

NS is dependent on hydrocarbon energy sources. Haven't made the decisions and investment necessary to reduce dependency

Nova Scotia is more dependent on hydrocarbon sources of energy than most other Canadian provinces. We have fewer options for heating our homes and factories than our neighbors. We could be leading the nation in identifying and implementing conservation and alternative energy options. Liberals are proposing both short-term measures to assist those most in need and long-term strategies for a sustainable energy future.

Delicate balance between supply and demand

All nations, to varying degrees, have become dependent on oil and gas. As their economies grow, so too does the demand for more energy. This, of course, is a major benefit to energy producing provinces such as Alberta and, to a lesser extent, the federal government. They see significant revenue growth during periods of rising prices.

Nova Scotia oil and gas potential, both onshore and offshore is world class

In the long term rising prices, rising demand, and supply concerns may prove beneficial to Nova Scotia. Geology offshore, and onshore in Nova Scotia compares favorably with some of the best oil and gas producing regions of the world. The Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board in 2002 estimated our offshore gas potential at 15 to 40 trillion cubic feet - 10 to 20 times the present Sable reserves.

When the business climate improves in NS the oil & gas companies will return

Onshore, our Coal Bed Methane (a form of natural gas found in coal seams) potential is sufficient to provide Nova Scotia with clean, efficient energy for decades into the future; or it could be the source of economic growth and revenue through export sales.

The oil and gas companies that have studied our geology understand the potential. They will be back when the climate is right for high-risk exploration. Only through extensive exploration will Nova Scotia, like Newfoundland and Labrador, become a net exporter of fossil fuels. Rather than continuing to assume the marginally reactive position of the present government, we must become aggressively proactive in support of this sector.

Current high price of gas should be short lived

Most energy experts agree that there is a very delicate balance between oil supply and demand. Any disruptions from the wellhead to the pump will result in major fluctuations in the price to consumers. This extreme volatility is expected to continue and in all likelihood will escalate over the next several years. Nova Scotians have just seen prices spike to \$1.48 before settling back to the current price of \$1.119. As anticipated, the highest prices were short lived. However, in all likelihood in the months and years ahead, the highs will be higher, the fluctuations more severe, and the average price to consumers will continue to rise.

The future will bring higher highs and higher lows

However we are not powerless. We can make changes in our approach to energy production and consumption; changes that will cushion the blow of dramatic price fluctuations.

Provincial Government has very little control over market prices

Oil and gas operate in a global market and the provincial government has very little influence or control over market conditions. Canada is a net exporter of oil and gas and one could argue that the federal government should legislate preferred pricing for Canadian consumption, as the Trudeau government tried to do back in the early 80's with the National Energy Program. That approach resulted in a serious backlash from western Canada and the oil industry, creating resentment and alienation that stills exists today. A policy that pits energy producing provinces against energy consuming provinces would again prove to be a very divisive agenda.

Must implement programs to reduce dependency

The only viable long-term solution is to reduce dependency on oil and gas. Government, industry and individuals must work collectively to implement alternative and renewable energy solutions and reduce our dependency on oil and gas.

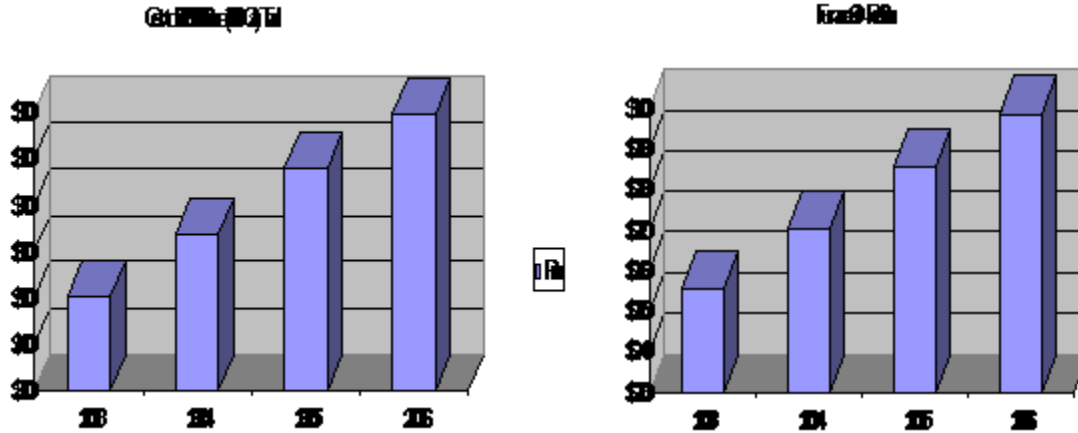
Government and industry must work together to implement alternative and renewable energy solutions

The high cost of gasoline and heating fuel will eventually be felt in higher costs for virtually all consumer goods – including food and clothing. As transportation and manufacturing costs rise, so will the price to consumers. Many low-income Nova Scotians, and seniors on fixed incomes cannot absorb the rapid increases in energy costs. Many will require financial assistance in the near term and support to reduce energy consumption in the mid to long term.

Furnace Oil prices increasing every year

The price of furnace oil in August 2003 was \$0.553 per litre; it increased 27 per cent by August 2004 to \$0.703 and then another 21.8 per cent by August 2005 to \$0.856. Over two years (August 2003 to August 2005) the price of furnace oil increased by 55 per cent. Heating oil prices generally increase substantially from the start of the season to the

winter peak. The price of furnace oil increased by 10 per cent between August, 2004 and February, 2005; the price increased 16 per cent from August 2003 to February 2004. A 16 per cent increase from August 2005 to February 2006 would produce an estimated oil price of \$0.984 per litre.



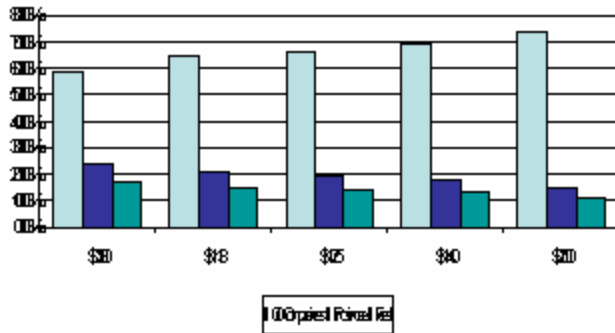
Low income families, seniors and individuals cannot handle the rapid increase in heating costs this winter and must be helped

That would mean, each time they fill their oil tank, homeowners could pay as much as \$392 more than they did three years ago. On an average of four fill-ups per season homeowners would pay an additional \$1,568.

There are 360,000 homes in Nova Scotia. All will be significantly impacted by extremely high fuel costs this winter. Because of minimum delivery volumes, many people will not be in a position to finance their oil purchases. These people need government help.

Subsidy and rebate programs are short term solutions only, and are unsustainable in the long term

However, we must also realize that no government can perpetually shelter people from the increasing cost of oil and gas. The new energy reality is that subsidies and/or rebate programs are not sustainable in the long term. Federal and provincial governments must work as one to aggressively implement incentives to stimulate and encourage conservation and the adoption of renewable energy. We must reduce our dependence on oil and gas.



Lowering energy taxes is an option. But that may only shift the tax burden elsewhere. And, contrary to urban myth, the government doesn't enjoy a tax bonanza when the price of oil and gas jump. Governments face the same cost pressures as other energy consumers. As gasoline prices increase, the percentage related to taxes decreases accordingly (see chart). Although taxes are a major contributor to fuel costs, they are not the major driver - the price of oil is.

Cost Breakdown										
Cost of Gas		\$0.5260		\$0.7270		\$0.8310		\$0.9620		\$1.4800
Gas Tax Fed		\$0.1000		\$0.1000		\$0.1000		\$0.1000		\$0.1000
Gas Tax Prov		\$0.1550		\$0.1550		\$0.1550		\$0.1550		\$0.1550
Selling Price		\$0.7810		\$0.9820		\$1.0860		\$1.2170		\$1.7350
HST	15%									
Provincial Share	8%	\$0.0625		\$0.0786		\$0.0869		\$0.0974		\$0.1388
Federal Share	7%	\$0.0547		\$0.0687		\$0.0760		\$0.0852		\$0.1215
		\$0.1172		\$0.1473		\$0.1629		\$0.1826		\$0.2603
Pump Price		\$0.8982		\$1.1293		\$1.2489		\$1.3996		\$1.9953
RECAP										
Oil Industry	\$0.526	58.56%	\$0.727	64.38%	\$0.831	66.54%	\$0.962	68.74%	\$1.480	74.18%
Provincial	\$0.217	24.21%	\$0.233	20.68%	\$0.241	19.37%	\$0.252	18.03%	\$0.293	14.72%
Federal	\$0.154	17.22%	\$0.168	14.94%	\$0.176	14.09%	\$0.185	13.23%	\$0.221	11.10%
	\$0.898	100.00	\$1.129	100.00	\$1.248	100.00%	\$1.399	100.00	\$1.995	100.00

Primary industries protected from gas tax and HST – through input tax credits and rebates

Primary industries and companies are protected by rebates and tax inputs from the impact of the gas tax and the HST. Gas tax and HST are not a significant factor for business, and virtually nonexistent issues in the primary industries. Price increases in those sectors are another matter and sharp price increases affect the viability of many small businesses. For example, independent truckers locked into fixed price contracts face extraordinary challenges when fuel prices jump.

Tax Structure does require review – is there a fairer way of sharing the tax burden. Conservatives increase the gas tax in 2002 by 13%.

Nevertheless, the structure and make up of our provincial taxes do warrant review. The gasoline and diesel tax of \$.155 per litre (increased \$.02 or about 13 per cent in 2002 by the Conservative government) provides over \$250 million in revenues to the province. It must be reviewed, together with Income Tax, Corporate Tax, other revenues, and the application of the HST. Tinkering with taxes, without examining the full tax picture, is a recipe for unfair taxation. This review must be done responsibly and with broad consultation and input.

Government should establish An Energy Pricing & Information Agency to ensure that all energy pricing is fair

As retail gasoline prices fluctuate wildly, industry pricing practices have come under considerable criticism and scrutiny. There is a perception that the petroleum industry is taking advantage of a difficult situation. To address that perception, an Energy Pricing Agency would be created to ensure all energy pricing is transparent and fair. Industry would be required to provide detailed information to the provincial agency. The information would be analyzed and released regularly to the public. Any unfair practices would immediately be drawn to the attention of the federal Bureau of Competition for review or investigated by the provincial government.

***High prices will drive
alternative solutions***

Natural Resources Canada would also be encouraged to develop a Pan-Canadian Energy Information Agency, similar to the U.S. Energy Information Administration that analyzes and provides regular, detailed reports on all aspects of energy issues. The province would work with the federal government in the creation of the provincial agency, to ensure there is quality information sharing and no duplication of bureaucracy.

Some economists would argue that cushioning the impacts of high prices only delays the lifestyle and other changes required to address the energy problem. Demand for oil and gas must ultimately be reduced.

LONG TERM FOCUS ON ALTERNATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Governments must be leaders – must be proactive and focused on the long term benefits to the Province

Government must provide the leadership, legislation and programs that will drive change. In partnership with industry, universities, municipalities and individuals, additional funds, where required, should be used to provide incentives to encourage conservation, investments in research and development in alternative energy and more efficient energy. In this regard, there is no reason to believe that Nova Scotia should be anything but a leader.

Encourage and support investment in new and sustainable energy solutions.

The long-term goal must focus attention on developing programs to reduce our dependency on oil and gas products and provide incentives to Nova Scotia companies to develop and produce alternative energy sources and conservation technologies. Government must encourage investment in innovative and sustainable energy sources, co-generation facilities, solar, wind and tidal power. Government must encourage and support changes in consumer consumption patterns, more fuel efficient vehicles, greater emphasis on alternatives means of transportation and energy efficient homes and alternative home heating systems.

About 55 per cent of electricity generated by NSPI comes from burning coal. Twenty-one per cent is generated by burning petroleum coke, followed to a lesser extent by burning oil, hydroelectricity and, depending on the price, natural gas.

WIND ENERGY

Government slow in supporting Wind Energy

In 2001, the Nova Scotia government released its Energy Strategy promising to promote renewable energy. They also unanimously endorsed the recommendations of the Electricity Marketplace Governance Committee (EMGC), which included provisions for bringing 'green' energy to market as quickly as possible.

Two of their stated "Strategy Objectives" were:

- To encourage the growth of a renewable energy industry in Nova Scotia.
- To increase renewable energy-based generation capacity and ensure open and fair access to the NSPI transmission system.

***Province Lagging
behind***

Four years later there has been no progress on these items. The government regularly promises that policies will be introduced “in the next session of the legislature.”

In the meantime, provinces like Quebec and Ontario each have added or have in development in excess of 1,200 MW of power, from alternative sources. Nova Scotia lags badly, with a mere 32 MW on the ground, despite having one of the richest wind resources in the country.

The government accepted the EMGC’s recommendations in principle in 2001. The Committee laid the groundwork for a policy structure that could successfully grow our renewable energy sector and independent power production in a deregulated market.

The government was handed the key to growing a secure energy future based on a clean, abundant, local source. Yet, this government has chosen to ignore these recommendations for four years. They have failed the people of Nova Scotia, while other provinces have put in place policies that allow them to enjoy the wealth and energy that can be generated locally.

***NSP is responding
but not fast enough***

NSPI is making an effort to get into wind generation, signing contracts with small and large wind-power producers. As a result, renewable energy will represent about 12.5 per cent of the company’s energy output by 2007. Although some progress has been made it has been painfully slow and not nearly as aggressive as it should be. There are almost 20 wind generating projects in the works in Nova Scotia, but many of them have been seriously delayed or negatively impacted by a lack of enabling legislation.

What is needed to make a difference is strong leadership and a willingness to learn from others. Alberta, an oil rich province, is also the leader in wind power generation in the country. After 15 years of advancing wind power as a viable safe source of energy, Alberta has determined there is no need for extensive environmental assessments on wind turbine projects. Projects that could have taken several years are now being fast tracked through a very streamlined approval process. By contrast, Nova Scotia wind energy companies are told not to consider Crown lands as a site for wind farms due to the uncertainty of environmental impacts. Nova Scotia should follow Alberta’s lead and allow wind energy turbines on carefully selected Crown land. This would promote a

renewable energy source, while producing revenue through the utilization of these lands.

Supports rural economic development

Generally speaking, the best wind resources are in coastal areas, and in Nova Scotia that means mostly rural areas. The same is true for other forms of renewable energy. Renewable energy projects hold significant potential as rural economic development opportunities.

SOLAR

Solar energy is a proven source of renewable energy, and there are many successful solar installations in Nova Scotia. Solar is a reliable source for domestic hot water (a very large consumer of energy) and can reduce considerably our dependence on oil and gas. Many homes and businesses already have the proper orientation to take advantage of the sun's energy. Organizations such as Solar Nova Scotia need assistance from a proactive government to further market the benefits of solar power and be a partner in increasing the utilization of the sun's energy.

Nova Scotia already a world leader in solar panel design

Nova Scotia is already home to a world leader in Solar panel design and production. *Thermor Dynamics* is kept busy shipping their products around the world. We will establish an environment to encourage this company, and others, to cost effectively provide solar and other forms of energy products to both Nova Scotians and / or export markets.

The spin-offs created include the expansion of design and production facilities, construction jobs, environmentally sound and renewable sources of energy are other immediate benefits. We have the technology and the talent to not only serve Nova Scotia but to be a leader in renewable energy development.

COAL

Enhanced Research and Development in clean coal technologies

Nova Scotia has an abundance of coal and NSPI currently produces more than half of the electricity generated in the province from coal. The difficulty inherent in coal-fired power generation is high emission levels, and resulting greenhouse gases. Although many environmentalists remain unconvinced, coal does provide a significant energy resource and its value cannot be ignored.

If we can find a way to develop clean coal technology, we will have a significant domestic energy resource here in Nova Scotia. Maximizing the use of domestic energy sources can, to some extent, shield the province from international energy price jolts.

Given our reliance on coal and the province's history, Nova Scotia's universities, community colleges and the private sector should play a leading role in clean coal technology development. Nova Scotia has an opportunity to be a leader in clean energy research, development and commercialization.

HARDWOOD & PELLET STOVES

Support greater utilization of our hardwood resources

Hardwood and wood pellet stoves extensively used in rural Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia has a sustainable hardwood forest that, if properly managed, can provide a continuous supply of fuel. We must encourage more efficient and low-emission wood burning systems. There is significant opportunity to leverage economic development opportunities in manufacturing, research and development by supporting our hardwood and pellet suppliers. Focusing on this resource holds the added advantage of significant economic benefit in rural communities.

**PARTNER WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY,
MUNICIPALITIES and UNIVERSITIES**

***Cooperation will better
serve Nova Scotians***

We must work with the Federal Government, industry, municipal governments and universities to maximize both funding and expertise.

***Federal Government has
committed large sums of
money to alternative
energy***

The Federal Government has earmarked a significant amount of money for Canada's response to climate change. Nova Scotia can leverage federal dollars to achieve real benefits here in Nova Scotia. 'Project Green' contains a number of initiatives that we need to take advantage of. We must ensure Nova Scotia gets its fair share of these federal initiatives. Some of the programs include:

***Many partnering
opportunities with
Federal Government***

Partnership Fund: currently \$250 million dollars, with the possibility that funding could grow to \$2-3 billion over the next decade. This fund is aimed directly at government-to-government cost sharing agreements that identify mutual priorities and invest in technology and infrastructure development. The types of investments they talk about are clean coal technology, carbon capture and storage and more efficient integration of inter-modal freight transportation.

Renewable Energy Programs: Better known as WPPI (Wind Power Production Incentive) and RPPI (Renewable Power Production Incentive). The Federal Government has earmarked \$200 million for WPPI and \$100 million for RPPI. These incentives go directly to renewable energy producers. Given Nova Scotia's wind resource and these types of incentives, Nova Scotia can be a leader in wind/renewable power development. There could be other potential benefits such as wind turbine fabrication/manufacturing and skills development. Economic activity increases with turbine installation.

***Some Federal Programs
must be reworked to fit
Nova Scotia needs***

The federal program that focuses on conservation in the home, Energuide, has shortcomings. It requires an expensive energy audit (\$150). Homeowners must spend the money upfront for improvements; the grant is based on energy saved, which is calculated after the fact. Homeowners may risk \$10,000 and receive little or no assistance in return. In addition, furnaces and alternative and innovative heating options do not qualify under the Energuide program. In the majority of situations the most significant savings will come when homeowners move to more cost effective heating solution – such as pellet stoves, solar systems, heat pumps -

air source and earth source, electrical storage units; or a combination of these solutions. The federal program needs to be reworked to be effective. Currently there is too much red tape and administrative overhead. We believe there is an opportunity to be successful in redirecting and supplementing the federal program, provided Ottawa can cut red tape and focus more of the funding on actual improvements versus administration of the program.

Industries must provide consumer incentives to encourage early adoption

Industry must step up – they must provide their own incentives and programs to benefit Nova Scotians. NSPI and other energy providers (including oil and gas companies) must be prepared to provide a system of incentives, matched by government, to reduce energy consumption. NSPI could provide incentives for storage systems, heat pumps, etc. Energy providers could offer incentives to install fuel efficient burners and furnaces. Pellet stove suppliers and pellet producers could offer special deals to consumers.

LIFE STYLE CHANGES and CONSUMERS HABITS

It is difficult to modify human behavior and life styles. We have been accustomed to a standard of living and conveniences that continue to expand. In most cases, changes only occur out of necessity. It is difficult for government to influence this kind of change. Greater emphasis on walking, biking, buying fuel-efficient vehicles may bring some meager results, however in most cases as long as the pocket book permits we ignore and fight change.

***Necessity drives change –
Government provides
support***

Does government have a roll in providing incentives to consumers to utilize public transportation, purchase fuel-efficient and/or hybrid vehicles? Most economists would say that market forces (high cost to consumers) are the only successful motivator.

The debate is needed – public transportation systems are underutilized in most areas, many individuals travel 20-50 kilometers per day to get to work. Are there alternatives?

LIBERAL ENERGY PLATFORM

“ANSWERING THE CHALLENGE”

The question is: How can a Liberal provincial government help the people of Nova Scotia cope with the current energy crisis and how are we going to deal with it in 5, 10 and 20 years?

The first priority is to make sure low-income Nova Scotians and seniors on fixed incomes can cope this winter when the demand for fuel will be the greatest.

While government must be very responsible in terms of how we spend taxpayers' hard-earned dollars, we have to take care of those in the greatest need while we implement a long term strategy to better use and conserve energy and develop new renewable sources like wind and solar to name just two.

Action for Today ...

Challenge: Bring short-term relief to those most In need

High prices for gas and home heating oil place a disproportionate burden on those least able to pay. Conservation and efficiency measures, if they had been introduced years ago, could have reduced this burden. Lack of action in the past means we now have to act to assist those in most in need.

1. Direct heating subsidy based on household Income for winter of 2006/2007 Estimated Cost - \$10 to \$15 million

A Liberal Government will introduce a financial support program for all Nova Scotians on low and modest fixed incomes for the winter of 2006. This program will be designed to support those individuals trying to absorb these very high increases in heating costs.

It is essential that this program be designed to work in concert with and improve upon the federal program on home heating assistance that will be announced soon. We must ensure that when taken together, the combined federal and provincial programs reach and support as many Nova Scotians families as possible. Working together would reduce the administration costs and overhead associated with program delivery, thereby freeing more funds for direct assistance.

The provincial program will be designed to cover homes regardless of whether they heat with oil, gas, electricity or wood. The amount of the assistance will be directly tied to the provincial average increase in the cost of heating. It is currently estimated that assistance provided will range from \$300 to \$600 based on impacts and needs.

In addition, all low-income seniors living in their home will be offered a free energy assessment to determine if energy efficiency can be maximized. If improvements and upgrades are required to reduce energy costs, the province will assist to ensure long-term savings and benefits to the homeowner.

2. A Liberal Government will review the current gas and oil tax structure to determine if it is fair – NO COST

Is the \$0.155 gas tax per liter fair and reasonable? If it were reduced or eliminated what would be the financial impact on both the province and consumers? What options are available to reduce a portion or all of the lost revenue? How would changes here impact the rest of the tax structure?

3. A Liberal Government will establish an Energy Pricing Information Agency to ensure all energy pricing is transparent and fair

The information would be analyzed by government and released regularly to the public. Any unfair practices would immediately be drawn to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Competition for review or investigated by the provincial government.

Natural Resources Canada would also be encouraged to develop a Pan-Canadian Energy Information Agency, similar to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. This agency would provide analyses and regular detailed reports, on all aspects of energy issues that are critical to the lives of Nova Scotians.

Action for Tomorrow ...

Challenge: A secure, environmentally sustainable energy future

Nova Scotia needs a long-term strategy to reduce our risk and exposure to high-energy prices. This will mean putting incentives in place to encourage energy innovation and conservation. It means changing policies to make the Province of Nova Scotia a leader in alternative energy practices as we have become in recycling. It will require that businesses, government and individuals are challenged and supported to make a difference.

4. Innovation And Alternative Energy – Estimated Cost - \$30 million over three years (would negotiate and anticipate matching contributions from the federal government)

Helping People - (Approximately \$15 million over three years)

- a. A Liberal Government will provide a program to retrofit homes to drive energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption. Efficiency demands that the provincial program must be coordinated with existing and future federal efforts. This province will take the lead in convincing Ottawa to provide increased and fairer access to the current Federal Energuide Program, whose stated purpose is to assist home owners to have more energy efficient homes. An expanded co-operative program would be designed to install alternative heating solutions into the home, including pellet stoves, solar panels, heat pumps, etc.
- b. A Liberal Government will work with and seek co-operation from NSPI and other energy providers to secure investments in new technologies that help consumers benefit from both new power sources and improved systems in the home.
- c. A Liberal Government will immediately implement a program with the Nova Scotia Home Builders Association to reinstate the provincial portion of the HST rebate on new homes – subject to the funds being spent on renewable/sustainable energy systems or highly efficient systems. Maximum rebate of \$8,000 per home.

Helping Business – Approximately \$15 Million over three years

- a. A Liberal Government will invest in new and innovative technologies – work with the federal government and the private sector to simulate increased emphasis on new technologies.
- b. A Liberal Government will immediately begin a detailed quantitative analysis of the costs and benefits associated with broader electricity competition in the province.
- c. A Liberal Government will introduce legislation to provide more cost-effective access to the power transmission infrastructure currently available throughout the province.
- d. A Liberal Government will provide grants, tax credits and low interest rate loans to aid and support industries/ companies/ farms implement co-generation facilities, wind energy, and other technologies for their own consumption with surplus placed back on NSPI transmission grid. We will work with the federal government to build upon and expand programs already in existence or planned.
- e. To encourage and support Nova Scotia's alternative energy business the Liberal Government will provide a 10-year corporate tax holiday to all Nova Scotia companies who manufacture and build alternative energy solutions. This will include solar energy manufacturers, wind turbine manufacturers, low emission pellet and wood stove manufacturers. In addition, manufacturers of co-generation facilities may be included, subject to greater review.
- f. A Liberal Government will immediately undertake a cost and benefit analysis of increased coal electrical generation and the cost of implementing technologies to reduce the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions. In partnership with the federal government, we will make a serious committee to clean coal research, technology and development.
- g. A Liberal Government will ensure it is a model energy user. We will determine the viability of alternative energy solutions for provincial assets and infrastructure. For example, we will immediately examine the feasibility of hybrid cars in the government fleet and hybrid trucks for use by Department of Transportation as plows, etc
- h. A Liberal Government will provide incentives and financial assistance to municipalities, hospitals, and universities, to implement similar alternative energy solutions.

5. Alternative Transportation – fuel-efficient vehicles – (Potentially \$5 to \$10 million per year for three years)

A Liberal Government will immediately begin work with Nova Scotia Municipalities and the Federal Government to determine the impact and outcomes that could be achieved by providing subsidy or other assistance for public and mass transportation.

In addition, we will determine the viability and potential energy savings by providing tax relief to consumers purchasing energy efficient or hybrid vehicles.

6. Rebuild the oil and gas sector – encourage and support exploration and field development

A Liberal Government will take a positive proactive approach with oil and gas companies who want to explore offshore and onshore Nova Scotia. A previous Liberal Government, using this approach, developed a royalty system that found favor with all who have had occasion to use it - a system that recognizes the risk and expense associated with offshore exploration.

A Liberal Government will work with, not against, the oil and gas companies to reduce the miles of red tape that contributed to their decision to avoid activity in Nova Scotia.

A Liberal Government values the tremendous asset we have in the present gas pipe line to Canadian and US markets. A previous Liberal Government proved our offshore was viable. A new Liberal Government will build on that proof.

A Liberal Government will take up where a previous Liberal Government left off and rebuild the momentum that had been generated around onshore gas potential.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES & RESULTS

Increasing energy prices and green project incentive programs can lead to an energy transformation in Nova Scotia. The higher the price of fossil fuels, the more competitive renewable energy becomes. Furthermore, working toward a more balanced electricity generation portfolio in itself helps cushion price shocks.

The long-term benefits to Nova Scotia of focusing on alternative and renewable energy cannot be overstated. These include:

1. Reduced hardship for Nova Scotians most in need.
 2. Position Nova Scotia as a leader in energy conservation and innovation. We have the opportunity to be world leaders in renewable energy development, in research and development of clean energy.
 3. Greater research and development in our universities.
 4. Foster the growth of Nova Scotia companies that provide alternative energy solutions.
 5. Our costal and remote communities will benefit most from development and implementation of wind, hardwood and coal technologies.
 6. Energy efficiency and developing cleaner energy not only helps our environment, but can also help shelter us from volatile world energy prices.
-