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## Hello Members!

To share Solar Nova Scotia's news and news from the wider solar movement we are launching a newsletter. This is a trial run. Please let us know what you think.

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## Solar Nova Scotia's Solar Shelter Courses Winter 2016

Designing Solar Homes and Additions (6 classes): Halifax: Thursdays, 7:00-10:00 PM: January 21 - February 25; Bridgewater or Chester (location to be decided in response to interest): Tuesdays, 6:45 – 9:45 PM, January 26 – March 6. \$80 students, \$90 single, \$150 couples

Passive Solar Construction: Kentville, Saturday February 20th 9:00 -5:00 PM. \$80 students, \$90 single, \$150 couples  
For details see [SOLARNS.CA](http://SOLARNS.CA)

## Membership Renewal

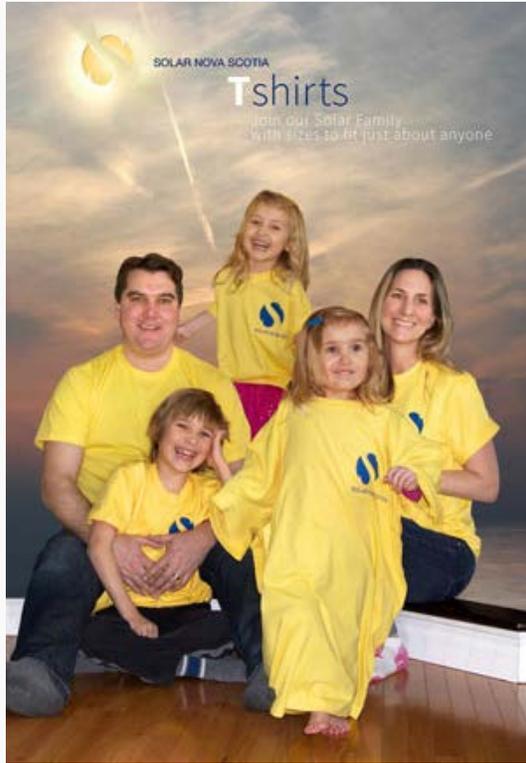
Solar Nova Scotia's membership year runs from December to November. We have three kinds of memberships: Ordinary members, Contributing members, and Corporate members. If you are a Contributing or Corporate

## Volunteer of the Year Award

At its Annual General Meeting each year Solar Nova Scotia recognizes a member or group of members whose efforts have been particularly important in promoting and facilitating the adoption of solar in Nova Scotia. Nominations are now open. Please see

member please renew now at [www.solarns.ca/Become-a-Member](http://www.solarns.ca/Become-a-Member). Alternatively, you can send a cheque to Solar Nova Scotia, 83 Old Scotts Road, McGrath's Cove, N.S. B3Z 3V2. Thanks.

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## Solar Nova Scotia T-shirts

Solar Nova Scotia has T-shirts for sale, Stanfield's, short-sleeved, yellow like the sun! You can order one (or more) on-line at [www.solarns.ca](http://www.solarns.ca) or write to [info@solar.ns](mailto:info@solar.ns). T-shirts come in small (children's), medium, large, and Extra-large. They cost \$20.00, plus shipping. The supply is limited so get yours soon.

[www.solarns.ca](http://www.solarns.ca) for more details. Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2016.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**The Communications Committee** is looking for a co-editor for the newsletter and a volunteer to organise our participation in Halifax's Solar City Fiesta in 2016. Volunteers would participate in Communications Committee meetings held at 5:30 on the last Tuesday of each month in Halifax or electronically. If you would like to volunteer please contact Ian Guppy at [guppy@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:guppy@ns.sympatico.ca) and let him know about the experience you could bring to either of these tasks.

**The Solar Tours Committee** organises opportunities for members to visit solar homes and other installations. If you know of one that would be interesting to visit please contact [info@solarns.ca](mailto:info@solarns.ca) or call (902) 852-4758.



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## Solar Conversations in Halifax

There is a regular informal gathering of people interested in talking about solar and renewables at the Lions Head Tavern and Grill at the corner of Robie and Sullivan Streets every Friday evening around 5:00 PM.

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# Solar News

- Solar at the COP 21 Climate Change meetings

Together 196 countries in Paris agreed that the world must severely limit carbon emissions if the planet is to survive. As the EAC's Catherine Abreau wrote from Paris; "Achieving this necessitates a transition away from fossil fuel energy by mid-century. Paris has confirmed that a world run on 100% renewable energy is 100% inevitable." <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/ccdayofaction/2T6ROKvXK3k>

[India and France launched an International Solar Energy Alliance of about 120 countries.](#)

[Dubai declared that it would make rooftop solar mandatory by 2030](#)

- Breakthrough Energy Coalition

Some 25 large investors from 10 countries founded the Breakthrough Energy Coalition. "The initiative has been announced in conjunction with Mission Innovation – an effort from 21 governments, including the US, Britain, Australia, Germany, China, and Brazil, to double the amount of public money going into clean energy innovation." Experts who have "warned that dependency upon fossil fuels will need to be wound back more quickly if the world is to avoid dangerous climate change fueled by greenhouse gases" are being taken seriously. See <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/nov/30/bill-gates-breakthrough-energy-coalition-mark-zuckerberg-facebook-microsoft-amazon> and <http://www.breakthroughenergycoalition.com/en/news.html>

- Nova Scotia's Electricity Plan Implementation (2015) Act Bill 141

The Nova Scotia Government doesn't get it. From December 1 to 14 it shepherded [the Electricity Plan Implementation \(2015\) Act](#) through three readings in the Nova Scotia legislature. The bill restricts the sizes of solar installations and reduces the rate that Nova Scotia Power pays to solar power producers. "This severe decrease would exclude significant net metered renewable electricity projects by a wide range of communities and organizations, including Mi'kmaq communities, municipalities, universities, volunteer fire departments, non-profit organizations, churches, and small-to-medium enterprises," wrote Wayne Grozko from the EAC in a December 7th letter mentioned in the Halifax Examiner December 18th.

- Bill 141 Petition

The Antigonish Community Energy Cooperative is gathering "signatures" on an electronic petition against Bill 141's restrictive solar provisions. The petition urges the Nova Scotia Government to recognize that the long-term benefits of solar power far outweigh any short-term inconvenience to Nova Scotia Power and its shareholders and to do everything in its power to accelerate the installation of solar power generation systems in Nova Scotia. You can sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/urgent-premier-stephen-mcneil-protect-solar-power-in-nova-scotia>

- Solar PV & Net Metering in Nova Scotia

The Nova Scotia Government has invited various solar "stakeholders" to a workshop on January 14th on how it will roll out its plans for solar PV and net metering.

- Antigonish

The community energy co-op in Antigonish ([www.acecoop.ca](http://www.acecoop.ca)) is encouraging its members to band together for bulk-buying of solar panels. See <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/solar-power-coop-antigonish-1.3347106>

- Lunenburg

A Lunenburg councillor wants to build a community solar garden that would allow "residents to share in renewable power that's generated from a centralized array located in a field or on a roof." Residents would buy or lease solar panels and then receive a credit towards their electricity bill." Lunenburg, like Berwick and Antigonish, owns its own utility and can generate its own power. You can read comments from Solar NS' chair, Gordon Wilkie on the Lunenburg proposal at [https://lighthouseNOW.ca/article.php?title=Lunenburg\\_councillor\\_looks\\_for\\_input\\_on\\_solar\\_proj](https://lighthouseNOW.ca/article.php?title=Lunenburg_councillor_looks_for_input_on_solar_proj)

- Other news?

If you know of news or of an event of interest to Solar Nova Scotia members please send information to [info@solarns.ca](mailto:info@solarns.ca). If the timing works we will try to include it in the newsletter.

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