

## Nova Scotia Energy Strategy

### Individual Submission

Planning our energy use into the future can get to be a very complex matter. In view of the Climate Change crisis, it will involve closely examining all forms of energy, especially focussing on renewable and cleaner fuels. I trust that there will be useful submissions from people who have expertise in these areas.

However, there is one area in which very little expertise is needed to impact future energy use and that is in the area of conservation.

I suggest the following measures be taken as soon as possible:

- 1) Reduce all highway maximum speeds to 90 km/hr.  
The most economical speed for most vehicles is 90 km/hr., or a little lower. Therefore any society which is serious about reducing energy consumption needs to regulate driving to that speed and make the necessary life-style adjustments which would be involved. For example, bus schedules would have to change and freight traffic times would need to be adjusted. Inconvenient yes, but definitely doable. What is so special about driving at 100 or 110 km/hr ?

This will involve preparing new highway signage, which will take time and a little expense but within 6 or 9 months, this could become the new practise in Nova Scotia.

- 2) Make it illegal to idle any vehicle longer than 30 seconds. Idling uses more fuel than actually driving the vehicle. This would require the phasing-out of all drive-throughs. Over time, the reduced use of gasoline would be significant.
- 3) Re-introduce and heavily subsidize rail services for freight and passengers. Rail travel is far more economical than driving by car or truck. One example of this would a commuter train from Truro to Halifax, using the present rail line. New lines should be built for commuter train services from Kentville and Bridgewater areas into Halifax. Other lines could be added as the system gains in popularity.

Act NOW !

For too long Nova Scotia (and Canada in general) has stood by and watched other countries make huge strides towards energy conservation. I want action from our political leaders and I want it NOW.

This is a crisis of global proportions and Nova Scotians, I believe, are ready to play their part in making all the necessary adjustments to make a significant difference over time.

Respectfully submitted,

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