Provincial plans lay foundation for regional collaboration
Collaboration with NE governors

Align Interpretation of Sector Drivers and Priorities

Electrification presents significant opportunity
Incentivize offshore wind implementation
Available and adequate labour force

Thank you

