

# The Nova Scotia Community Feed-in Tariff (COMFIT) Program

Introduction to the  
COMFIT Program

# Presentation Overview

1. Introduction to COMFIT
2. Community Energy Examples
3. CEDIF-COMFIT process
4. Project Planning
5. Points of Consideration
6. Questions

# Introduction to COMFIT

## An Overview

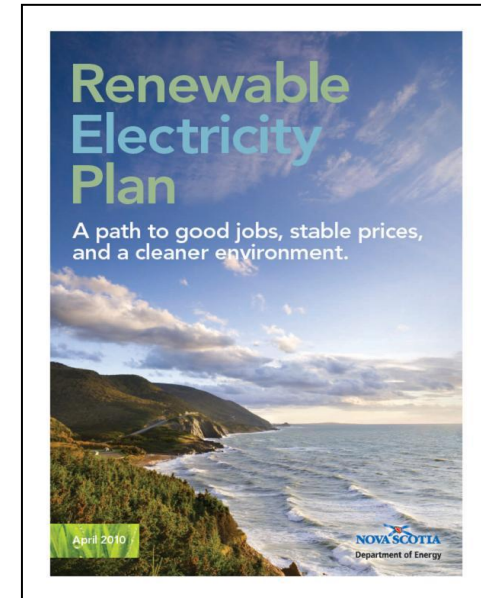
## What is the COMFIT program?

- Nova Scotia now has a feed-in tariff (FIT) for locally-based renewable electricity projects.
- To be eligible, the projects must be community owned and connected to the distribution grid.
- This unique program will promote community power.

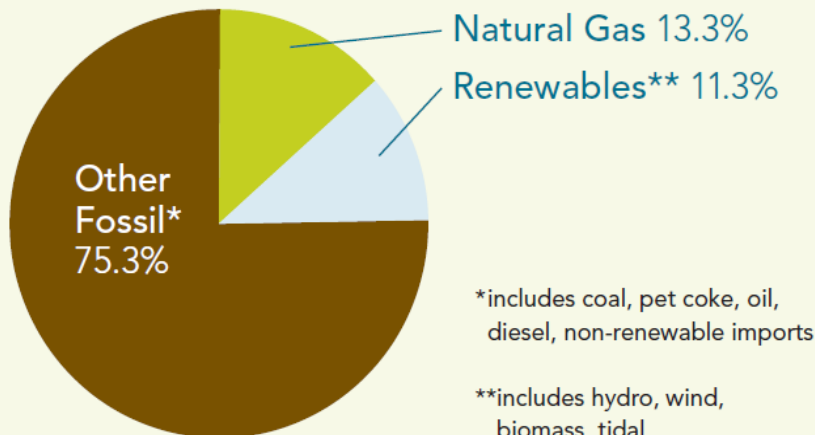


# What is COMFIT?

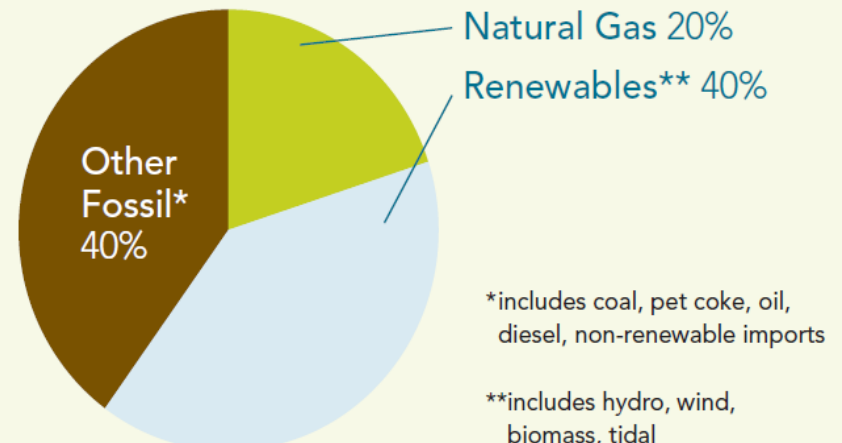
- An opportunity
- Part of the *Renewable Electricity Plan*
  - Enhanced Net Metering
  - Competitive Bidding



Energy Mix 2009



Potential Energy Mix 2020



## A “Made in Nova Scotia” program

- Part of NS Renewable Electricity Plan
- Community-focus
  - At the distribution level
  - Capitalizes on NS resources
- Customized to the Nova Scotian market



# The COMFIT cont'

“The COMFIT is an opportunity to receive an established price per kilowatt hour (kWh) for projects producing electricity from qualifying renewable resources. It is intended to encourage and support the development of renewable electricity projects by community-based groups such as municipalities, First Nations, co-operatives and not-for-profit groups.”

## Groups

- Mi'kmaq band councils
- Municipalities
- CEDIFs
- Not-for-Profits
- Co-operatives
- Universities
- Biomass facilities

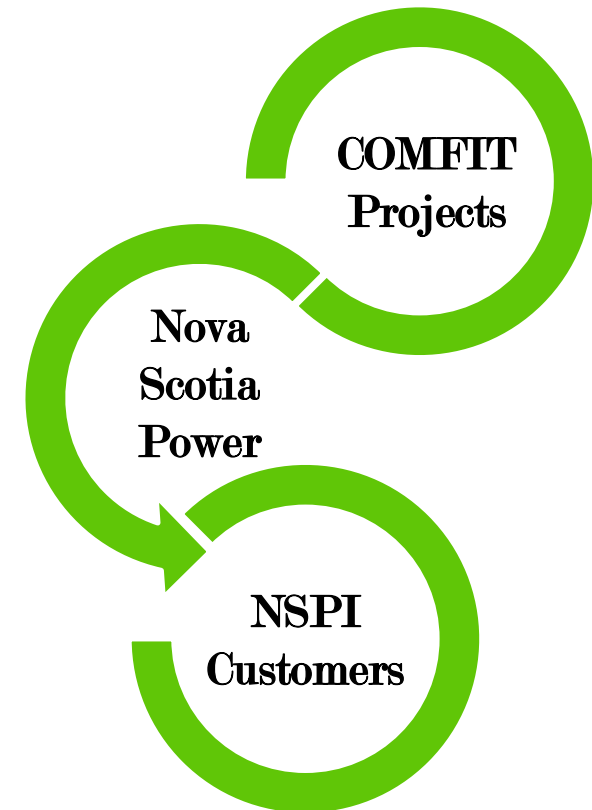
## Technologies

- Biomass combined heat and power
- Small-scale in-stream tidal
- Hydroelectricity
- Wind
  - $\leq$  50 kW
  - $>$  50 kW



# Who Pays for COMFIT?

- Price determined by NS Utility and Review Board (UARB)
- Longer term stabilization of rates is expected through renewable electricity generation



# Project Planning

Making it Reality

# How to Begin

- Gain interest in project
- Begin project planning
  - COMFIT Materials
  - [www.nsrenewables.ca](http://www.nsrenewables.ca)
- [Register your project](#)



# COMFIT Materials

- [The COMFIT Guide](#)
- [Application Overview](#)
- [Directives](#)
- [Supplemental Documents](#)
- [www.nsrenewables.ca](http://www.nsrenewables.ca)
- Tool Kit *(to come)*



# Points of Consideration

Addressing Frequently  
Asked Questions

# Ownership Structure

- Provide evidence of compliance with labelled ownership structure
- Co-ops, NFPs, CEDIFs
  - 25 shareholders residing in municipality
  - Project-specific and pre-existing processes
- Verified through Registry of Joint Stocks Number (*N/A for municipalities*)

# Partnerships

- Must own 51% of the COMFIT project
- Municipalities must own 100% of the project
- Opportunities to contract out to private sector



# Financing

- Municipalities: finance through Temporary Borrowing Resolutions via the MFC
- Business Planning
- Financing Conferences
- Evaluating EOI proposals



# Community Consultation

- See *A COMFIT Entity's Guide to Consultation with the Mi'kmaq* (to come)
- Evidence of support:
  - Municipal Council Resolution OR
  - Other written evidence such as:
    - Surveys (proper sample size relative to community size)
    - Letters of support from community members, leaders, etc.

# Land Ownership

- Provide evidence of land access
  - Rent or lease?
  - Own?
  - Federal, Provincial, Reserve, or Crown land?
- Including land used to connection to distribution point
- [Renewable Land Opportunities Directory](#)

DO YOU HAVE  
LAND TO LEASE? >

# Application Processing

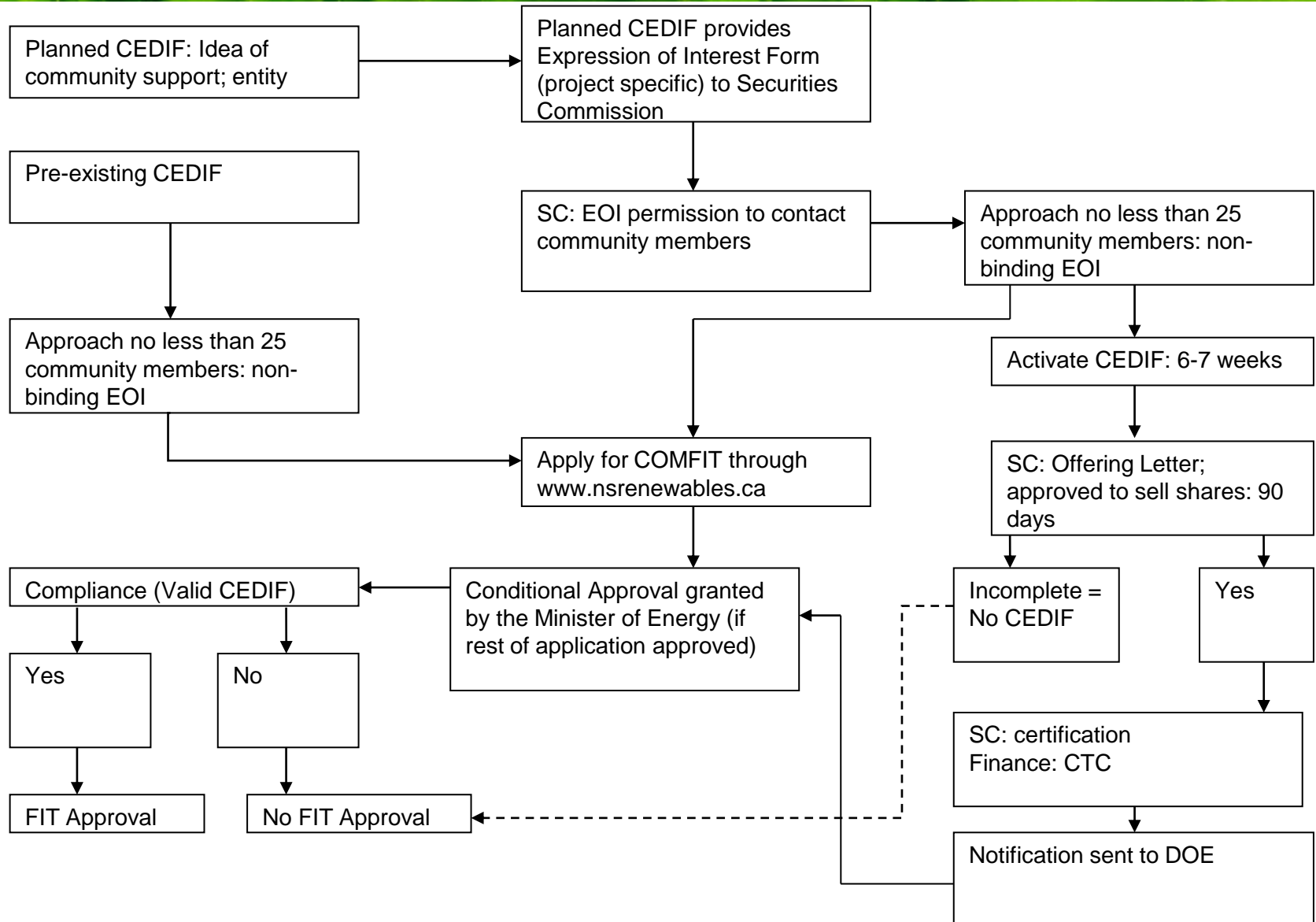


- Applications accepted September 19, 2011
- Time Stamp determines processing
- Internal queue

# COMFIT Process for CEDIF's

## Issues to Consider

# Application Processing



- First the CEDIF must be planned – whether an already formed or new CEDIF
- CEDIF's (potential) will require 25 members from within the community the project is located, or non-binding letters of interest from 25 community members at the time of application.
- Application will granted on the condition that there are 25 members within the community within a specified time frame

# The Application

1. Applicant Registration (available now on [www.nsrenewables.ca](http://www.nsrenewables.ca))
2. Ownership Structure
3. Project Information
4. Site Information
5. Technical Information
6. Business Case & Supporting Information
7. Community Support & Engagement
8. Aboriginal Requirements
9. Environmental Requirements
10. Special Places, Archaeological & Heritage Resource Requirements
11. Other Permits & Approvals
12. Affirming Statement

# Department of Energy

## Roles & Responsibilities

# Roles and Responsibilities

## DOE can:

- ✓ Explain COMFIT to your community
- ✓ Answer questions about the COMFIT
- ✓ Assist in navigating the application process
- ✓ Answer questions
- ✓ Direct you to the other people and other resources

## DOE cannot:

- x Develop your business plan
- x Provide loans or guarantees for the project
- x Evaluate your project's financial or technical feasibility

# Applications

- Register early so DOE can verify your information
- Applications will be accepted starting September 19, 2011
  - Completed online at [www.nsrenewables.ca](http://www.nsrenewables.ca)
  - Needn't be completed in 1 session
- COMFIT Administrator, Krystal Therien, [comfit@gov.ns.ca](mailto:comfit@gov.ns.ca)

# Questions?

[comfit@gov.ns.ca](mailto:comfit@gov.ns.ca)

[www.nsrenewables.ca](http://www.nsrenewables.ca)

