

September 11, 2018

Ms. Raissa Marks, Executive Director
New Brunswick Environmental Network
Raissa.marks@nben.ca

Dear Ms. Marks:

This is in response to your email "Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy" and the attached report that you sent to Premier Brian Gallant. As the Department of Energy and Resource Development is responsible for the Energy portfolio, Premier Gallant forwarded your email to us for consideration.

Thank you for the significant amount of research and analysis in preparing your report. The Province and NB Power have been working together to refine, develop and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy programs through the actions identified in New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan. We are also working together to meet Federal green house gas emission regulations in a cost-effective manner for the rate payers of NB.

The Province and NB Power are currently investing up to \$234 million in energy efficiency programming which include funding from the Province, NB Power, and \$51 million from the Federal Government's Low Carbon Economy Fund. This funding is being used by NB Power to offer the following programs that are now fuel agnostic:

- o Total Home Energy Savings
- o Small business lighting
- o Commercial buildings retrofit
- o Industrial Energy Efficiency
- o Low income energy savings; and
- o Home energy reports and efficient product rebates (thermostats, light bulbs, etc.)

The New Brunswick Government also established a target for NB Power to serve 40% of in-province electricity sales from renewable sources by 2020. To help achieve this target there was a requirement for NB Power to issue two requests for expressions of interest for renewable electricity (40MW from Aboriginal Businesses and 40MW from Local Entities). Projects under this program, are now beginning registrations for the Provincial Environmental Assessment process.

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Since 2016, we have seen an increased uptake of NB Power's existing net-metering and embedded generation programs as the costs of the technologies decrease, and the economic conditions make these programs more attractive. The Province has, also made investments in solar projects to test its feasibility for more widespread application to other provincially owned assets in an effort to reduce our carbon footprint.

Thank you for your interest in continuing towards a lower-carbon economy.

Sincerely,



Bill Breckenridge
Assistant Deputy Minister