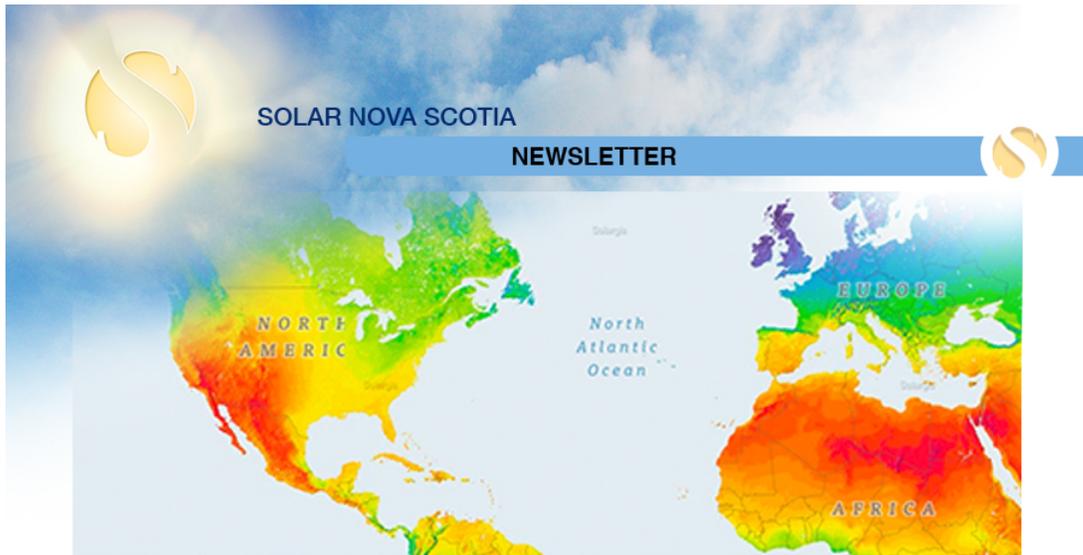


**From:** Solar Nova Scotia info@solarns.ca  
**Subject:** Solar NS January 2017 newsletter  
**Date:** 2017-02-03 (Fri) at 12:34  
**To:** daniel@bonmot.ca

SS

January 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)



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*Towards a 100% renewable energy future for Nova Scotia*

## **Solar Nova Scotia's Annual General Meeting**

Please join other Solar Nova Scotia members at the AGM to hear what Solar Nova Scotia has been doing over the past year, the state of solar in Nova Scotia today, to elect members of the Board of Directors, and to hear our speaker (to be announced). Members of the public are also welcome.

**When:** Tuesday, March 21st at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Room 3716, NSCC Waterfront Campus, 80 Mawiomi Place, Dartmouth.  
(Mawiomi Place is off Pleasant Street)

How to get to the NSCC Waterfront Campus by energy friendly public transit: From the Bridge Terminal or Alderney Landing take Bus # 60 or 63.

You can buy your Solar Nova Scotia T-shirts at the AGM!



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### **The Nova Scotia Solar Directory**

The Directory lists the corporate members of Solar Nova Scotia. All corporate members have agreed to follow the Solar Nova Scotia Code of Ethics adopted from the Canadian Solar Industries Association (CANSIA). See <http://www.solarns.ca/Atlantic-Canada-Solar-Directory>.

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### **Solar Nova Scotia Friday Evenings at Lion's Head Tavern**

Every Friday at 5:00 PM members interested in informal discussion of solar projects and the state of solar in Nova Scotia get together at the Lion's Head Tavern, 3081 Robie St. in Halifax. Drop by if you are in town.

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### **The Canadian Solar Design Manual**

Solar Nova Scotia's *The Canadian Solar Home Design Manual* helps you figure out how to work with your site and building to maximize their solar gain. It is the textbook for the Solar Shelter Course and it can be purchased before the course, at the course, and at the AGM. Click [here](#) for more information.



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## **DECEMBER AND JANUARY'S SOLAR NEWS**



In Nova Scotia



[ACOA's Clean Technology Initiative](#) deadline is March 31.

Clean Nova Scotia is encouraging registrations for the wait list for 2017's PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program from those living in municipalities that have a PACE program pending the possible extension of the pilot. [Efficiency Nova Scotia rebates](#) are paid directly to the municipality to be put towards proposed upgrades. The provincial government broke new ground when it legislated to allow municipalities to make repayable loans to tax payers to improve building envelopes and generate renewables. To help cover administrative costs to get programs up and running the government provides \$15,000 to any of Nova Scotia's 23 municipalities that choose to run a PACE program. Unless it is renewed, this offer expires in April 2017.

Clean Nova Scotia has a [job posting](#) for a Clean Energy Advisor:

Solar Colchester is encouraging the Municipality of the County of Colchester (MCC) to join the PACE program financed through the property tax system. On January 12th, the Colchester County Council approved further action by staff. News from Solar Colchester is being posted on the [Sensible Energy for the North Shore \(SENSe\) Facebook page](#). Its newsletter can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/zbge4j>. If you would like to be put on Solar Colchester's email list for the newsletter please write to [solarcolchester.ns@gmail.com](mailto:solarcolchester.ns@gmail.com).

The Nova Scotia Environment Network (NSEN) is expanding its board to encourage representation from all over the province. Participation can be by teleconference. It is, in particular, looking for a new Board member to take on the role of Membership Coordinator as well as one with experience in fundraising. If you are interested, please write to [nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com).

NSEN's most recent newsletter can be found [here](#). To subscribe to the Nova Scotia Environmental Newsletter send a message to [nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:nsenvironmentalnetwork@gmail.com).

*The Journal of Environmental Law and Policy* will hold its biennial conference the weekend of June 16th, 2017 at the Dalhousie Law School. The conference will focus on "Paris: Climate Change Law & Policy following the Paris Agreement". See more at <https://jelp.ca/>.

EAC participated in the conference which launched the three-year Smarter

Energy Communities in Northern and Arctic Regions

Energy Communities in Northern and Arctic Regions project, See its December Press release [here](#).



Stephen Thomas, EAC's Energy Coordinator, spoke at the conference about the EAC's [deep energy retrofit of its Halifax building](#). Emma Norton, EAC's Energy Efficiency Coordinator, spoke about the EAC's [Culture of Efficiency Project](#).

[The EAC's "Green Jobs" hero](#) for January is Moe Kabbara, co-founder of [NeoTES Energy](#), a Nova Scotia heat energy storage business.

Shawna Henderson, pioneer in net zero energy home research and design, was the speaker at the EAC's Built Environment Committee Net Zero speakers' series on January 18th. According to Henderson, all new Nova Scotia homes could be Net Zero by 2030 or before if we can overcome the obstacle presented by the shortage of trained and accredited building crews. Her presentation is to be available at <https://ecologyaction.ca/netzero> where you can also find the list of speakers coming up in this monthly series.

The EAC Energy Committee organised an evening with Bruce Lourie, president of the Toronto-based Ivey Foundation, speaking about how [Ontario got off coal](#). Panelists Meinhard Doelle, Dalhousie Law School, Jason Hollett, Nova Scotia Department of Environment, and Michael Sampson, Nova Scotia Power, commented on [the Nova Scotia situation](#). Meinhard Doelle's perspective can be found on his December 22 blog piece at <https://blogs.dal.ca/melaw/>

**Dalhousie College of Sustainability public lectures of interest to members of Solar Nova Scotia:**

- 9 February *Making it Real: Low Carbon Futures for Canada*  
Ralph Torrie, President, Torrie Smith Associates, Cobourg, ON.
- 2 March *Climate Journalism*  
Mike de Souza, Managing Editor, National Observer, Ottawa, ON.
- 23 March *Hosting Conversations that Matter: Leadership for Collaboration*  
Toke Moeller, Co-Founder and CEO, Interchange, Copenhagen, Denmark

Lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. in Ondaatje Hall, 6135 University Avenue, Marion McCain Arts & Social Sciences building. All are welcome. Free of charge. Limited seating so arrive early. For more information click [here](#).





## In Canada

*Canadian Solar Industries Association:* [Lisa Hainta reports](#) from Solar Canada's December conference and trade show:

[The scope for Green Energy Investment is growing](#), according to Corporate Knights, 'the Magazine for Clean Capitalism'.

### Ontario

TREC Renewable Energy Coop called for its members to contribute to Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan (LTEP) review. It asked them to [send the government a strong message](#) in support of 100% Renewable Energy and Community Power.

### Alberta

The Gridworks Energy Group faces [a growing demand for solar training](#). [Gridworks](#) is a First Nations owned and operated company. Click [here](#) for news of upcoming courses.

In December, the solar capacity in the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) connection queue (projects waiting for access to the grid) was 1,453 Megawatts. Alberta's current solar capacity is 13 Megawatts. Because of government incentives, most of new applicants are in the agricultural, commercial and community sectors. The government is [not providing incentives within the residential sector](#) where, consequently there is little growth.

### B.C.

[Regulations](#) are discouraging home owners from installing PV.



## World News

Scientists estimate that last year was the [hottest in the history of the planet](#) for 115,000 years. Levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere were the highest they have been for million years.

A rapid increase in [methane emissions](#) has added to the urgency of accelerating the use of solar and other renewables.

A rapid growth in fossil fuel disinvestment is [driving more capital to the clean energy sector](#). This was [welcome news](#) to the outgoing Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon:

By 2050, almost half of Europe's electricity needs could be met by Europeans producing electricity from wind and solar [at home, as part of a cooperative or in their small businesses](#).

Research is showing that [green buildings allow people to work and sleep better](#).

The World Bank has launched a [Solar Atlas of the World](#) (see this month's banner, above). [The atlas is based on 22 years of satellite data](#), verified with ground-based measurement data where available. The Bank will set up solar measurement stations in some countries where ground-based data isn't yet available.

The German Solar Association calculates that there are now [300 gigawatts \(GWp\) of total installed solar power capacity around the world](#).

[The Intersolar Europe – Exhibition and Conference](#) for manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, service providers and partners in the solar industry, will be held at the Messe München Exhibition Center in Munich, Germany. Exhibition: May 31–June 2, 2017, Conference: May 30–31, 2017.

## USA

**Google** is currently operating on 44% renewable energy from solar and wind. [It promises to be operating on 100% renewable energy by the end of 2017.](#)



Google's Ivanpah solar electric generating system in the Mojave Desert near the California border. [Photograph: Steve Marcus/Reuters](#)

American Samoa has become [self-sufficient in electricity](#) replacing diesel generators and imported diesel fuel with solar panels and Tesla batteries.

[Grid Alternatives](#), a California NGO, recruits volunteers to help the state's \$162-million Single-family Affordable Solar Homes incentive program reach low-income families.

In Boston: Two events you might want to know about:

[Solar Power Northeast Event/Exhibition](#)

Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel  
February 13-14, 2017

[The BuildingEnergy Boston Conference + Trade show](#)

Seaport World Trade Centre,  
March 7 - 9, 2017



Certified Passive House Consultants (CPHC) training program  
Feb. 20 - Apr. 28, 2017  
Phase I is online, Phase II is in various locations.

For more information see <http://www.phius.org/training/cphc/registration>

## U.K.

In the third quarter of 2015, 50% of the U.K.'s electricity came from clean sources. In Scotland, it was 77%. Read [the Guardian story here](#).

Getting to [Net Zero in Glanrhyd, Wales](#).

## The Netherlands

Wirsol has commissioned the largest solar park in the country, a 30MWp solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant in Delfzijl. [Canadian Solar, of Guelph Ontario, has supplied the panels](#).

## China

China is building [the world's biggest solar farm](#).

President Xi Jinping says that we have only one planet and [the struggle to control climate change cannot fail](#). Putting its money where its mouth is, [China now owns five of the world's six largest solar-module manufacturing firms](#).

## Australia

Australian citizens don't believe the conservative media campaign which blames higher energy prices on renewables. Instead, [according to a recent poll](#), they blame privatisation.

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### Feedback

We received several messages of applause for the November newsletter. Thank you. We appreciated each one.



We also received a message pointing out that an article in the Guardian on November 21<sup>st</sup> reporting that Canada was to phase out coal by 2030 was incorrect for Nova Scotia. Indeed, unfortunately that was the case, though the Guardian didn't know it on November 21, and we didn't know it when we put the November newsletter together.

The Nova Scotia government negotiated a side deal committing to decrease emissions in the same amount that they would be decreased if coal was phased out, thus allowing Nova Scotia Power to continue burning coal in its coal-burning generators. At the EAC-sponsored event at Dalhousie mentioned above, Nova Scotia Power's Michael Sampson said that NS is still using coal to generate 56% of its electricity. Even when Muskrat Falls comes on line, this will fall only to 37%. Getting off coal quickly, he argued, would mean switching to natural gas and all the infrastructure installation costs that entails. It would be better to burn coal a little longer while we switch to renewable energy sources. So, doesn't that sound like an endorsement for moving ahead rapidly with renewables?

The renewable energy scene is changing quickly. We welcome any updates. Thanks.

## Requests

The Urban Farm Museum is looking for a technically savvy volunteer who could hook up two solar panels to supply electricity for lights in their barn. If you think you could give them a hand, please send a message to Michèle Raymond at [hovey@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:hovey@ns.sympatico.ca) or call her at 902-477-7896.



### Solar NS T shirts

Do you own or know of a business where we could sell SolarNS T-shirts? If

— DO you own or know of a business where we could sell SolarNS T-shirts? If so, please call Robert at 902-717-1392 or send him an email at [macdonaldrj@gmail.com](mailto:macdonaldrj@gmail.com) Thanks!

### Other Solar News?

The Solar NS newsletter includes news related to solar from the previous two months. For the next newsletter that means from February and March. We also welcome announcements of future solar-related events. Please share your news, particularly news from Nova Scotia, by sending it to “Solar NS Newsletter” at [woolfrey@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:woolfrey@chebucto.ns.ca). Thanks!

For news about coming solar events on shorter notice check the Solar NS web site at <https://solarns.ca> and the monthly Nova Scotia Environmental Newsletter at <https://nsenvironmentalnetwork.com/resources/>.



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