



**Subject:** *Provincial Clean Power Plan Information Report*  
**To:** Corporate and Residential Services Committee  
**Date Prepared:** April 22, 2024  
**Related Motions:** C23(327)  
**Prepared by:** Seonaid MacDonell, Sustainability Coordinator  
**Approved by:** Adam Clarkson, Director Corporate Services

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## Summary

At the October 2023 Regular Meeting of Council, Council moved motion C23(327) requesting staff to bring back an information report regarding Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan. In response to this motion, staff have prepared the following information report.

## Financial Impact Statement

There are no immediate financial impacts associated with this report.

## Recommendation

There is no recommendation associated with this report.

## Recommended Motion

*There is no recommended motion associated with this report.*

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## Background

### NOVA SCOTIA'S 2030 CLEAN POWER PLAN

In accordance with Council direction, Staff have reviewed Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan (the "Plan"). In summary, the Province created a Clean Power Plan which lists the following commitments:

- To phase out coal and reach 80% renewable energy by 2030; and
- To reduce Greenhouse Gases (GHG) from electricity by more than 90% from 2005 levels.

The Plan looks at how to increase our access to local renewable energy and is divided into three categories: New Energy Resources, Smart Grid Management Tools and Resilience and Reliability. Some of the related initiatives for each of these categories are highlighted below; more details can be found in Appendix A.

1. New Energy Resources
  - a. Expansion of wind energy projects, which is considered the lowest cost electricity resource available to Nova Scotia. The Plan targets an increase of onshore wind generation from 20% to 50%.
  - b. Expansion of solar energy projects, demand for which has been growing exponentially. The solar industry is on trend to double its employment levels in 2024.
2. Smart Grid Management Tools
  - a. Improvement of battery technology.
  - b. Electrification of heating and transportation, with the goal of reducing energy bills and increasing use of clean local electricity.
  - c. Potential to manage 150W of energy load through smart EV charging stations, building code updates and standards on heat pumps.

### 3. Resilience and Reliability

- a. Creation of a 345kV reliability transmission line between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.
- b. Consideration of more energy efficient generators.
- c. Retention of coal fired dual fuel ability generator units to ensure sufficient emergency and back-up support is available.

The Plan aims to achieve the following goals:

- Close coal by 2030
- Achieve and exceed the 80% Renewable Energy Standard
- Cut Nova Scotia's total GHGs by >53%
- Move Nova Scotia electricity onto long-term, stably-priced renewable energy
- Create jobs in every community through solar, heat pumps and wind
- Ensure the Greener Grid is also a more reliable grid
- Expand the Atlantic regional ties
- Limit ratepayer risk by avoiding billions in locked-in new capital costs to 2075
- Expand personal choice
- Put competition at the heart of energy generation and grid management in Nova Scotia
- Enable household and business bill savings - across all energy bills

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## Discussion

Corporate Services staff have begun working on a strategy/roadmap that will complement the sustainability initiatives outlined in the East Hants Strategic Plan. The intent is to establish frameworks and targets that will support our objective of providing infrastructure and services that meet the needs of our community now and for future generations. Staff will refer to Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan, as well as any other applicable provincial and federal guidelines/plans, to ensure alignment of municipal objectives.

It is anticipated that Council's 2021-2024 strategic plan will be updated with the newly elected Council starting in fall of 2024. As part of the strategic planning cycle staff will report back to Committee at a later meeting to discuss a sustainability strategy/roadmap/program in more detail.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Plan ties into our key strategy of Sustainable Infrastructure, in particular the objective to invest in energy initiatives that support the sustainability of our organization and the community we serve.

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## Attachments

Appendix A - Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan