

2009 Energy Strategy
Speaking Notes for
The Hon. Barry Barnet, Minister of Energy
Province of Nova Scotia
Media Centre, One Government Place
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Halifax , Nova Scotia

Check against delivery

Thank you Bruce,

On behalf of Premier Rodney MacDonald and Minister Morse, welcome. Today we are releasing Nova Scotia's 2009 Energy Strategy, and the province's first Climate Change Action Plan.

By 2020, our goal is to make Nova Scotia cleaner, greener, and more prosperous. These are ambitious tasks, especially during uncertain economic times. But we think we have the goals and actions to get us there.

Our Action Plan and Strategy will place caps on emissions, increase the amount of renewable energy being used in Nova Scotia, increase energy efficiency, and encourage growth in offshore and onshore activity.

I will let Minister Morse speak to the Climate Change Action Plan and greenhouse gas caps.

Since you have already heard a lot of the detail – I will simply recap the highlights. First and foremost, I'd like to thank the hundreds of Nova Scotians who took part in the consultation process, and helped create the Strategy.

While the details are many, our approach is simple. We will save money and energy. We will run a cleaner province. And we will benefit from the resources we have in our own backyard.

Saving money and energy is achieved through energy efficiency. We are adopting ambitious targets. We plan to be 20 per cent more energy efficient by 2020. This means greener buildings and energy savings in our homes and workplaces.

It means a transformation of our government-owned buildings, and a new sustainable transportation strategy. It also means an increased focus on all opportunities related to energy efficiency.

Running a cleaner province is about significant upgrades to our transmission system, with our Greening the Grid initiative. And it's about cleaner fuels like natural gas.

Finally, we will benefit from the resources we have in our own backyard. We have opportunities in wind, tidal, biomass and natural gas. We will also put in place new renewable electricity targets, meaning more green energy at the most cost-effective price for Nova Scotians.

And we will be encouraging small-scale production of renewables by an expanded net-metering program. In simple terms, this means people who produce some of their own energy can get credit for more of it against their power bill.

We also want to get more exploration going in our offshore and onshore oil and gas sector. These industries make important contributions - in both revenues and jobs – and we need to encourage new exploration while protecting the environment.

Ladies and gentlemen, Our goal is clear: we are going to be cleaner, greener and more prosperous by 2020. And it is the 2009 Energy Strategy that will help guide provincial energy policy for the next 9 years. We realize that we need to be open to new ideas and new approaches ... that we need to be nimble.

But we also need a solid strategy that gives certainty and a clear direction to the people of Nova Scotia and the businesses that invest here.

This Strategy provides that clear direction. It provides the balance needed so that we can become cleaner, greener and more prosperous in Nova Scotia.

Thank you.