

I am a student at Cape Breton University. I am currently studying to be an environmental engineer. I am in my second year at CBU and first semester I was in a class that concentrated on problems in the environment and how we might fix them in the future. We learned about preventive technology, which is key to controlling the environmental problems before they become any worse. Nova Scotia seems to be doing a fine job with setting and maintaining their environmental goals met so far. Since Nova Scotia Power provides about 97% of the electricity for the province and its plants are mostly coal generated it is essential to make sure the coal is low sulfur. Coal may be the cheapest and most abundant resource, but if we are to survive as a healthy province any longer we need to concentrate on using renewable resources for energy. Wind turbines convert the kinetic energy in wind into mechanical energy. This energy can be harvested and used continuously. I know there are some problems with harvesting wind and with the structure of the turbines, but with new designs we could use this renewable resource more abundantly. In the Energy Strategy document it states that the "number of turbines in the province is expected to grow from 40 to over 250 in the next six years." With the costs of each turbine being so high, the amount of area each turbine takes, the inconsistent winds, and the small amount of energy produced from each (compared to coal or oil) I'm wondering how Nova Scotia expects to have more than 6 times more of these massive wind turbines in the province than we currently have. Is it possible to completely rule out the use of non renewable resources? Are the depletions of land and money for this renewable resource going to be greater than the eventual environmental impacts from the burning of non-renewable resources, such as coal?

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