

## Prince Edward Island Climate Action Report Card, July 8, 2011

Item	Outline	Grade
<b>1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is the provincial climate action plan comprehensive and effective with clear targets, timelines, and follow-up?</li> <li>- Have emissions decreased since 1990?</li> <li>- Have emissions decreased between 2006 and 2009?</li> </ul>	Not all <b>A *</b> Y Y
<b>2. Energy Efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Has a securely funded administrative agency been established to manage targets for and spending on demand-side management?</li> <li>- Are there efficiency programs in place to address all major types of fuel and all sectors (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural)?</li> <li>- Have EnerGuide80 standards been implemented for residential building codes and are they enforced?</li> <li>- Are there stringent commercial building codes?</li> <li>- Are programs in place to support retrofitting to improve efficiency?</li> </ul>	Intended <b>B- **</b>  not all  N N  Y
<b>3. Renewables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Has a provincial policy mandating increased renewable energy been implemented?</li> <li>- Are there effective provincial programs to promote renewable energy, cogeneration and decentralized generation?</li> <li>- Are there policies that encourage the implementation of renewable energy in small, remote, and rural communities?</li> <li>- Has a Feed-in Tariff for community-based renewable energy been implemented?</li> <li>- Are there plans to increase energy storage and balancing capacity on the grid?</li> </ul>	Y <b>B+ ***</b>  not all  some  N  small project
<b>4. Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there a public transit strategy? Is there dedicated funding for public transit?</li> <li>- Is there a rail strategy? Is there dedicated funding for rail transit?</li> <li>- Has there been investment in ports and rail systems to encourage alternatives to car and truck use?</li> <li>- Is there a provincial strategy for reducing sprawl? Do zoning laws encourage compact, mixed-use development?</li> <li>- Is there a program to create financial incentives for use/purchase of low-emitting vehicles or equivalent?</li> <li>- Is mass transit ridership stable and funded appropriately?</li> </ul>	N <b>D ^</b> N N  N N N  Y Y,N
<b>5. Regional Policy, Integration &amp; Cooperation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is the province engaging in regional level dialogue and initiatives that target GHG emissions reductions, increased renewable generation, sustainable transportation, and climate change adaptation?</li> <li>- Are there plans to improve regional grid connectivity to increase opportunities for balancing, storage, and smart grid initiatives that support increased integration of renewables?</li> <li>- Does the province work actively with regional bodies to promote policy consistency in the areas of energy, transportation, and climate?</li> <li>- Does the province contribute to regional capacity to implement policy?</li> </ul>	Y <b>A- ^^</b> Y,N Y  Y  not all <b>^^^</b>  Y

**Overall Grade = B**

## **Progress made**

Through the PEI Energy Corporation, more wind capacity is being developed. Through the Office of Energy Efficiency energy conservation & efficiency programs are being continued.

Electricity Demand Side Management Programs are intended but still to be determined, other than a Commercial Lighting Program.

Provincial funding, although limited, has been applied to public transportation for the first time in 2011.

## **Improvements needed**

1. \* 2010 Update on Climate Action Strategy has not been released to the public.
2. \*\* Mandatory Energy Ratings should be implemented as a minimum program for new construction and re-sale properties. There should also be a Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard in building codes.
3. \*\*\* There should be pilot programs for co-generation and Community Feed-in Tariffs (ComFITs).
4. ^There should be more programs to encourage public transit use, telecommuting, carpooling and bicycling. Better public transportation also helps address poverty issues and employment development for people with disabilities and economic disadvantages.

While total emissions are down from 1990 levels, road transportation emissions have risen by 22%.

5. ^^ There are extensive regional discussions on C.C. adaptation, but PEI's vulnerability must be addressed through provincial action, including land-use policies, managing development in coastal areas, and preventing construction in areas of known vulnerability.

^^^ There is very little regional collaboration on public transportation policy or capacity.

Two other major issues of concern are:

A. the public priority and emphasis on reducing visible electricity prices, instead of reducing electricity costs with conservation and energy efficiency improvements. We must move to an electricity system based on efficiency and renewables, that rewards conservation and that reduces GHGs – at the same time instituting programs to protect those on low income during the transition period.

B. the low gas tax rate. A higher provincial gas tax is needed to cover costs, including health care, associated with gasoline use, plus costs to fund programs for alternatives to fossil fuel transportation. As well, consideration should be given to planning a new fuel tax income structure, for the time when conversion is eventually made to a predominantly electric transportation system.

We realize that these are difficult political issues; it will require vision and determination to resolve them, in order to build a future for Prince Edward Island that will be much less dependent on fossil fuels.

The NEG-ECP Climate Action agreements have made some important progress, and have great potential for even stronger cooperative climate action in these next crucial years.

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## About Us



**The Atlantic Canada Sustainable Energy Coalition (ACSEC)** is an alliance of four community-based environmental organizations that offer expertise in policy research and analysis, project implementation, and public education. Coalition members include: The Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island, The Ecology Action Center in Nova Scotia, The Conservation Council of New Brunswick, and The Sierra Club of Canada – Atlantic Canada Chapter. ACSEC takes action on climate change by promoting a strategy for the adoption of renewable, green energy and improved energy efficiency that is rooted in sound community economic development.



**The Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island (ECO-P.E.I.)** is a community-based action group formed in 1988. ECO-P.E.I.'s goal is to work in partnership with others and the land itself in order to understand and improve the Island environment. Our work centers on education, advocacy and action. On-going projects include The Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project and the ECO-P.E.I. Energy Project. <http://www.ecopei.ca>