

[The following notes reflect comments made at a public workshop facilitated by Dalhousie oceanographer Bob Fournier in Antigonish on December 18, 2007.

This was one of 13 public workshops held around Nova Scotia to solicit public views on a renewed energy strategy and climate change action plan for Nova Scotia.

The Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act sets ambitious goals for curbing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining a prosperous economy. The government appreciates the time taken by the public to participate at the workshops and give advice on how best to achieve these important goals.

Please note that the views expressed in these notes reflect comments made by participants in the workshop. They have not been verified for factual accuracy.]]

Antigonish, December 18, 2007 **Public consultation Session –**

Participants: 10

The Antigonish session at St. FX attracted academics, university managers, and community at large. Participants were knowledgeable of some technical and administrative issues in conservation and energy technology. Several provided comment on technologies policy and practice. Greater public support in NS was suggested for energy technology R&D, emphasizing the greater value of the “D” aspect (“development”) and tech adoption for our small economy. There was general agreement that Government must lead, but via market incentives. Purchasing of nuclear power was discussed, and generally favored. Concerns that Climate change policy (Kyoto, etc) will cripple economy seen as unsubstantiated. Discussion focused on alternative technologies and technical issues.

Questions:

- Is there possibility of greater power storage ability?
- How does DOE define “biofuels”?
- Does New Brunswick have nuclear power to spare?
- Can offshore royalties be earmarked for conservation and Climate Change.
- Is our Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act in line with Kyoto?

Statements/Concerns/Recommendations:

Overall policy:

- Energy cost increases are needed to send market signal.
- Government should lead, but use market based incentives to promote efficiency and new technology development.
- Use offshore royalties for energy tech development.
- Energy technology adoption is as important as technology development
- NS should increase small R&D grants for students to search best technologies and practices to promote appropriate technologies to adopt in NS.
- 1980s Fed/Provincial cooperation agreement helped build geothermal and solar energy models for successful aquaculture demo. Why not now?
- More distributed (local) power production is best policy.

- Need to involve municipalities more in GHG reduction, first by them measuring and setting targets, then encouraging more sourcing of local power production (e.g. coal seam geothermal). Use Federation of Canadian Municipalities green fund.

Electricity:

- Our best option is to form alliance (NB, PEI, and NS) to expand and use nuclear power (Lepreau). Candu reactors are best technology globally.

Conservation-Efficiency:

- St.FX now continually measures energy use per building, key step to improve conservation and efficiency. Target of 30% improvement in efficiency, in partnership with NRCAN. St. FX will begin using biodiesel (fish oil) in heating