

WIND POLICY IN CANADA

Canadian Wind Policy

Although wind energy may show promise, there exist no federal laws or legislation to command its widespread institution across Canada. Individual strategies are being adopted by different provinces on their own accord. Moreover, the creation of electricity is a provincial/territorial responsibility. Different provinces and territories have voluntary goals for wind technology which the federal government supports individually through tax and market incentives, as well as through buying back electricity (Industry Canada). Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia are the only provinces with legally-mandated goals, or renewable portfolio standards (David Suzuki Foundation).

A renewable portfolio standard (RST) is a legal requirement stating that a certain portion of electricity must be generated through renewable resources, such as wind energy. RSTs are used to help develop future policies by setting goals and deadlines to accomplish the goals (Renewable Portfolio Standard).

The RSTs of Prince Edward Island state that by 2010, the province hopes to be generating 5% of its electricity from wind power, which would be an increase of 6% of the current wind power contribution. By 2015, the province hopes to be generation wind power to meet close to 100% of all energy demands. To reach this demand, 30MW of wind are anticipated to be generated through wind turbines. A 5.2 MW wind farm in North Cape will also be acquired to contribute to reaching this goal. Moreover, there are plans to invest in a \$35Million wind turbine to contribute an additional 50MW of wind power (Renewable Portfolio Standard).

Similarly, the RST of Nova Scotia mandates that 2.5% of the current 22% of renewable energy generated by Nova Scotia is to be supplied by wind turbines. To reach this goal, Pubnico Facility will be acquired. Its current output of 30MW will be increased to 60MW. Moreover, seventeen projects expected to generate 2MW or less have been approved for development (Renewable Portfolio Standard).

WEICan, the Wind Energy Institute of Canada, and CanWEA, the Canadian Wind Energy Association, are two organizations which collaborate with the provinces to foster any developments. WEICan and CanWEA also collaborate with each other to prevent overlapping research (Wind Energy Institute of Canada).

WEICan has been in existence for 25 years, promoting wind energy and wind research. WEICan was formerly known as the Atlantic Wind Test Site, as its headquarters are located in eastern Canada. All projects through

this organization are supported through funding received from Natural Resources Canada, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and the PEI Energy Corporation. Projects include researching wind energy, testing prototypes, and collaborating with different parties across Canada. These parties include visiting professors, different Canadian universities, private companies, and co-op programs offered to Canadian engineering students. Partnership and collaboration are the strengths of WEICan (Wind Energy Institute of Canada).

CanWEA differs from WEICan in that the former encourages consumers to be empowered, to ask questions, and to initiate policy by writing to the members of parliament. With 26 years of experience, CanWEA promotes policy and advocacy of wind energy, as well as the interests of the collective Canadian community centered on wind energy. Educating the public is another goal. Average Canadians as well as businesses are encouraged to generate their own wind energy through starting projects on their own properties (Canadian Wind Energy Association).

What wind energy initiatives are happening around Canada?

In addition to the legally mandated wind projects which are being undertaken in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, there are also non-mandated projects in progress across Canada.

Eastern Canada

By 2012, Quebec aims to generate at least 1000MW of wind energy. To reach this goal, LM Glasfiber will be building a factory which will manufacture wind turbine blades. At least 100 people will be employed; the turbines are expected to generate 240 MW yearly. Wind towers and nacelles will be put up around Quebec by the companies Marmen and GE Energy (Industry Canada).

Central Canada

By 2010, Ontario anticipates to be using 2700MW of renewable energy. Of the 2700MW, 350MW will be generated by five wind farms. Proposals for other projects which would contribute an additional 1000MW of wind energy are also being considered (Industry Canada).

Similarly, Manitoba hopes to be using 1000MW of wind energy.

Western Canada

A wind farm will be built in Saskatchewan to generate 150MW of wind energy. In Alberta, Pincher Creek initiated development of wind farms in 1993. Pincher Creek continues to support wind energy generation, and research. Tourists also frequent this town to learn about wind energy (Industry Canada).

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