

# Wind. For My Community.

Providing clean, affordable power, new local jobs and investments for Nova Scotia.



Kelly McVicar,  
Councillor, Pictou County



**canwea**

CANADIAN WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION | ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE L'ÉNERGIE ÉOLIENNE

**W**ind energy is an abundant and affordable source of clean electricity that is becoming an increasingly important part of the energy supply mix in Canada and around the world. Nova Scotia's 317 MW of installed wind capacity supplied about seven per cent of the province's electricity needs in 2011, a total that will continue to grow as the province works toward meeting its targets of 25 per cent renewable electricity by 2015 and 40 per cent by 2020.

Nova Scotia has also been a leader in the development of wind energy with the recent launch of its Community Feed-in Tariff (COMFIT) for projects under 6 MW - the first to be introduced in Canada. By supporting the development and ownership of local renewable energy projects, the COMFIT program allows communities to participate directly in the province's clean energy efforts.

Across the country, wind turbines meet the electricity demands of more than 1.2 million homes while providing Canada with clean, emissions-free electricity. There is much more to wind energy than clean electricity and desirable environmental benefits, though. Successful host communities realize growth in the form of new income for rural landowners, new tax revenue, employment opportunities for its trades people and contractors, and investment opportunities for individuals. Here are just a few of Nova Scotia's success stories...



## Cape Breton Regional Municipality

**Wind Farm:** Cape Breton University Wind Project

**Highlights:** Research and educational opportunities

Cape Breton University (CBU) won approval for a 5.4 MW wind farm under the province's Community Feed-in Tariff (COMFIT) program, which provides an electricity purchase rate of \$131/MWh over a 20-year term. CBU will retain at least 51 per cent ownership in the project, which it is jointly developing with Cape Breton Explorations Ltd. The wind farm will consist of three wind turbines to be located in Gardiner Mines, on land directly across from the university campus. It is part of the university's plan to become energy self-sufficient and its pledge to add clean electricity to its supply portfolio. The project also reinforces the work of the university's Verschuren Centre for Sustainability in Energy and the Environment (CSEE), which has identified renewable energy as one of its key areas of research.

“ This project is a testament to CBU's commitment to foster innovation and offer unparalleled research opportunities and hands-on training for students interested in renewable energy technology. ”

**John Harker, President, Cape Breton University**

## Colchester County

**Wind Farm:** Spiddle Hill Project

**Highlights:** \$2.4 million in investment from over 300 local shareholders

The 800 kW Spiddle Hill turbine, which came online in July 2011, was the first 100 per cent community-owned wind project to be installed in the province. The Enercon turbine, located 10 kilometres south of the village of Tatamagouche in Colchester County, feeds approximately 2,600 MWh of electricity a year onto the local distribution grid and offsets 4,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually. Spiddle Hill is owned by Colchester-Cumberland Wind Field Inc. (CCWF), a community economic development corporation with 300 local shareholders. CCWF began developing the project in 2007 with the aim of bringing “economic benefit and environmental pride to the region” and has plans to install another 800 kW turbine and three 50 kW turbines at the site by 2013. The company has also been involved in the installation of charging stations for electric vehicle drivers in the area. To date, CCWF has raised \$2.4 million through share sales and is financing the \$5.2 million cost of the four turbines with 45 per cent equity and 55 per cent debt. The project is expected to have a 9.5 per cent internal return on investment, and pay dividends of 5 per cent or more to shareholders beginning in 2016.



“ This is a dream come true. We're working together as a community to help Nova Scotia build a cleaner electricity system that we can all be proud of. ”

**David Swan, Spiddle Hill Project Manager**

## Pictou and Antigonish Counties

**Wind Farm:** Glen Dhu Wind Farm

**Highlights:** \$22 million investment into the community during construction + \$790,000 a year in lease payments and local taxes

*“ Our communities are realizing significant economic benefits through new tax revenues, new income for landowners and good jobs for local contractors. Wind is a clean and safe alternative and we are very proud to be a part of the solution. ”*

**Kelly McVicar, Councillor for District 1, Pictou County (shown on cover)**

The 62.1 MW Glen Dhu Wind Farm near Merigomish is owned by Halifax-based Shear Wind Inc. and Spain's Inveravante Inversiones Universales. The wind farm, made of 27 Enercon 2.3 MW turbines, is installed across 10,000 acres of privately owned land east of the community of New Glasgow. It produces enough electricity to power approximately 17,500 homes. The development and construction of the project created 140,000 direct person-hours of employment, with 83 per cent of the work done by Nova Scotians. Operations and maintenance activities at the wind farm are carried out by a permanent full-time and part-time staff of more than a dozen. Total project cost was \$150 million, with direct spending of approximately \$40 million in Nova Scotia, \$22 million of which was spent in the two counties where the project is located. Approximately \$430,000 per year in royalties will be paid to local landowners, adding up to more than \$8.6 million over the duration of Glen Dhu's 20-year power purchase agreement with Nova Scotia Power. The wind farm will contribute approximately \$360,000 per year in property taxes to Pictou and Antigonish counties.

*“ I get to work with my community and help produce clean energy for Nova Scotians. This is our future. I'm proud to be part of it. ”*

**Danny Leblanc, site manager at the Glen Dhu Wind Farm**

## Antigonish County

**Wind Farm:** Fairmont Wind Project

**Highlights:** \$2.35 million invested by Nova Scotia residents

The 4.0-4.6 MW Fairmont Wind Project, located about six kilometres north of the community of Antigonish, is scheduled to begin commercial operation during the summer of 2012. Nova Scotia residents invested \$2.35 million in the development and construction of the wind farm through the Wind4All Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF). The fund owns approximately 35 per cent of the project, with shareholders expected to earn a return on investment of approximately 13 per cent over the 20-year life of Fairmont's power purchase contract with Nova Scotia Power. The remaining 65 per cent stake is owned by the project developer, Wind Prospect Inc. The \$11 million project is also expected to have a significant impact on the regional economy. Landowners hosting its two Enercon turbines will receive a percentage of gross revenues, and materials and labour during the construction phase will be sourced locally whenever possible. The Municipality of the County of Antigonish will receive revenue through annual property tax payments.

*“ This is essentially Nova Scotia residents investing in a Nova Scotia project. The success of the CEDIF share offering unequivocally demonstrates the community's appetite for investing in renewable energy projects close to home. ”*

**Austen Hughes, General Manager, Wind Prospect Inc.**

## Colchester County

**Wind Farm:** Millbrook Community Wind

**Highlights:** Community investment, training programs, local scholarships

The Millbrook First Nation is the first Mi'kmaq band to have a wind energy project approved under the province's COMFIT program. The 6 MW Millbrook Community Wind project, located on private land about five kilometers southwest of Truro, is expected to be installed in 2014. The band will own 51 per cent of the project, earning several million dollars in equity returns over the life of its 20-year COMFIT contract. The remaining 49 per cent will be owned by juwi Wind Canada, which will jointly develop the project with Nova Scotia-based Community Wind Farms Inc. and operate the facility once it is completed. juwi Wind Canada plans to pre-qualify and prioritize local and Mi'kmaq contractors and work with them to provide educational internships during the development phase, on-the-job training through apprenticeships during construction of the project, and long-term local jobs in operations and maintenance. The company is also working on plans for a fund that is expected to provide more than \$100,000 over 20 years in scholarships for area residents. The Millbrook project will also provide lease payments to local landowners who host the turbines and pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in new property tax revenue to Colchester County.

*“ Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq have long understood the powerful relationship between responsible stewardship of our natural resources and a community's economic and social well-being. ”*

**Energy Minister Charlie Parker**



*“ We're proud to be leaders as we look for alternatives to fossil fuels and seek out new economic opportunities for our Band, the community, and neighbouring counties. Wind energy is about making investments today that will benefit our future generations. ”*

**Chief Bob Gloade, Millbrook First Nation**





## Responsible. Sustainable.

For all of these projects, an essential element of their success has been an open and responsive relationship with the communities in which they are located. As the voice of Canada's wind energy sector, CanWEA's mission is to actively promote that same kind of responsible and sustainable growth throughout our industry. We are developing an Industry Code of Practice to which our more than 400 members can all proudly subscribe, and have already developed world-leading best practice guidelines to steer their engagement and consultations with local communities.

CanWEA believes that wind energy can produce 20 per cent or more of this country's electricity by 2025, and ensuring every project is a good neighbour is an important step in getting there.

Share your support for wind energy today by visiting  
[www.friendsofwind.ca](http://www.friendsofwind.ca)



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