



“The Future of Solar Energy is Bright!”

Abstract: Dr. Wayne Groszko, Ecology Action Centre & Dalhousie University

Solar Electricity in Nova Scotia: Distributed Energy Resource Characteristics and Potential

Solar electricity generation on the grid using distributed photovoltaic systems has particular characteristics to be considered as part of our future renewable energy mix in Nova Scotia – distributability, total resource potential, the timing of output with respect to demand, and the variability of output all factor into the discussion. In this work we consider these factors, as well as financial, environmental and social implications of solar electricity in the context of Nova Scotia. In general, distributed solar electricity shows fairly high potential output in Nova Scotia, the costs of implementation are rapidly declining due to global market developments, and the benefits of participation in solar energy generation can be shared by a broad sector of our communities. Challenges to address as more solar electricity generation is added include coping with the variation and timing of output, establishing and maintaining fair and simple grid access for solar energy, and developing effective financing methods for solar implementation. This presentation will give particular emphasis to the potential for community groups to participate and benefit from solar electricity generation.