



National Energy  
Board

Office national  
de l'énergie

# CANADA'S RENEWABLE POWER LANDSCAPE

Energy Market  
Analysis 2016



Canada

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# About the NEB

The NEB is an independent federal regulator whose purpose is to promote safety and security, environmental protection, and economic efficiency in the Canadian public interest within the mandate set by Parliament for the regulation of pipelines, energy development, and trade.

The Board’s main responsibilities include regulating:

- the construction, operation, and abandonment of pipelines that cross international borders or provincial/territorial boundaries;
- associated pipeline tolls and tariffs;
- the construction and operation of international power lines and designated interprovincial power lines;
- imports of natural gas and exports of crude oil, natural gas, oil, natural gas liquids, refined petroleum products, and electricity; and
- oil and gas exploration and production activities in specified northern and offshore areas

## About this Report

The Board monitors energy markets and assesses Canadian energy requirements and trends to support its regulatory responsibilities. This report, Canada’s Renewable Power Landscape, is one of a series of publications on energy supply, demand, and infrastructure that the NEB publishes regularly as part of its ongoing market monitoring.

See “Data issues” section on page 37 for all data sources and details.

Contributors to this report include: Natalia Lis (project manager), Colette Craig, Ingrid Ektvedt, Michael Nadew, Ken Newel, Sara Tsang, and Cassandra Wilde.

Questions or comments? Email [renewables@neb-one.gc.ca](mailto:renewables@neb-one.gc.ca)

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# Executive Summary

Canada ranks fourth in the world in renewable power generation. Hydro is the dominant source of electricity in Canada, accounting for nearly 60% of installed capacity and generation.

Five provinces and territories generated the vast majority of their electricity from hydro in 2015. The share of electricity production from hydro reached 86% in British Columbia (BC), 97% in Manitoba, 95% in Quebec, 95% in Newfoundland and Labrador, and 94% in Yukon.

Four provinces and territories have diverse electricity mixes relying on various combinations of nuclear, coal, gas, oil, and renewables. In 2015, the share of renewables in total generation reached 34% in Ontario, 28% in New Brunswick, 24% in Nova Scotia, and 38% in Northwest Territories (NWT).

Three provinces and territories relied primarily on fossil fuels for electricity in 2015: Alberta (90% of generation from coal and natural gas), Saskatchewan (83% of generation from coal and natural gas), and Nunavut (100% of generation from oil).

Nearly all of the power generated in Prince Edward Island (PEI) is from wind, but PEI also relies on power imported from nearby provinces to meet its total demand.

A decade ago, wind, solar, biomass, and other non-hydro renewables comprised just 2% of total Canadian capacity. Growth over the last decade has been very impressive, especially with wind capacity growing 1 900%

and solar growing an astounding 12 500%. However, the total share of these technologies in 2015 was just 11% of capacity; and because solar and wind are intermittent, non-hydro renewables accounted for just 7% of generation.

Ontario and Nova Scotia have seen the largest gains in renewable power production over the last decade. Renewable power generation in Ontario increased from 23% to 34%. In Nova Scotia, the renewable generation share increased from 12% to 24%.

Despite various policies and programs in support of renewables, new capacity additions in Canada have been limited as a result of low growth in electricity demand and the long operating life of existing facilities. Cost concerns and local opposition have also limited growth opportunities.

11% of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) come from the electricity sector. From 2000 to 2014 emissions from this sector declined 40% due primarily to the phase out of coal in Ontario and initiatives to reduce GHGs in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

## Renewable capacity versus generation

Capacity is the maximum electric output a facility can produce while generation refers to the amount of power actually produced. Generation facilities cannot operate at full capacity 100% of the time because of maintenance and unplanned outages. Operating costs, market conditions, technological constraints, and the availability of the necessary resources also determine how much a generator runs.

The difference between generation and capacity is distinct in the case of intermittent renewables. For example, solar photovoltaics (PV) output is relative to sun intensity during daylight hours and wind generation changes

exponentially with wind speeds. Although wind and solar accounted for 9% of Canadian capacity in 2015, they only generated 5% of Canadian electricity.

Because of their efficiency and relatively low operating costs, some generation facilities are well suited to providing constant generation and meeting minimum system demands. For example, a nuclear reactor runs at fairly constant level over a long period of time.

Other facilities such as certain types of natural gas-fired plants, can be ramped up or shut down quickly, providing power during periods of peak demand.



Canada's generation from hydro

Canada ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world for hydroelectric generation  
4<sup>th</sup> in the world for renewable generation



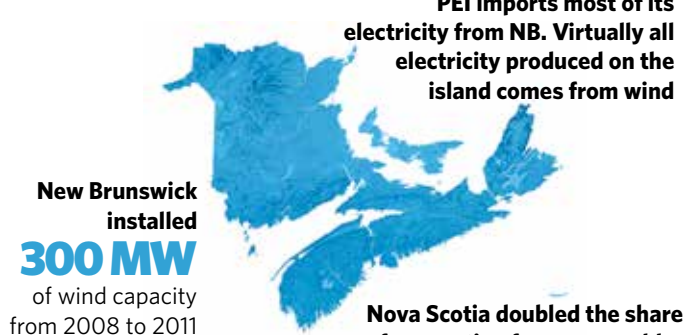
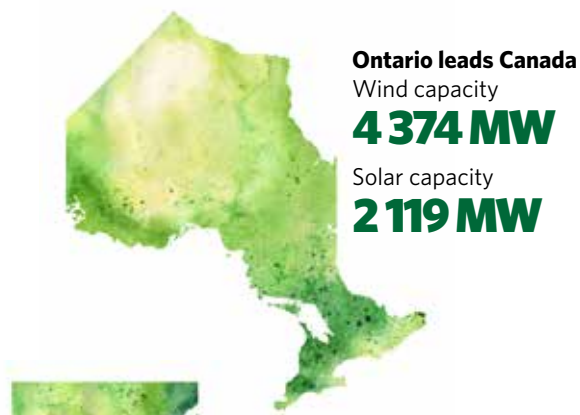
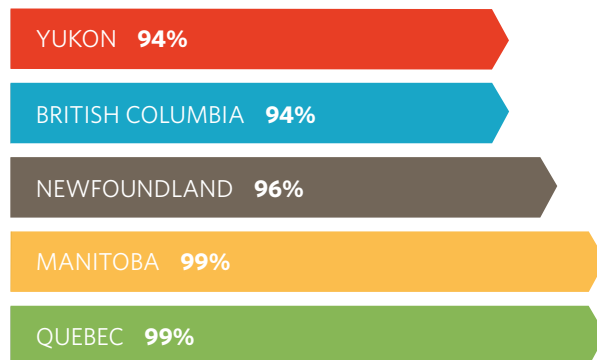
Share of Canada's GHG emissions from the power sector



Decline in Canada's annual GHG emissions from electricity 2010 to 2014



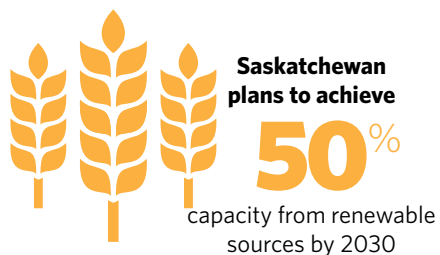
In 2015, these hydro rich areas generated almost all of their electricity from renewables



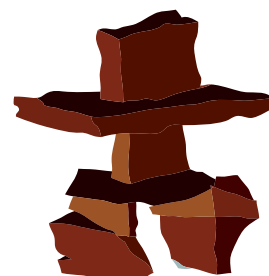
PEI imports most of its electricity from NB. Virtually all electricity produced on the island comes from wind



Alberta's generation from renewables increased by **66%** from 2005 to 2015



NWT now uses LNG to fuel one of its power plants. **LNG reduces GHG-emissions by about 25%** compared to diesel



Nunavut explores the possibility of importing hydro from Manitoba



# Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2014, Canada emitted 732 megatons of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent). Of these GHG emissions, 78% were carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), primarily from fossil fuel combustion.

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) contributed 15%, with the remaining 7% comprised of various other types of emissions including hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride generated in industrial processes.

**11% of Canada's GHG emissions came from electricity production.** In other words, if Canada switched to 100% non-emitting sources of electricity generation, the nation's GHG emissions would decline by 11%. In comparison, the power sector in the U.S. generated 30% of the country's emissions in 2014.

**Ontario's GHG emissions from electricity decreased dramatically as a result of phasing out coal generation.** Emissions decreased from 43 to 6 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent from 2000 to 2014 as shown in the graph below.

**Saskatchewan and Alberta have the highest emissions from the power sector.** Alberta generated 57% of Canada's electricity GHG emissions in 2014 and Saskatchewan accounted for 18%.

**Using different types of electricity generation can reduce emissions.** The difference in emissions between using thermal and non-thermal generation is the most pronounced, but using carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology or switching from higher-emitting thermal sources such as coal, oil, and diesel to cleaner-burning natural gas can also decrease emissions, especially if combined-cycle generators are used.

TABLE 1

Share of Emissions by Sector in 2014

Oil and Gas Production	26%
Transportation	23%
Buildings	12%
Electricity	11%
Emissions-Intensive and Trade Exposed Industry*	10%
Agriculture	10%
Waste and Others	7%

\*Mining (except for coal, oil, and gas), smelting and refining, and producing or processing industrial goods

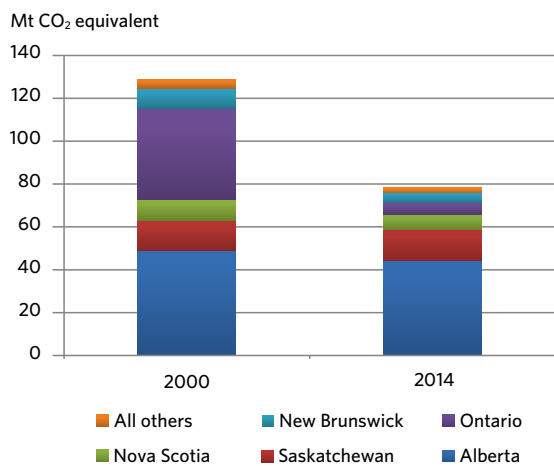






**FIGURE 1**

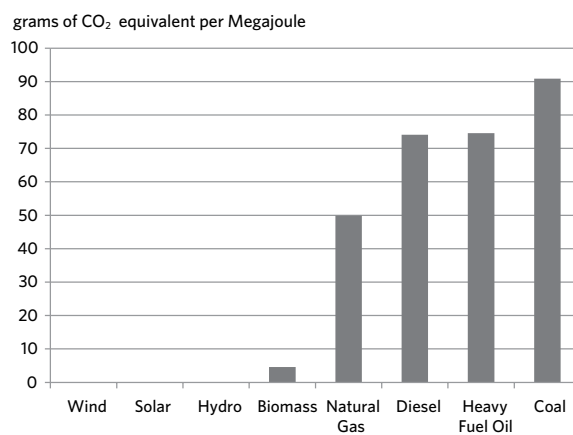
### Electricity Emissions by Region



This chart shows provincial and territorial GHG emissions from electricity production in 2000 and 2014. Total emissions from electricity production in Canada dropped from over 120 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2000 to under 80 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2014.

**FIGURE 2**

### Emissions by Fuel Type



This chart shows CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by fuel type in grams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per megajoule. Coal emits the highest amount of CO<sub>2</sub> at 90.87g/MJ, followed by heavy fuel oil at 74.58g/MJ, diesel at 74.08g/MJ, natural gas at 49.88g/MJ, and biomass at 4.59g/MJ. There are no emissions from hydro, wind, or solar.



# Policies and Incentives for Renewables

**Multiple strategies have been used to support renewable power and raise the competitiveness of renewable sources versus other fuels.**

**Regulatory Targets or Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)**, being adopted by many Canadian jurisdictions mandate that a certain portion of electricity should be generated from renewable sources by a certain date.

**Revenue support policies** increase the revenue of renewables projects or provide revenue certainty, often through long-term contracts or Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). These underpin the construction of most renewable projects in Canada. Contracts can be awarded through different mechanisms which vary in terms of objectives, level of support and overall design:

- *Requests for Proposals (RFPs)* specifically for renewables power projects, solicit competitive proposals, typically up to specified capacity targets. RFPs often favour mature projects and experienced developers who can meet stringent requirements.
- *Feed-In Tariffs (FITs)* usually offer standardized long-term contracts and administratively set payments, often specific to a particular technology. Standard terms make it easier for small projects and new entrants to qualify.
- *Standing Offer Programs (SOPs)* for renewable projects allow entrants to apply at any time the program is in effect and provide guaranteed payments which, in contrast to FITs, are typically the same for all renewable energy technologies.
- *Contracts for differences* are types of contracts in which the sellers and buyers agree to a fixed price, but the producer sells electricity in an open market and receives whatever price the market is offering. Subsequently, payment is made by either party to the contract to compensate for differences between the fixed price and the market price.

## **Other mechanisms to support renewables:**

- *Net-metering programs* allow end-users to generate their own electricity and either sell their excess production to the grid or use it to offset purchased

power. Net-metering programs exist in most Canadian jurisdictions, but typically do not offer enough return to encourage significant investment.

- *Renewable Energy Credits or Certificates (RECs)* are tradable energy commodities which represent the environmental attributes of renewable power. RECs are issued by a certifying agency for each megawatt-hour (MW.h) of energy produced from qualifying renewable sources and given a unique number that allows them to be tracked. RECs can be traded separate from the physical electricity with which they are associated. This flexibility removes geographical constraints and RECs can be generated and sold across different electricity grids that are not physically interconnected. RECs are often used to meet local renewable portfolio standards.

**Cost Reduction Policies** include tax breaks and government loan guarantees which reduce lender risk and lower project finance costs.

**Policies that impact electricity prices** may also enhance the competitiveness of renewable power.

- *Carbon pricing* is a means of attaching cost to carbon emissions. When the price of generation from fossil fuels is increased to include societal costs like environmental impact, emitters are encouraged to limit their emissions and renewables are better able to compete. There are two main types of carbon pricing: a carbon tax applied to the carbon content of fossil fuels, and a cap and trade system that caps the total level of GHG emissions and allocates emissions allowances. Low emitters can trade surplus allowances with high emitters in the carbon market. This creates an incentive for companies to reduce their emissions.

**Time-of-use pricing** introduces different prices depending on time of use. These policies generally favour solar projects which produce electricity during daytime peak demand hours when prices are higher.







# Canadian Overview

Canada's power infrastructure took decades to build. It was designed to use an abundance of relatively inexpensive hydrocarbons and ample hydro potential. About half of Canada's generating facilities have been operating for more than 25 years.

New capacity additions have been limited because of low demand growth and the long-lived nature of electricity facilities. In the last decade, electricity demand growth in most of Canada has been modest. Canada generated 646 TW.h of electricity in 2015, only 6% higher than the 610 TW.h generated in 2005.

In 2015, Canada ranked fourth in the world in renewable power production and second in hydro production. Hydro is the dominant source of electricity in Canada, and accounts for nearly 60% of installed capacity and generation in 2015.

Power generated from all renewable sources increased from 60% to 65% of total generation from 2005 to 2015.

Ontario and Quebec account for the majority of the electricity capacity in the country. Accordingly, the policies and initiatives in these provinces have the greatest impact on Canadian totals. About 75% of wind and solar capacity added between 2005 and 2015 is located in these two provinces. In Ontario, strong support mechanisms for renewable power were developed to replace capacity lost due to the phase out of over 6 000 MW of coal.

On a national level, coal capacity declined by 6 228 MW while natural gas capacity increased by 8 399 MW. Natural gas plants are less GHG intensive than coal, they have relatively low capital costs and construction periods, and they can be built in small increments. In addition, infrastructure to bring natural gas to generation sites already exists.

**TABLE 2**

Renewable Electric Capacity and Generation in Canada

		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		72 861 60%	79 280 55%	358 520 59%	376 909 58%
Wind		556 0.5%	11 071 8%	1 454 0.2%	28 526 4%
Biomass		1 788 1%	2 397 2%	7 875 1%	13 107 2%
Solar		17 0.01%	2 134 1%	0 0%	3 001 0.5%
All renewable sources		75 222 62%	94 882 66%	367 849 60%	421 543 65%
All sources		122 066	144 525	610 238	646 040

Capacity is measured in watts and its multiples (kW, MW, GW) and generation is measured in watt hours and its multiples (kW.h, MW.h, GW.h). A generator with 1 GW (1 000 MW) of capacity that operates at that capacity for one hour will produce 1 GW.h of electricity.

This table shows Canada's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 60% to 55% while the share of wind increased from 0.5% to 8%, the share of biomass increased from 1% to 2% and the share of solar from 0.01% to 1%. The share of hydro in total generation decreased from 59% to 58% while the share of wind increased from 0.2% to 4%, the share of biomass increased from 1% to 2% and the share of solar increased from 0% to 0.5%.

Data for the following technologies is available for each province and territory, and as an overview of Canada.



**Hydro** electricity comes from the energy in water flowing over reservoir dams or through run-of-river projects.



**Wind** power is captured by the blades of wind turbines which spin a shaft connected to a generator.



**Biomass** power comes from burning organic waste.



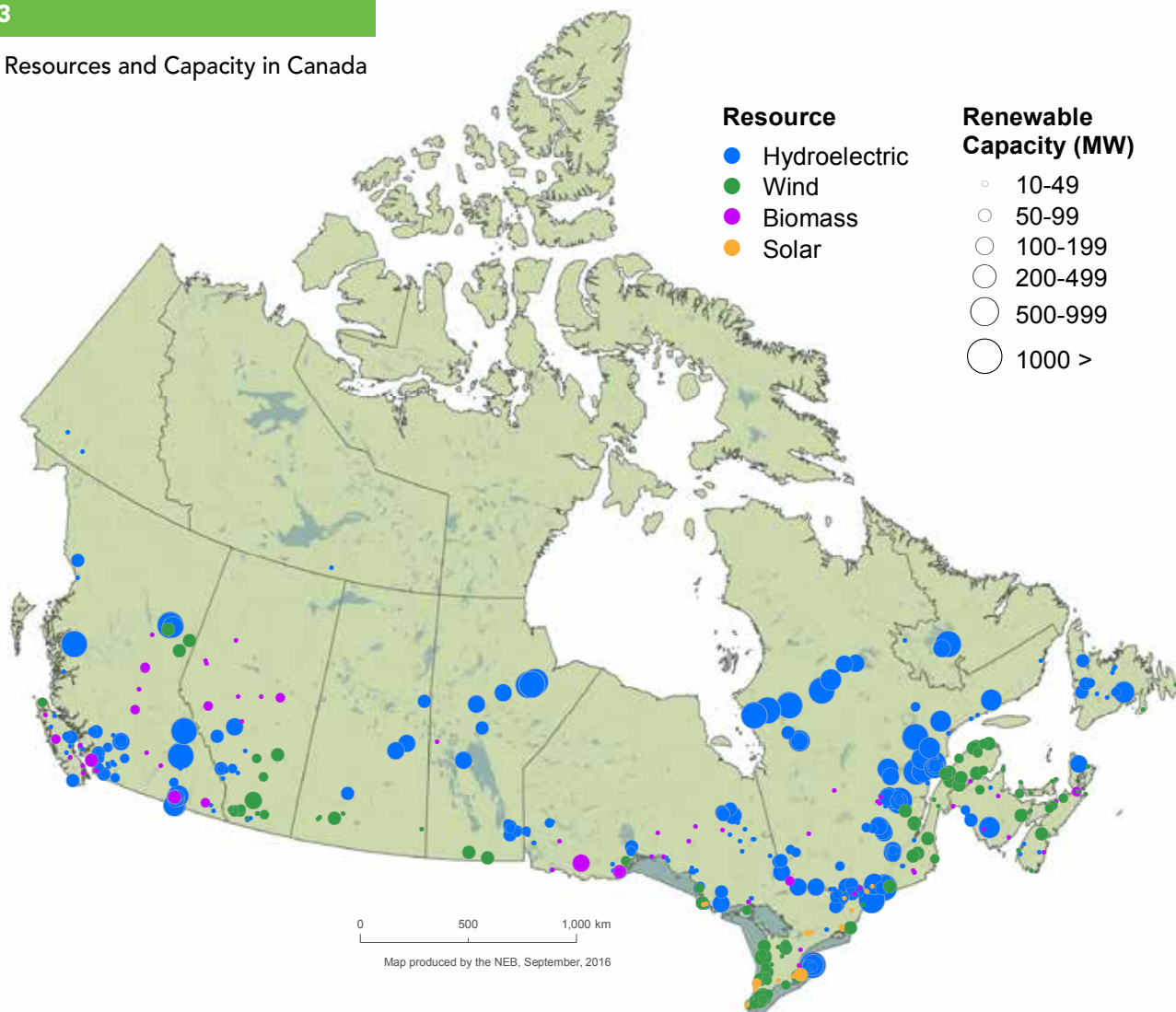
**Solar** energy comes from photovoltaic (PV) cells converting sunlight into electricity at the atomic level.

The location and approximate size of each generating facility using these technologies is shown on the map for each region.



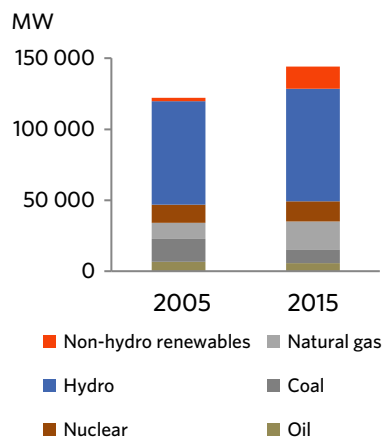
**FIGURE 3**

Renewable Resources and Capacity in Canada



**FIGURE 4**

Electric Generation Capacity in Canada



This bar graph shows Canada's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 122 066 MW to 144 267 MW, with renewables increasing from 62% to 66% of total capacity.

This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across Canada. Renewable power plants are concentrated in the provinces, and sparse in the territories. Hydroelectric power plants are most common and can be found in every province and territory with the exception of PEI and Nunavut. Wind power plants are concentrated in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Biomass resources are more common in BC, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, while the majority of solar resources are located in Ontario.







# British Columbia

**Close to 95% of BC's electricity is generated from renewables. Its renewable capacity is more than 16 000 MW, representing approximately 90% of total installed capacity.**

Hydro remains the most important source of power generation, followed by biomass, natural gas, wind and oil. Non-hydro renewables reached 8% of total capacity in 2015, amounting to a 70% (563 MW) increase since 2005.

Hydro capacity has grown by 17% or over 2 000 MW since 2005. Hydroelectric reservoirs such as Williston Lake created by the [W.A.C Bennett Dam](#) in the northern interior of BC also function as storage and backup for less predictable wind projects.

Provincial Crown corporations own and operate approximately 80% of installed capacity. These two companies are the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ([BC Hydro](#)) and the [Columbia Power Corporation](#).

The remaining capacity is provided by [FortisBC](#) and independent power producers including municipalities and First Nations. Renewable power is sold to BC Hydro or its marketing arm, [Powerex](#).

BC Hydro is expected to produce or contract enough electricity from resources in BC to satisfy its load requirements. In 2007, the province announced a goal to achieve electricity self-sufficiency by 2016 and generate 90% of its energy from clean or renewable sources. This goal was later increased to 93%. The province has a legislative commitment in the [Clean Energy Act](#) that 66% of BC Hydro's future incremental power demand must be met through conservation by 2020.

BC's renewable generating capacity increased by almost 2 800 MW between 2005 and 2015 through various RFPs, and upgrades. Most additions were from expansions of hydro facilities. Site C, a new 1 100 MW dam, is under construction.

Wind capacity grew from 0 to 488 MW between 2005 and 2015. Four wind farms were built between 2009 and 2014, most of them under the [BC Hydro Standing Offer Program](#) initiated in 2008.

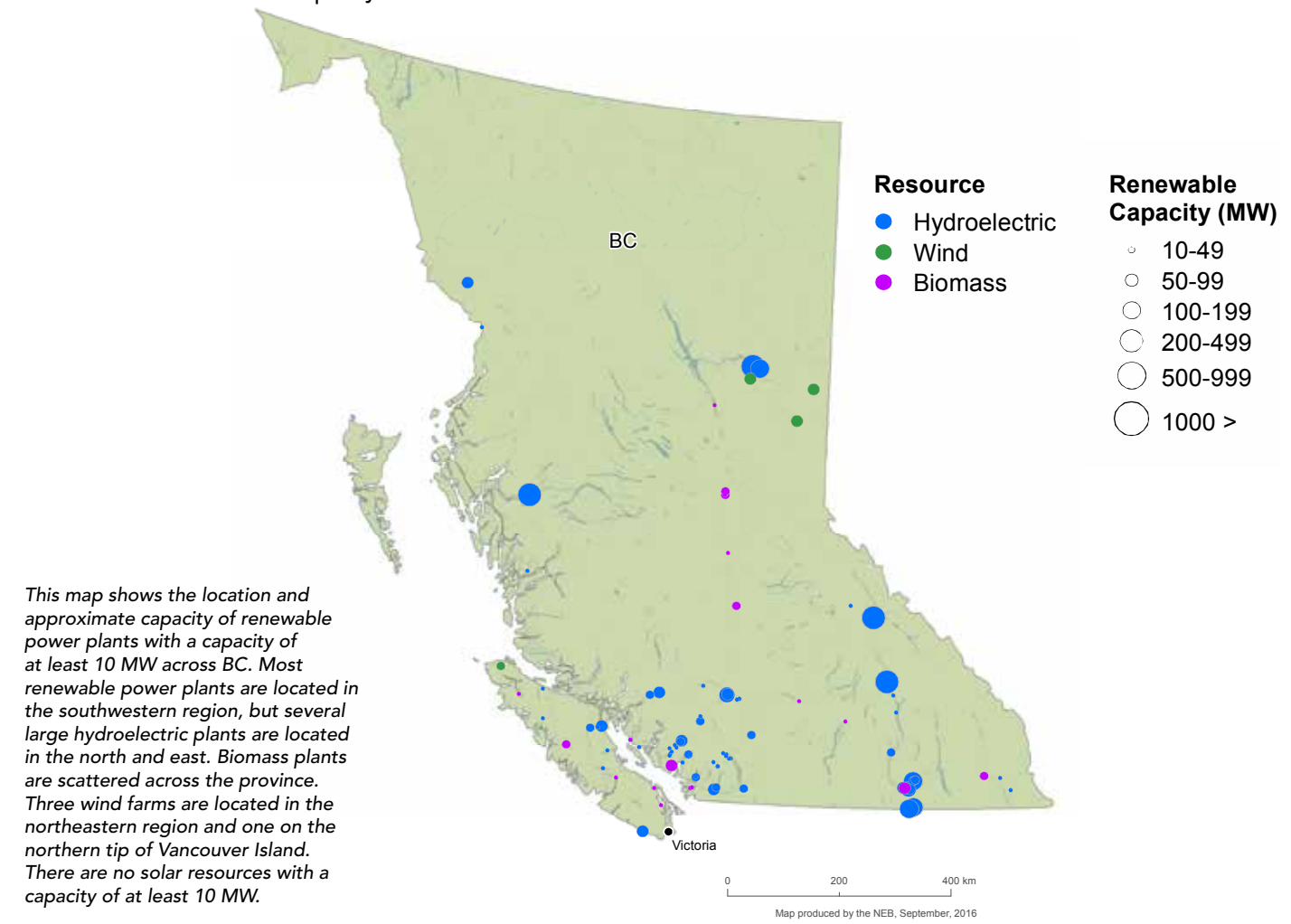
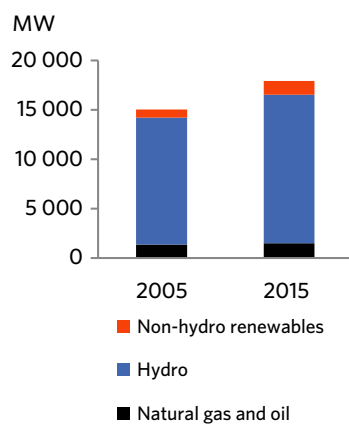
Biomass capacity grew 9% in the last ten years. The [2008 BC Bioenergy Strategy](#) resulted in BC Hydro RFPs for bioenergy in 2008 and for both bioenergy and biomass in 2010. Some biomass plants are built on the sites of idle sawmills.

**TABLE 3**

Renewable Electric Capacity and Generation in BC

		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		12 847 85%	15 029 84%	60 327 89%	57 374 86%
Wind		0 0%	488 3%	0 0%	1 206 2%
Biomass		811 5%	886 5%	3 254 5%	3 711 6%
All renewable sources		13 658 91%	16 405 92%	63 581 94%	62 292 94%
All sources		15 030	17 913	67 774	66 565

*This table shows BC's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 85% to 84% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 3%; the share of biomass remained stable at 5%. The share of hydro in total generation decreased from 89% to 86% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 2% and the share of biomass increased from 5% to 6%.*

**FIGURE 5****Renewable Resources and Capacity in BC****FIGURE 6****Electric Generation Capacity in BC**

*This bar graph shows BC's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 15 030 MW to 17 916 MW, with renewables increasing from 91% to 92% of total capacity.*





# Alberta

**In 2015 Alberta generated 7 947 GW.h or 10% of its total generation from renewables. This is a significant increase from the 4 782 GW.h generated in 2005.**

To meet increasing electricity demand between 2005 and 2015, many power plants, mainly fired with natural gas, were built in Alberta. Consequently, the share of renewable generation increased only slightly from 7% in 2005 to 10% in 2015.

**Approximately 40% of Alberta's generation capacity is natural gas-fired and 40% is coal-fired.** However, coal-fired generation produces 51% of Alberta's electricity, and Alberta has the highest level of coal-fired generation of any province. Alberta has significant coal and natural gas resources which can make it difficult for other fuel sources to be cost-competitive.

**Alberta deregulated the wholesale electricity market in 1996 and the retail electricity market in 2001.** Wholesale prices are determined by the market which consists of about 200 participants including five major wholesalers. The system is administered by the [Alberta Electric System Operator](#).

**Alberta has approximately 1 500 MW of installed wind capacity, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Ontario and Quebec.** The 300 MW [Blackspring Ridge](#) project, the largest wind energy investment in western Canada, was built in 2014. The project is partially financed through RECs. While power from the project is sold in Alberta, the project's RECs are contracted to [Pacific Gas and Electric](#), a California utility, who uses them to comply with California's renewable portfolio standards.

**Renewable projects face specific challenges in Alberta.** In Alberta's deregulated market, producers sell to the power pool at market rates. Wind farms cannot always adjust output to produce more electricity when prices are at their peak. Consequently, they more often sell energy at times when prices are weaker, earning lower average revenue than other producers.

In addition, unlike power generated from coal and natural gas, wind and solar cannot produce power on demand for Alberta's many industrial users. This reliability risk is a drawback for industrial users without backup supply sources.

Finally, due to the distance between major demand centres and suitable rivers in Alberta, the high cost to develop hydro-electricity currently prevents its widespread use.

**In 2007, Alberta established legislation targeted towards large industrial emitters to reduce GHG emissions.** In 2008, a target to reduce emissions by 200 Mt below current projections by 2050 was introduced as part of Alberta's [Climate Change Strategy](#). Since 2008, Alberta implemented a net-metering program which allows Albertans to send excess small scale generation from renewable sources into the grid.

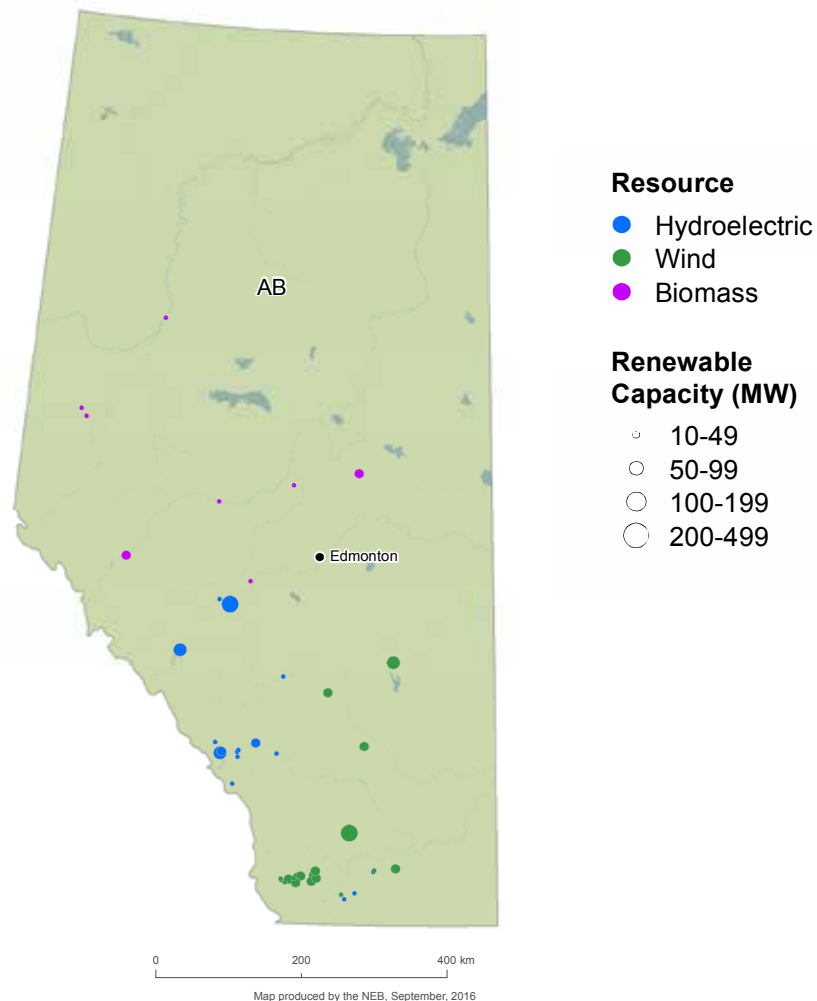
**In November 2015, Alberta introduced a plan to phase out coal-fired generation by 2030.** The [Climate Leadership Plan](#) proposes replacing two thirds of generation capacity with renewables and the remainder with natural gas. The proposed strategy would also include renewable incentives.

**TABLE 4**  
Renewable Electric Capacity  
and Generation in Alberta

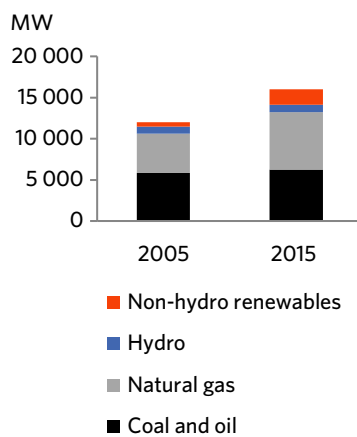
		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		869 7%	894 5%	2 316 3%	1 709 2%
Wind		251 2%	1 463 9%	741 1%	4 089 5%
Biomass		271 2%	428 3%	1 725 3%	2 149 3%
All renewable sources		1 391 12%	2 791 17%	4 782 7%	7 947 10%
All sources		12 008	16 279	68 435	81 540

*This table shows Alberta's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 7% to 5% while the share of wind increased from 2% to 9% and the share of biomass from 2% to 3%. The share of hydro in total generation decreased from 3% to 2% while the share of wind increased from 1% to 5% and the share of biomass remained stable at 3%.*



**FIGURE 7****Renewable Resources and Capacity in Alberta**

The map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across Alberta. Wind farms are concentrated in the southern region while hydroelectric resources are located southwest and biomass resources are concentrated in the north. There are no solar resources with a capacity of at least 10 MW.

**FIGURE 8****Electric Generation Capacity in Alberta**

This bar graph shows Alberta's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 12 008 MW to 16 018 MW, with renewables increasing from 12% to 17% of total capacity.





# Saskatchewan

**Renewable capacity in Saskatchewan reached 1 115 MW (25% of total capacity) in 2015. Hydroelectric plants provide 889 MW of capacity, a figure almost unchanged since 2005.**

The province's five wind farms have a combined capacity of 221 MW. Hydro and wind were used to generate 17% of Saskatchewan's electricity in 2015.

**Between 2005 and 2014, about 22% of electricity in Saskatchewan was produced from renewable resources.**

This figure changes each year because of fluctuations in hydroelectric generation. Electricity demand in Saskatchewan has increased at a relatively strong pace in the last few years and the share of renewable generation has remained relatively stable even though renewable generation has increased.

**Most capacity belongs to [SaskPower](#), the principal electric utility company and the rest is operated by independent power producers.**

**Coal remains the most important source of power generation, followed by natural gas, hydro and wind.** Electricity generation from the province's three coal-fired plants is reliable and relatively low cost.

**SaskPower [Centennial Wind Power Facility](#) was once the biggest wind facility in Canada.** The 150 MW facility was developed in 2006 under the provincial Green Power Portfolio program.

Between 2010 and 2015, independent power producers built three additional wind farms following RFPs by SaskPower.

**In 2015 SaskPower set a [target](#) of 50% renewable power by 2030.** To achieve this goal, the share of renewables in the capacity mix must double in the next 15 years. In addition to wind capacity, the province also plans to develop solar projects.



**SaskPower offers several programs to encourage the use of renewables and flare gas.** Although natural gas is not a renewable resource, the programs support generation of electricity from natural gas which would otherwise be flared into the environment.

Small producers with up to 100 kW of capacity can offset or sell their production through [Net Metering](#) or [Small Power Producers](#) programs. [Flare Gas Power Generation Program](#) supports small and medium-sized oil producers who want to generate power from gas that would have been flared.

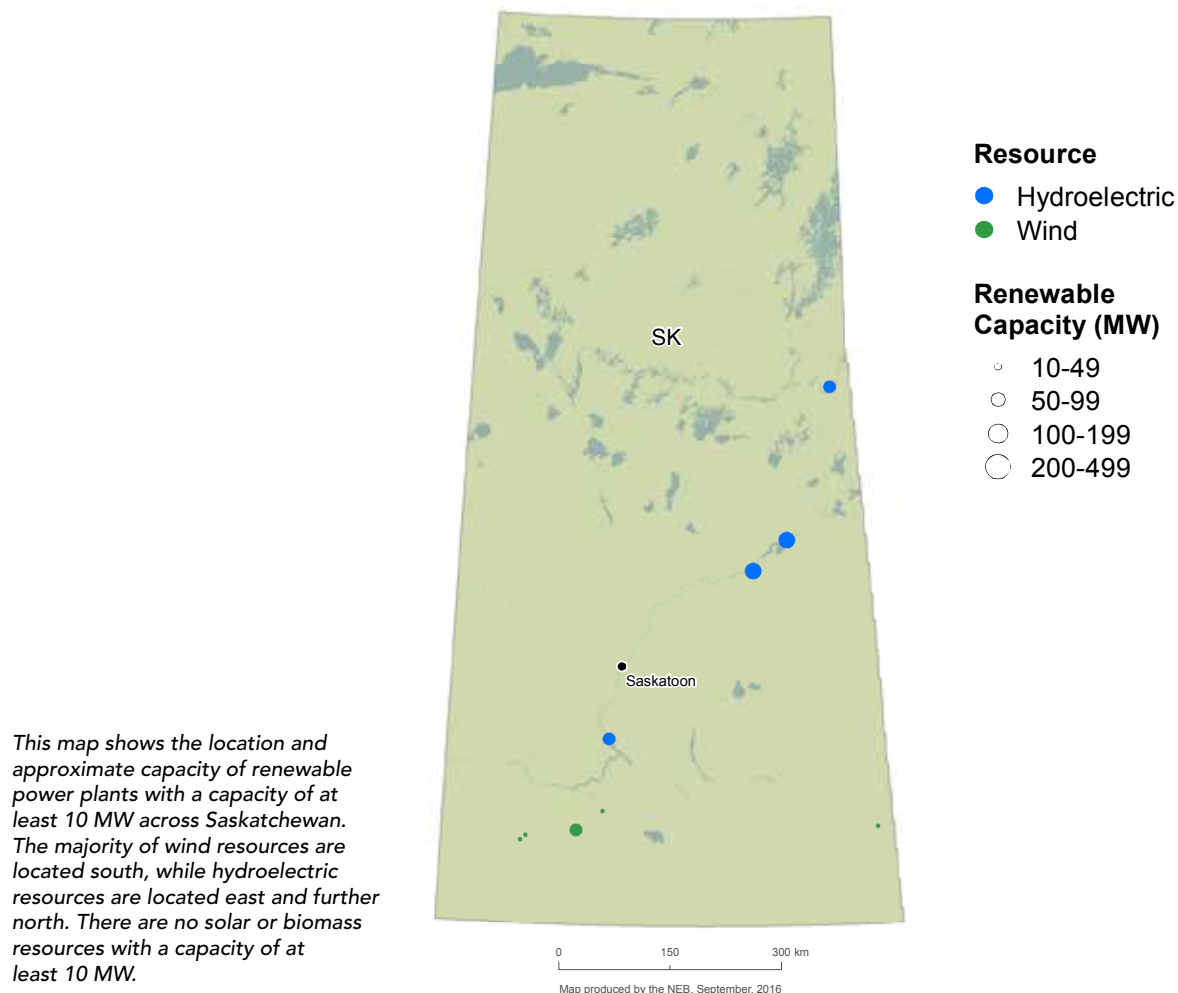
**With the launch of the [Boundary Dam Carbon Capture Project](#) in 2014, SaskPower pioneered the use of CCS technology** which cuts emissions from existing coal-fired plants.

**TABLE 5**

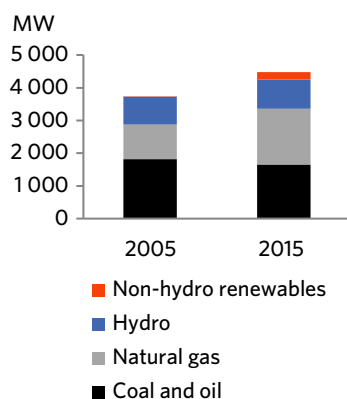
Renewable Electric Capacity and Generation in Saskatchewan

		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		854 23%	889 20%	4 573 23%	3 426 15%
Wind		16 0.4%	221 5%	92 0.5%	684 3%
All renewable sources		870 23%	1 115 25%	4 665 23%	4 110 17%
All sources		3 743	4 477	19 910	23 599

*This table shows Saskatchewan's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 23% to 20% while the share of wind increased from 0.4% to 5%. The share of hydro in total generation decreased from 23% to 15% while the share of wind increased from 0.5% to 3%.*

**FIGURE 9****Renewable Resources and Capacity in Saskatchewan**

This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across Saskatchewan. The majority of wind resources are located south, while hydroelectric resources are located east and further north. There are no solar or biomass resources with a capacity of at least 10 MW.

**FIGURE 10****Electric Generation Capacity in Saskatchewan**

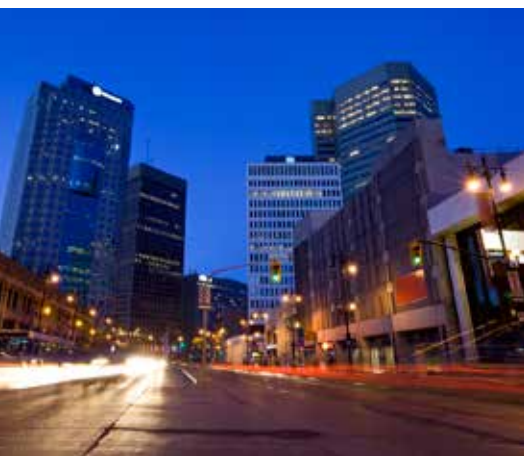
This bar graph shows Saskatchewan's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 3 743 MW to 4 477 MW, with renewables increasing from 23% to 25% of total capacity.

## Carbon capture and storage technology

CCS technology captures CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants or industrial processes and stores them underground in depleted oil and gas fields or geological formations.

The 115 MW unit 3 at the Boundary Dam Coal plant in Saskatchewan, retrofitted with CCS technology in 2014, is the first large-scale power sector CCS project in the world. The technology will reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 100% and the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 90%. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Boundary Dam unit 3 are used to enhance recovery of oil from neighboring oil-wells. The rest is stored in an underground aquifer.





# Manitoba

Electricity in Manitoba is generated almost entirely from renewable sources. Given Manitoba's rich abundant hydro resources, hydroelectricity accounts for the vast majority of capacity; wind has grown considerably in the last decade, from 20 to 258 MW.

Most electricity in Manitoba is procured through [Manitoba Hydro](#), a Crown corporation and the province's major energy utility. Manitoba Hydro determines future electricity requirements and is responsible for the design, construction, and operation of hydro facilities. Wind and biomass facilities are operated by independent power producers.

Manitoba has 15 major hydroelectric [generating stations](#), the largest of which are located along the Nelson River. The increase in hydro capacity in 2015 is attributed to the new 200 MW Wuskwatim Project that was placed in service in 2012. In addition, the 695 MW [Keeyask Project](#) is under construction and is expected to come online in 2019.

Between 2005 and 2015, over 200 MW of wind power was added to Manitoba's supply. Favourable wind resources and recent grid upgrades would allow for further increases.

Manitoba generates almost 100% renewable electricity. However, the province's power sector could further reduce global GHG emissions by increasing clean energy exports into neighbouring provinces and states dominated by coal and natural gas-fired generation. In 2015, Manitoba Hydro's exports reduced net global GHG emissions by approximately 7.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Energy conservation and construction of new hydro capacity will increase the amount of electricity available for sale. The province is also improving electricity transmission infrastructure by adding a new 500 kV line in 2020 to improve reliability and facilitate up to 883 MW in increased exports to the U.S. Mid-West. Manitoba Hydro is also planning on building a new 230 kV transmission line to Saskatchewan in the same time frame, increasing exports by 100 MW.

In 2012, Manitoba implemented an emissions tax on coal and petroleum coke, both of which will be banned in 2017. Revenues from the tax are used for the [Biomass Energy Support Program](#) which helps former coal users transition to local, renewable energy sources.

Manitoba plans to reduce GHGs by one third by 2030, and one half by 2050 compared to 2005 levels. This was put forth in [Manitoba's Climate Change and Green Economy Action Plan](#), released in December 2015. The province aims to be carbon-neutral by 2080. The plan is an update and expansion of earlier strategies ([Clean Energy Strategy](#) 2012, [Tomorrow Now](#) 2014) and considers a cap and trade program for large emitters. Details have not yet been finalized, but the intent is to join Quebec, California and Ontario in the [Western Climate Initiative](#).

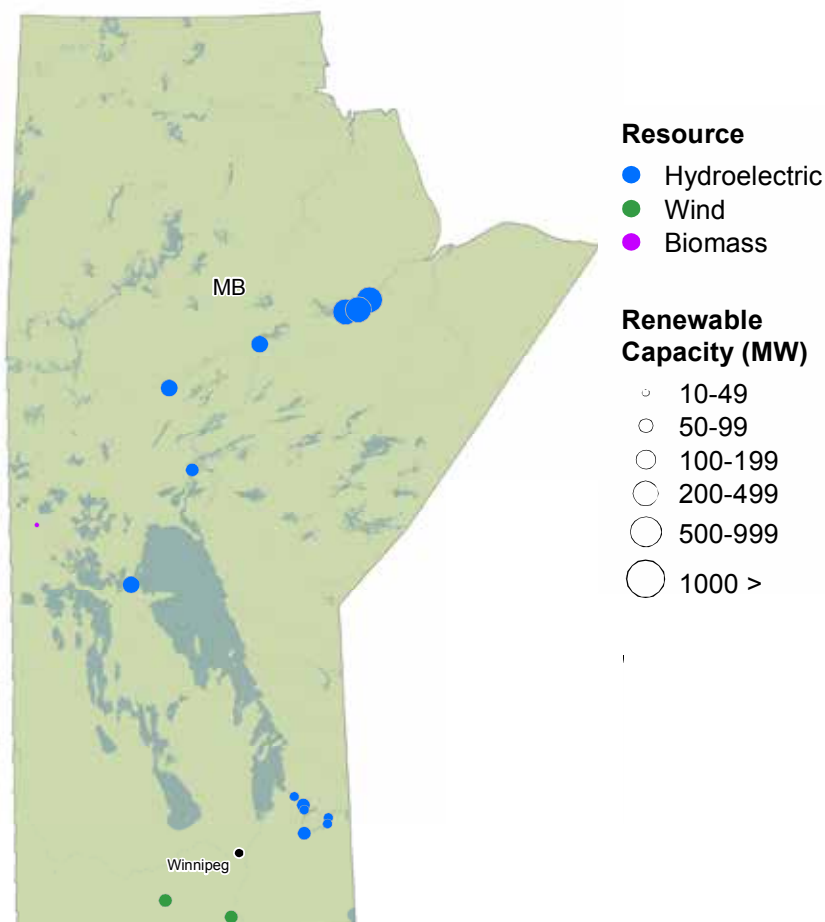
**TABLE 6**  
Renewable Electric Capacity  
and Generation in Manitoba

		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		5 038 90%	5 239 87%	36 440 98%	34 694 97%
Wind		20 0.4%	258 4%	53 0.1%	860 2%
Biomass		22 0.4%	22 0.4%	27 0.1%	45 0.1%
All renewable sources		5 080 91%	5 520 92%	36 521 98%	35 599 99.6%
All sources		5 578	5 998	37 077	35 757

*This table shows Manitoba's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 90% to 87% while the share of wind increased from 0.4% to 4% and the share of biomass remained stable at 0.4%. The share of hydro in total generation decreased from 98% to 97% while the share of wind increased from 0.1% to 2% and the share of biomass remained stable at 0.1%.*

**FIGURE 11**

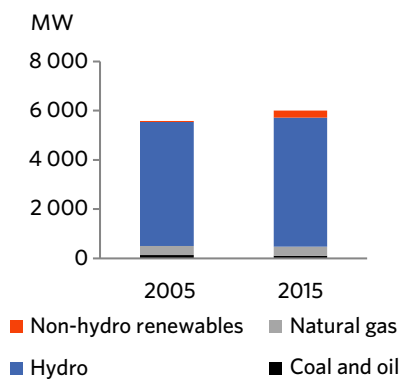
## Renewable Resources and Capacity in Manitoba



This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across Manitoba. Most resources are hydroelectric plants located in the north and in the southeast. Majority of wind resources are located south and biomass resources are located west. There are no solar resources with a capacity of at least 10 MW.

**FIGURE 12**

## Electric Generation Capacity in Manitoba



This bar graph shows Manitoba's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 5 578 MW to 5 998 MW, with renewables increasing from 91% to 92% of total capacity.





# Ontario

Ontario generated more than one third of its electricity from renewable sources in 2015, up from 23% in 2005. Hydroelectric generation, which accounts for most of that power, remained relatively unchanged between 2005 and 2015.

However, generation from biomass more than tripled, and generation from wind and solar went from almost nothing in 2005 to 6% and 2% of generation, respectively.

**Ontario leads Canada in wind and solar capacity.** In the last decade, wind capacity increased by 4 359 MW, reaching 4 374 MW in 2015. Solar capacity increased from 17 MW in 2005 to 2 119 MW in 2015. Most of the province's solar installations are small systems connected to local distribution networks, but the first commercial transmission-connected solar farms were built in 2015.

**Power generation in Ontario is publicly and privately owned.** [Ontario Power Generation](#), a provincial Crown corporation, is one of the largest electricity producers in North America. At the end of 2015, it had 17 055 MW of hydroelectric, nuclear, biomass and other thermal generating capacity.

Ontario's remaining power plants are owned by private entities, such as [Bruce Power](#), [TransCanada](#), [Brookfield Renewable Power](#), and various independent power producers.

**Ontario phased out the use of coal in 2014.** The Lakeview coal-fired plant was shut down in 2005, followed by Atikokan in 2012, Lambton and Nanticoke in 2013, and Thunder Bay in 2014. In 2013, The [Ending Coal for Cleaner Air Act](#) was introduced to ensure no future coal plants are built in Ontario.

**Most of the growth in renewable project development has occurred within the last seven years through the FIT Program** which promotes the use of renewable energy sources including on-shore wind, hydro, biomass, biogas, landfill gas, and solar PV. The FIT Program was introduced as part of the 2009 *Green Energy and Economy Act* and is open to projects between 10 kW and 500 kW. Projects with a capacity of 10 kW or less may qualify under the [microFIT program](#). Both programs are administered by the [Independent Electricity System Operator](#) (IESO).





**In June 2016, the combined capacity contracted through four waves of the FIT Program totaled 4 864 MW;** of which 67 MW were bio-energy, 1 672 MW solar, 2 964 MW wind and 162 MW hydroelectricity. In addition, 177 MW of combined contract capacity from solar generation was in commercial operation under the microFIT Program.

**The procurement of renewable projects continues.** In 2016, the IESO awarded contracts for over 450 MW under the first phase of the [Large Renewable Procurement program](#).

The 2013 Long Term Energy Plan sets a long-term conservation target of 30 TW.h by 2032 which represents a 16% reduction in forecasted electricity demand compared to what was forecast in the absence of the program. It also outlines a goal to use Demand Response to meet 10% of peak demand by 2025, equivalent to approximately 2 400 MW. Demand Response occurs when consumers reduce their electricity consumption in response to price signals and system needs, shifting demand from peak to off-peak times.

**The Ontario government is committed to increasing the amount of renewable energy to 20 000 MW by 2025.** This equals almost half of Ontario's current installed capacity.

**TABLE 7**  
Renewable Electric Capacity  
and Generation in Ontario

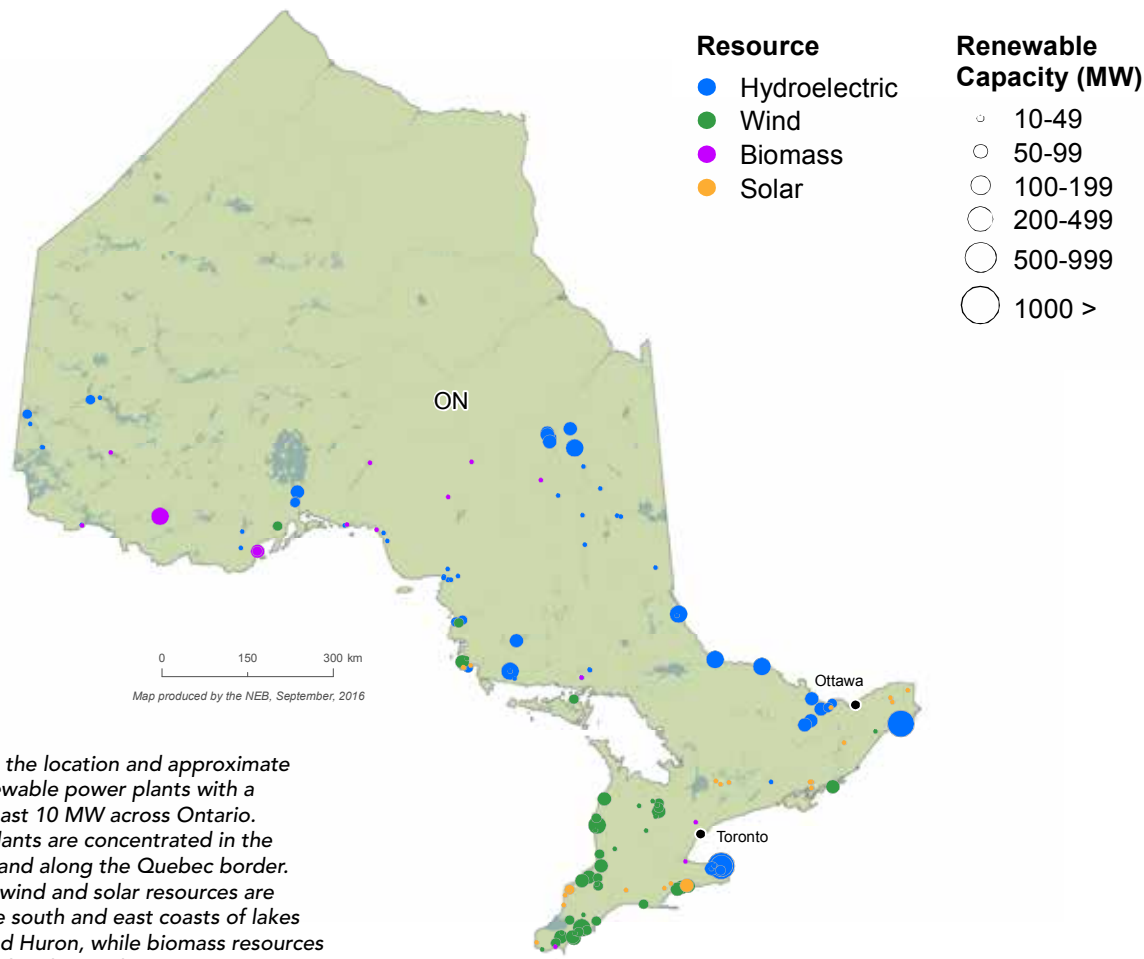
		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		8 505 27%	8 768 22%	35 480 22%	37 300 23%
Wind		15 0%	4 374 11%	26 0%	10 200 6%
Biomass		209 1%	574 1%	1 252 1%	3 899 2%
Solar		17 0.1%	2 119 5%	0 0%	3 001 2%
All renewable sources		8 745 28%	15 835 40%	36 757 23%	54 400 34%
All sources		31 575	39 345	159 335	159 999

*This table shows Ontario's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 27% to 22% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 11%, the share of biomass remained stable at 1% and the share of solar increased from 0.1% to 5%. The share of hydro in total generation increased from 22% to 23% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 6%, the share of biomass from 1% to 2% and the share of solar from 0% to 2%.*



**FIGURE 13**

## Renewable Resources and Capacity in Ontario



This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across Ontario. Hydroelectric plants are concentrated in the Niagara region and along the Quebec border. The majority of wind and solar resources are located near the south and east coasts of lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron, while biomass resources are concentrated in the north.

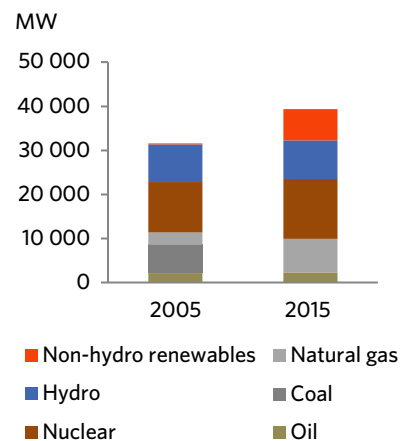
The amount of wind, solar and bioenergy capacity would gradually increase to 10 700 MW by 2021. Hydroelectric capacity would reach 9 300 MW by 2025.

In April 2015, the Ontario government announced plans to introduce a cap and trade program by becoming part of the carbon trading market with Quebec and California. This was followed by the [Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act 2016](#) which sets targets for the reduction of GHGs and establishes the framework for Ontario's cap and trade program.



**FIGURE 14**

## Electric Generation Capacity in Ontario



This bar graph shows Ontario's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 31 575 MW to 39 345 MW, with renewables increasing from 28% to 40% of total capacity.



# Quebec

**Quebec generates virtually all its electricity from renewable sources, mainly hydroelectricity supplemented by wind and small amounts of biomass.**

Installed renewable capacity reached 43 719 MW in 2015 compared to 36 959 MW in 2005. Wind capacity changed the most, increasing from 207 to 3 262 MW.

**Hydro-Québec**, a Crown corporation, generates, transmits, and distributes most of the electricity in the province. The utility is Canada's largest electricity producer and is among the world's largest hydro power producers. Several thermal and hydro power plants, as well as all the existing wind farms in the province are owned and operated by independent power producers.

Hydro-Québec has added over 3 000 MW of hydro capacity since 2005 from reservoir and run-of-river facilities. Major additions include two hydroelectric facilities on the [Eastmain](#) river in northern Quebec (1 248 MW) and two units at the La Romaine complex on the Côte-Nord. Two more units at [La Romaine](#) (640 MW) are currently under construction.

Most wind projects in the province were built as a result of four RFPs conducted between 2003 and 2013. In December 2015, the government established a partnership with Hydro-Québec and the Innu nation to build a 200 MW wind project. With that initiative, the total capacity of wind projects operating, under construction, or under development approaches the 4 000 MW target set in the [Energy Strategy for 2006 to 2015](#).

In 2012, Quebec committed to reducing GHG emissions 20% below 1990 levels by 2020. The total reduction of GHG emissions achieved through implementation of this [2013-2020 Climate Change Action Plan](#) amounted to 3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2013-2014.

In 2016, Quebec unveiled, [The 2030 Energy Policy – Energy in Quebec: A Source of Growth](#). The new policy sets targets to promote energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable resources and lower consumption of fossil fuels by 2030, reducing GHG emissions by 16 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

The policy confirms the government's support for renewable power sources. Small hydroelectric projects are expected to serve as sources of economic development for local and indigenous communities. Residual forest biomass can

be used as fuel in cogeneration power plants or turned into biogas to generate renewable electricity in remote communities. Similarly, wind could be used as an alternate solution to fossil energies in northern Quebec. However, the continued development of wind energy is desirable only to the extent that the impact on consumers is limited and to the extent that any additional supply of energy is required in order to meet any fluctuations in Quebec's annual electricity needs.

Only 0.8% of Quebec's GHG emissions are from electricity generation. These emissions are mainly from 24 diesel-fired power plants, which supply off-the-grid power systems such as in Îles-de-la-Madeleine and northern communities.

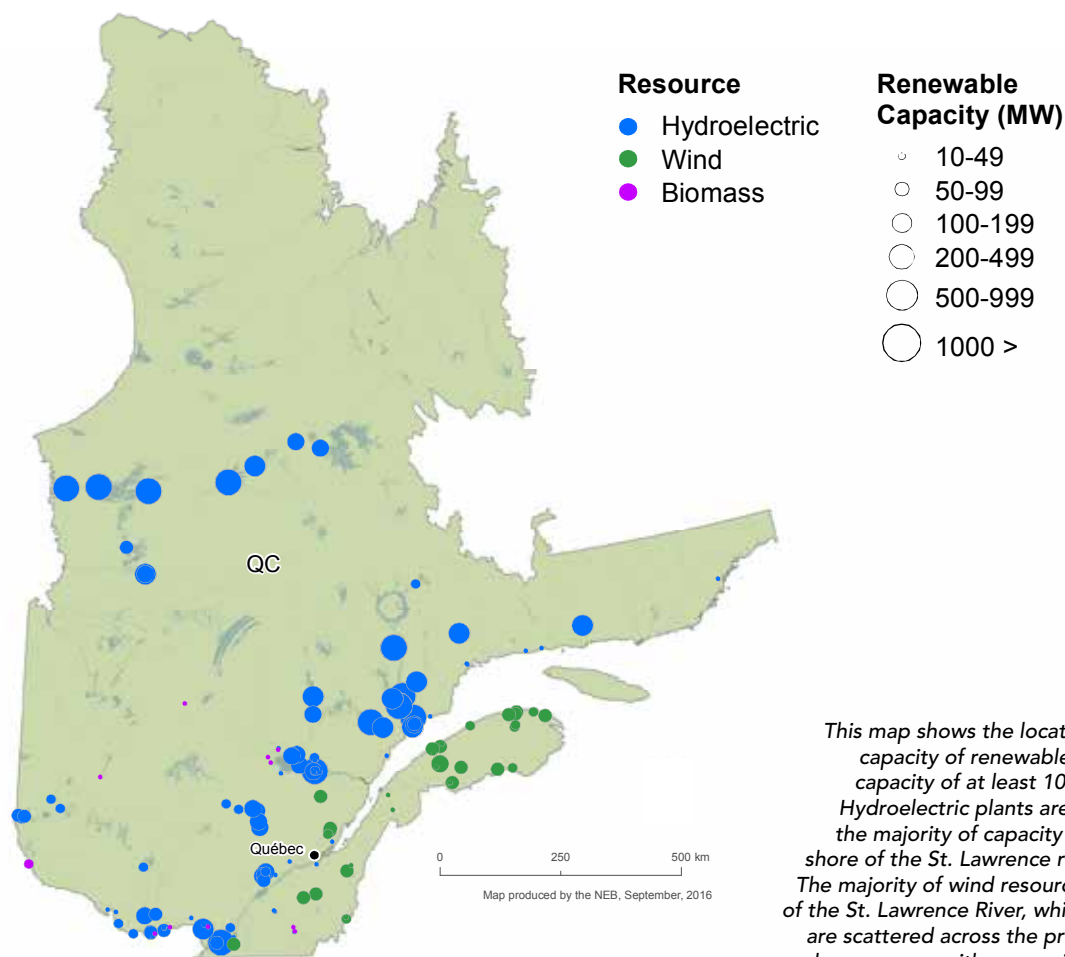
**TABLE 8**  
Renewable Electric Capacity  
and Generation in Quebec

		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		36 473 93%	40 212 90%	173 356 96%	197 668 95%
Wind		207 1%	3 262 7%	416 0.2%	8 938 4%
Biomass		278 1%	245 1%	646 0.4%	2 053 1%
All renewable sources		36 959 94%	43 719 98%	174 418 97%	208 659 99.9%
All sources		39 260	44 563	180 472	208 911

*This table shows Quebec's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 93% to 90% while the share of wind increased from 1% to 7%; the share of biomass remained stable at 1%. The share of hydro in total generation decreased from 96% to 95% while the share of wind increased from 0.2% to 4% and the share of biomass increased from 0.4% to 1%.*

**FIGURE 15**

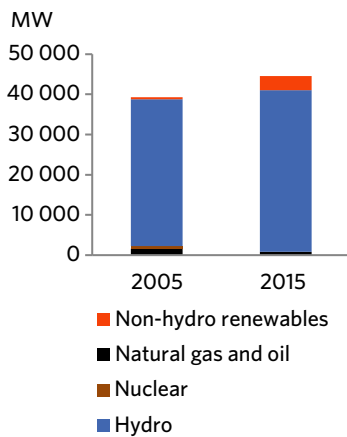
Renewable Resources and Capacity in Quebec



This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across Quebec. Hydroelectric plants are most common, with the majority of capacity located on the north shore of the St. Lawrence river and in the north. The majority of wind resources are located south of the St. Lawrence River, while biomass resources are scattered across the province. There are no solar resources with a capacity of at least 10 MW.

**FIGURE 16**

Electric Generation Capacity in Quebec



This bar graph shows Quebec's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 39 260 MW to 44 563 MW, with renewables increasing from 94% to 98% of total capacity.







# New Brunswick

**In New Brunswick, renewables account for 31% of capacity. Hydro, wind and biomass capacity grew by 28% between 2005 and 2015, and renewables' share of generation increased from 21% to 28%.**

The [New Brunswick Power Corporation](#) (NB Power), a vertically-integrated Crown corporation, owns about 3 500 MW or 80% of provincial generating capacity. Independent power producers and utilities supply the remaining power, roughly half of which is renewable.




In the last decade, wind registered the strongest growth among renewable sources. There was no wind installed in New Brunswick in 2005. However, after NB Power issued several RFPs, almost 300 MW of wind was installed between 2008 and 2011. In contrast, hydro and biomass capacity remained relatively unchanged. Nuclear, coal, oil and gas-fired generation account for roughly 70% of the province's capacity.

New Brunswick plans to meet 40% of provincial electricity demand with renewables by 2020. According to the [2011 New Brunswick Energy Blueprint](#) and [2014 Integrated Resource Plan](#), this goal will be accomplished through a combination of eligible renewable energy imports from other provinces, and by purchased power from local producers and customers through a variety of programs. In 2015, [regulations](#) under the *Electricity Act* were amended to support the 40% renewable portfolio standard.

Under a [net-metering program](#), NB Power customers generating electricity for individual use from renewable installations of less than 100 kW can send surplus electricity into the grid. The NB Power Embedded Generation Program allows small-scale renewable energy projects to be connected to the distribution system and sell electricity to the grid.

In January 2016, NB Power issued a call offering to purchase up to 40 MW of electricity from First Nations.

**TABLE 9**  
Renewable Electric Capacity  
and Generation in New Brunswick

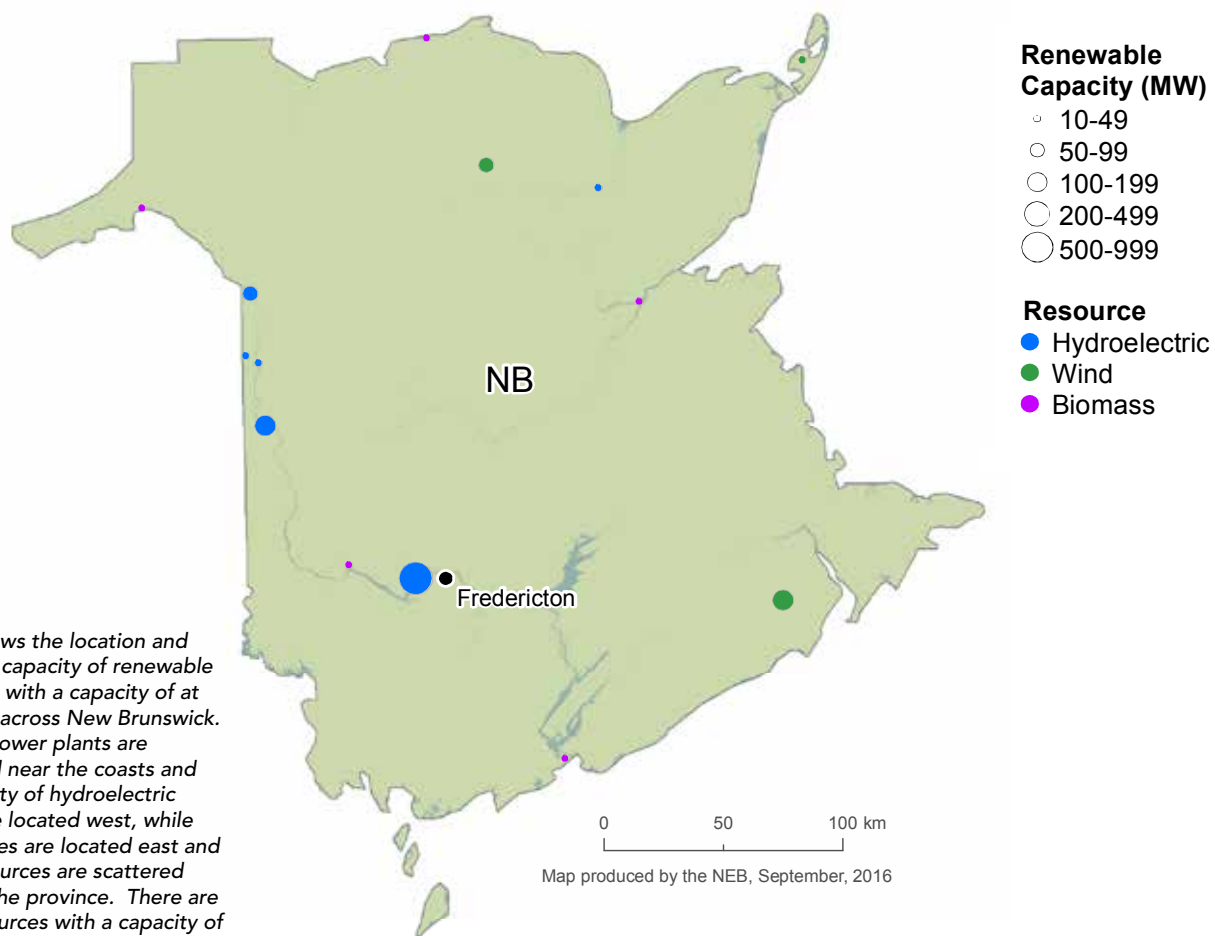
		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		949 22%	957 21%	3 875 18%	2 728 19%
Wind		0 0%	294 7%	0 0%	737 5%
Biomass		127 3%	127 3%	653 3%	606 4%
All renewable sources		1 076 25%	1 378 31%	4 528 21%	4 070 28%
All sources		4 231	4 505	21 333	14 378

*This table shows New Brunswick's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 22% to 21% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 7% and the share of biomass remained stable at 3%. The share of hydro in total generation increased from 18% to 19% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 5% and the share of biomass increased from 3% to 4%.*



**FIGURE 17**

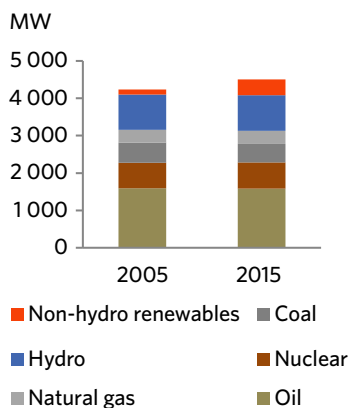
**Renewable Resources and Capacity in New Brunswick**



This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across New Brunswick. Renewable power plants are concentrated near the coasts and rivers. Majority of hydroelectric resources are located west, while wind resources are located east and biomass resources are scattered throughout the province. There are no solar resources with a capacity of at least 10 MW.

**FIGURE 18**

**Electric Generation Capacity in New Brunswick**



This bar graph shows New Brunswick's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 4 231 MW to 4 505 MW, with renewables increasing from 25% to 31% of total capacity.





# Nova Scotia

In 2015, Nova Scotia generated 2 659 GW.h of electricity from renewable sources, mainly wind and hydro. In the past ten years, the share of generation from renewables increased from 12% to 24%.

Nova Scotia generates the highest percentage of electricity from wind in Canada, after PEI.

**Nova Scotia Power**, an investor-owned utility, controls most of the generation assets in the province. Independent power producers own the majority of the wind and biomass facilities.

Nova Scotia has an increasingly diverse electricity supply mix including coal, oil, natural gas, and renewables. In 2005 generation from fossil fuels, mostly coal, accounted for over 80% of the total. In 2015 this declined to about 70%.

In 2010 Nova Scotia adopted a **Renewable Electricity Standard** designed to increase generation of electricity from renewable resources. This legislated standard requires 25% of the province's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2015 and increase to 40% by 2020. To support these targets the province introduced programs such as **Enhanced Net Metering**, **Community Feed-in Tariffs**, **Developmental Tidal Feed-in Tariff**, a **Commercial Renewables** Program, and other initiatives.




Nova Scotia is home to the only tidal power plant in North America, and one of few in the world. The **Annapolis Tidal station**, built in 1984, has a 20 MW generating capacity.

Nova Scotia is looking to develop its vast tidal energy resource. In 2012 the province introduced the **Marine Renewable Energy Strategy** which targeted 300 MW of power from in-stream tidal energy projects. To meet this goal, the **Marine Renewable Energy Act** was introduced in 2015.

In 2015, the province introduced the Developmental Tidal Feed-in Tariff program which is specific to in-stream tidal projects (0.5 MW or higher). A number of independent producers have expressed interest in this program and so far there are five proposed projects with a combined capacity of 22 MW.

**TABLE 10**

Renewable Electric Capacity and Generation in Nova Scotia

		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		404 16%	376 13%	1 075 9%	1 003 9%
Wind		35 1%	444 15%	85 1%	1 015 9%
Biomass		69 3%	113 4%	318 3%	641 6%
All renewable sources		507 21%	933 32%	1 479 12%	2 659 24%
All sources		2 447	2 925	12 540	11 028

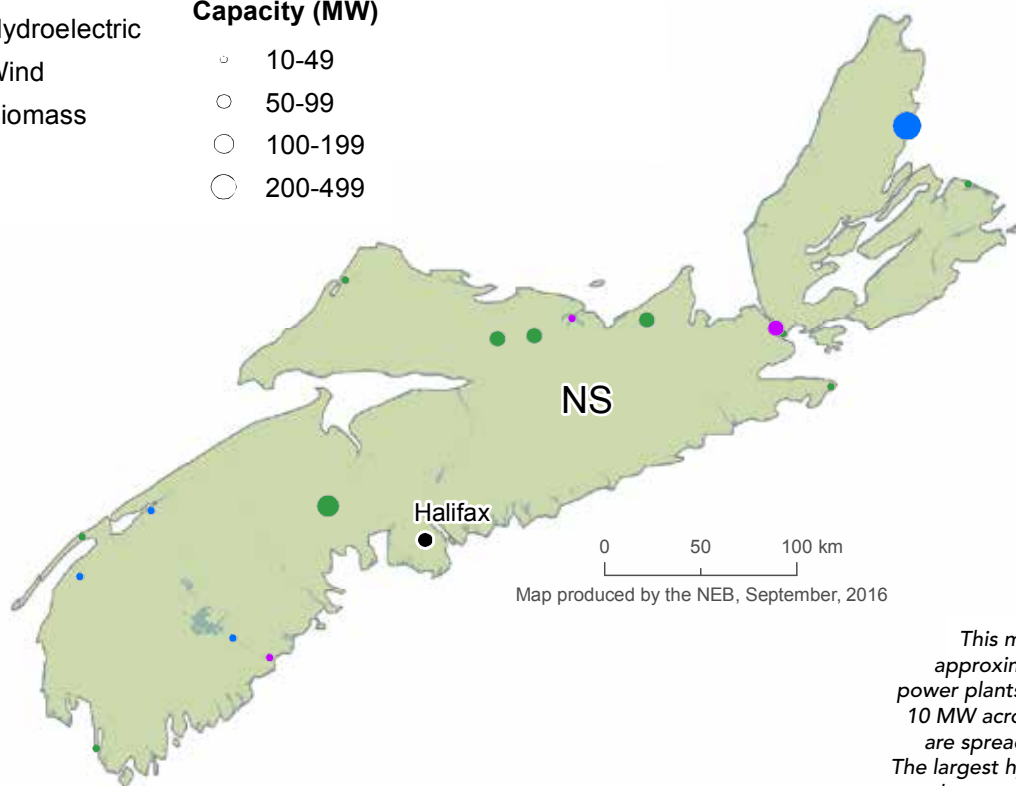
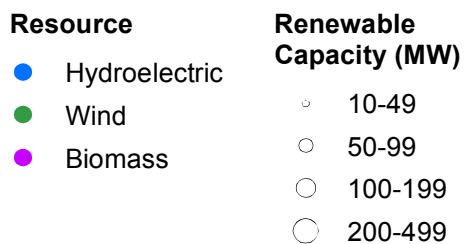
This table shows Nova Scotia's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 16% to 13% while the share of wind increased from 1% to 15% and the share of biomass from 3% to 4%. The share of hydro in total generation remained stable at 9% while the share of wind increased from 1% to 9% and the share of biomass increased from 3% to 6%.





**FIGURE 19**

Renewable Resources and Capacity in Nova Scotia

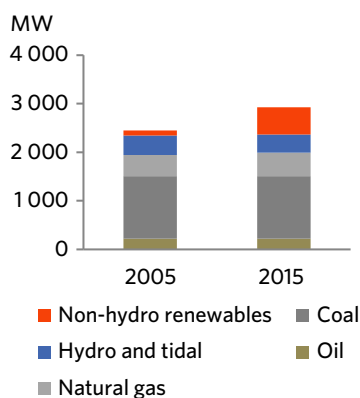


Map produced by the NEB, September, 2016

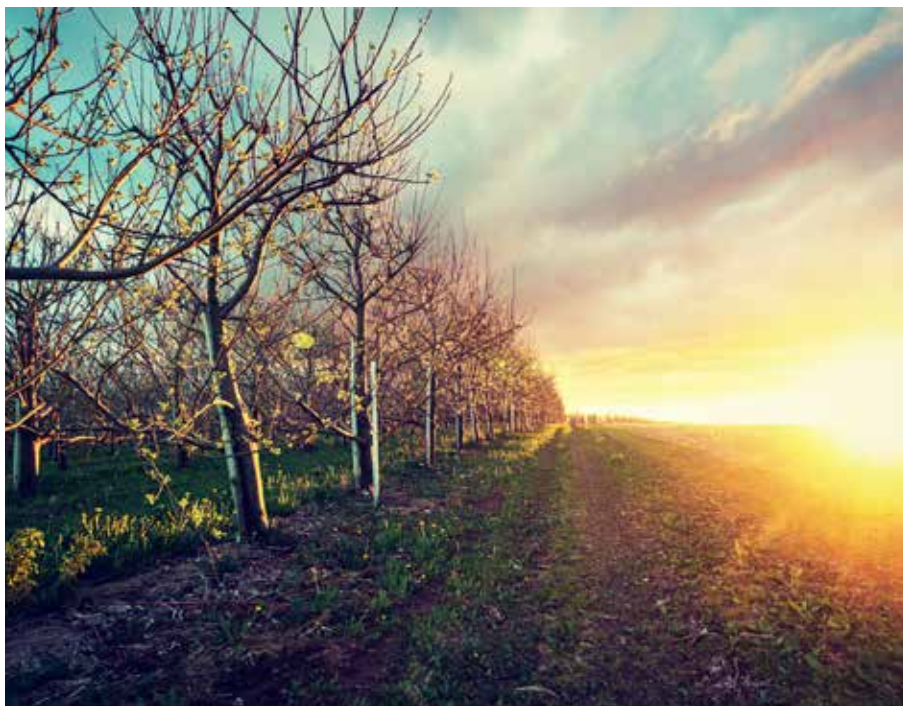
*This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across Nova Scotia. Resources are spread throughout the province. The largest hydro plant is located in the northeast while the largest windfarm is located in the centre of the province. There are no solar resources with a capacity of at least 10 MW.*

**FIGURE 20**

Electric Generation Capacity in Nova Scotia



*This bar graph shows Nova Scotia's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 2 447 MW to 2 925 MW, with renewables increasing from 21% to 32% of total capacity.*





# Newfoundland and Labrador

More than 95% of power generated in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2015 was renewable, primarily hydro. The province has vast hydro resources and is home to the 5 428 MW Upper [Churchill Falls](#) hydro-generating station, one of the largest power plants in Canada.

The energy from this facility is sold to Hydro-Québec under long-term contracts. In the last decade two wind farms totaling over 50 MW of capacity have also been developed.

[Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro](#), a Crown corporation and subsidiary of [Nalcor Energy](#), is responsible for most of the electricity generation and transmission within the province. Newfoundland Power, an investor-owned subsidiary of Fortis, is the primary distributor of electricity on the Island. Independent power producers operate the province's two wind farms.



Construction is now underway on the [Muskrat Falls](#) (824 MW) hydroelectric plant. Initially, a portion of the electricity generation from Muskrat Falls will be surplus to Newfoundland and Labrador's needs.

Newfoundland and Labrador's bulk electric system presently includes the Island Interconnected System, which is isolated from the rest of North America, and the Labrador connected System which is connected with Quebec. The two systems, which are currently isolated from one another, will be connected for the first time upon completion of the Labrador-Island Link transmission component of the Muskrat Falls Project. The associated Maritime Link transmission project will also interconnect the Island portion of the province with the North American bulk electric system via Nova Scotia.

Newfoundland and Labrador set out a GHG reduction target of 10% below the 1990 level by 2020. The long-term 2050 target, outlined in the [2007 Energy Plan](#), is to reduce emissions to 75-85% below 2001 levels. Renewable capacity additions help to meet those targets. For example, after Muskrat Falls begins production, Nalcor plans to retire the oil-fired Holyrood plant, which currently supplies between 15% and 25% of provincial demand.

**TABLE 11**

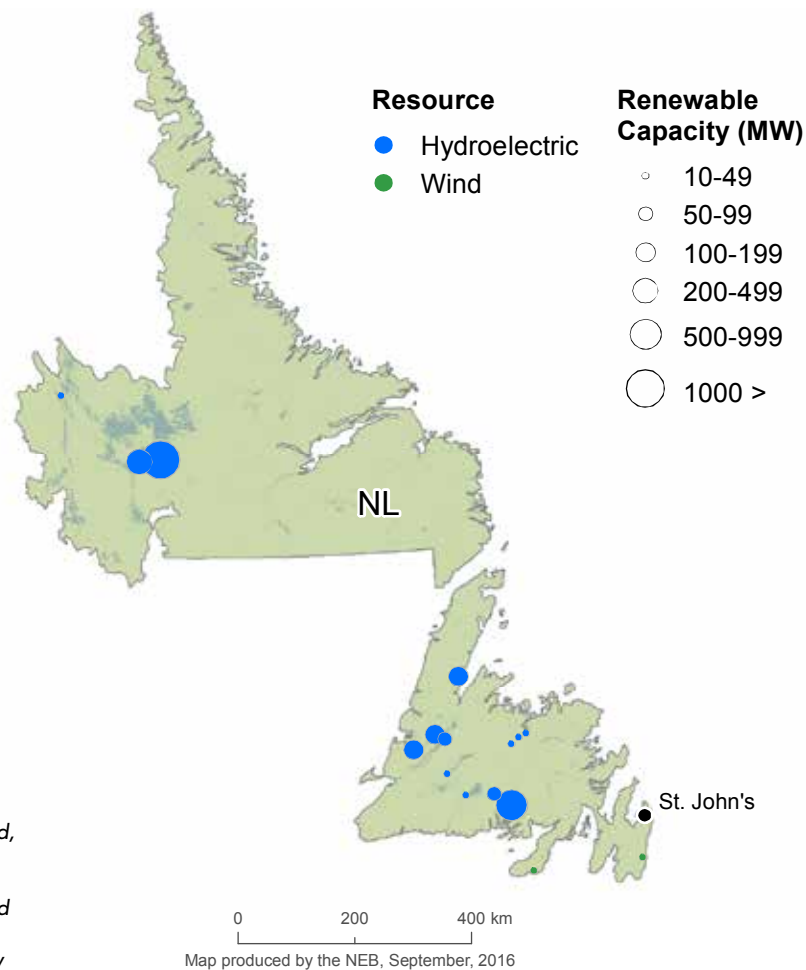
Renewable Electric Capacity and Generation in Newfoundland and Labrador

		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		6 780 89%	6 766 87%	40 498 96%	40 332 95%
Wind		0 0%	54 1%	0 0%	189 0.4%
All renewable sources		6 780 89%	6 820 88%	40 498 96%	40 521 96%
All sources		7 642	7 791	42 136	42 314

*This table shows Newfoundland and Labrador's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity decreased from 89% to 87% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 1%. The share of hydro in total generation decreased from 96% to 95% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 0.4%.*

**FIGURE 21**

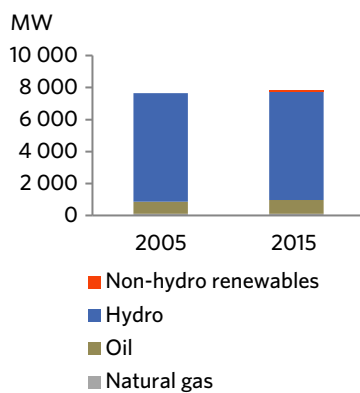
Renewable Resources and Capacity in Newfoundland and Labrador



This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across Newfoundland and Labrador. The majority of hydroelectric resources are spread out in Newfoundland, but the largest hydroelectric plants are situated in the western part of Labrador. The majority of wind resources are located in southern Newfoundland. There are no biomass or solar resources with a capacity of at least 10 MW.

**FIGURE 22**

Electric Generation Capacity in Newfoundland and Labrador



This bar graph shows Newfoundland and Labrador's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 7 642 MW to 7 791 MW, with renewables decreasing slightly from 89% to 88% of total capacity.







# Prince Edward Island

Electricity generation on PEI came almost entirely from renewables in 2015, reflecting PEI's exceptional wind resource and a small amount of biomass. Renewable capacity on PEI increased from about 14 MW in 2005 to over 200 MW in 2015.

Over the last decade, the share of generation from renewables grew from 86% to 99%, with wind farms supplying almost all the electricity generated (596 GW.h) in 2015.

However, PEI uses a lot of electricity from other provinces to meet its needs. In 2015, almost 75% of electricity used in PEI was supplied via subsea cables from New Brunswick. The high share for renewables in PEI reflects the share attributable to power generation, and not power consumption.

Almost half of PEI's installed capacity consists of diesel and oil-fired facilities. These thermal-fired generators are typically used as "peakers" or for emergency back-up when demand is high and off-island supply is interrupted, or island wind production is intermittent.



[Maritime Electric Company Ltd.](#) owns and operates most thermal generation on the island. The balance of the thermal generation is owned by the municipal utility in the city of Summerside. Eight wind farms are owned by a small number of independent companies, including a municipal utility, an Independent Power Producer, and a Crown corporation.

To encourage wind development, PEI passed the [Renewable Energy Act \(REA\)](#) in 2005. REA required utilities to source a minimum of 15% of electrical energy from renewable energy sources by 2010. 15% was achieved by 2010, and by 2014 there was 203 MW of wind generation installed on PEI. The REA also provided a [net metering program](#) for small capacity renewable generators (100 kW or less).

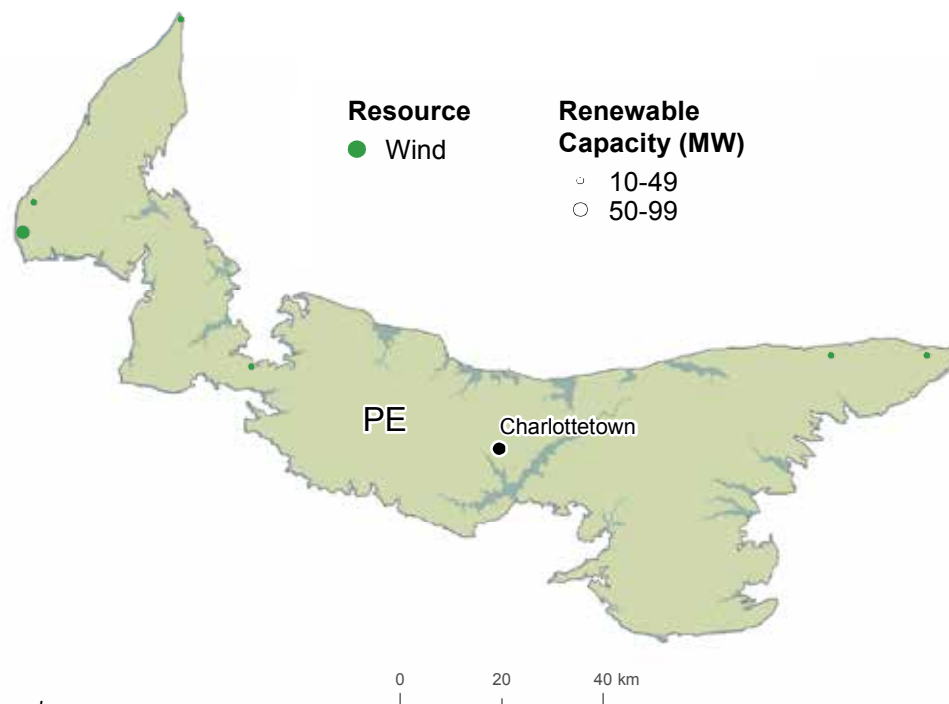
In mid-2015, the REA was amended to eliminate the requirement that utilities source a percentage of their sales through renewables. Energy and the corresponding renewable energy credits can be sold outside the province.

**TABLE 12**

Renewable Electric Capacity and Generation in PEI

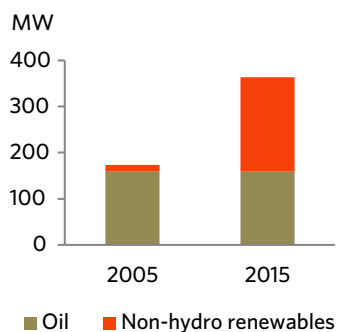
		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Wind		13 8%	203 56%	40 86%	587 98%
Biomass		1 1%	1 0.3%	0 0%	4 1%
All renewable sources		14 8%	204 56%	40 86%	591 99%
All sources		173	363	46	596

*This table shows PEI's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of wind in total capacity increased from 8% to 56% while the share of biomass decreased from 1% to 0.3%. The share of wind in total generation increased from 86% to 98% while the share of biomass increased from 0% to 1%.*

**FIGURE 23****Renewable Resources and Capacity in PEI**

Map produced by the NEB, September, 2016

This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 10 MW across PEI. Majority of wind resources are located along the western and eastern coasts. There are no hydroelectric, biomass, or solar resources with a capacity of at least 10 MW.

**FIGURE 24****Electric Generation Capacity in PEI**

This bar graph shows PEI's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 173 MW to 363 MW, with renewables increasing from 8% to 56% of total capacity.





# Yukon

In 2015, Yukon generated 94% of its electricity from renewables, almost exclusively from hydro. Although a 5 to 10 MW windfarm site was selected in late 2014, Yukon has less than 1 MW wind capacity.

While Yukon generates the majority of its electricity from hydro, diesel and LNG are required to meet peak demand.


Two regulated Yukon utilities generate and distribute electricity. [Yukon Energy Corporation](#) owned by the territory generates most of the power and owns and operates most of the territory's transmission infrastructure. [ATCO Electric Yukon](#) is a privately owned distributor, which also generates power.

Yukon's government announced [plans](#) in 2009 to increase renewable energy by 20% by 2020. Since then, it has implemented a [biomass energy strategy](#) for district and home heating, adopted an [Independent Power Production policy](#), and introduced a [micro-generation program](#) which allows individuals to produce and sell electricity to the grid.

Increasing renewable capacity on a larger scale requires infrastructure investments, and the Yukon government plans to upgrade key transmission lines in 2017 if it has sufficient funding.

**TABLE 13**

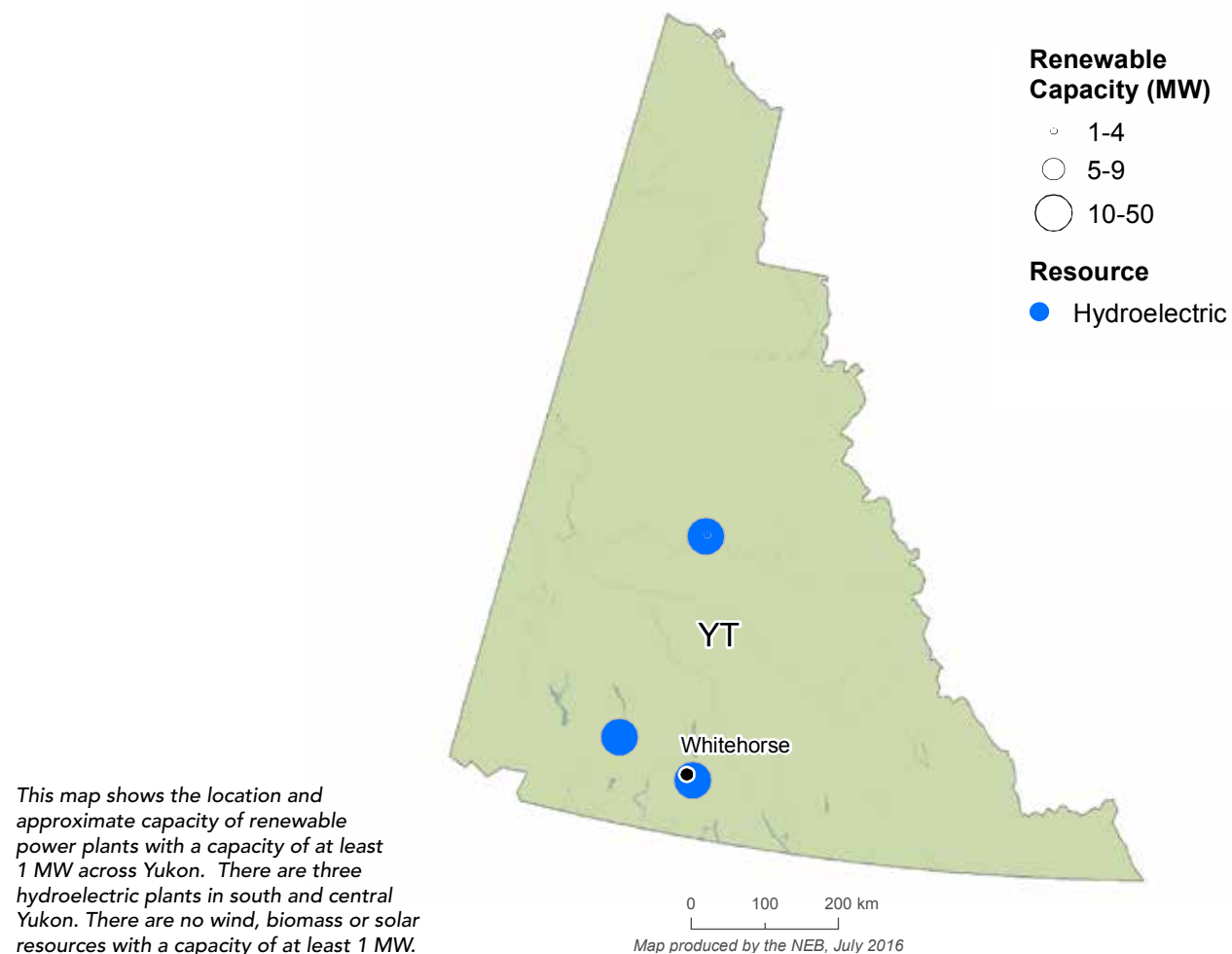
Renewable Electric Capacity and Generation in Yukon

		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		77 <b>70%</b>	95 <b>76%</b>	320 <b>93%</b>	422 <b>94%</b>
All renewable sources		77 <b>70%</b>	95 <b>77%</b>	320 <b>93%</b>	422 <b>94%</b>
All sources		110	124	343	448

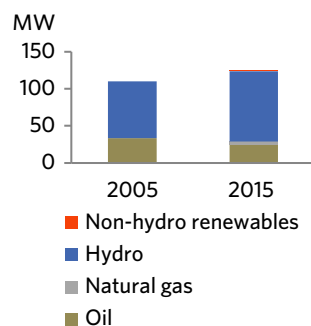
*This table shows Yukon's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity increased from 70% to 76% while its share in total generation increased from 93% to 94%.*





**FIGURE 25****Renewable Resources and Capacity in Yukon**

This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 1 MW across Yukon. There are three hydroelectric plants in south and central Yukon. There are no wind, biomass or solar resources with a capacity of at least 1 MW.

**FIGURE 26****Electric Generation Capacity in Yukon**

This bar graph shows Yukon's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity increased from 110 MW to 124 MW, with renewables increasing from 70% to 77% of total capacity.





# Northwest Territories

NWT generated more than one third of its electricity from renewable sources in 2015. 35% of generation comes from hydro and 3% comes from wind.

While NWT has additional hydro potential, it is dependent on fossil fuels for the majority of its electricity. Most industrial sites in NWT require diesel generation because they are not connected to a grid.

The government-owned [Northwest Territories Power Corporation](#) generates and distributes electricity to the territory's isolated communities. A subsidiary of ATCO Electric and Denendeh Investments, [Northland Utilities Ltd.](#) also distributes to many NWT communities.



In 2008, NWT introduced the [Energy Priorities Framework](#) to help reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This was followed by the [Northwest Territories Energy Action Plan](#) in 2013 to increase electricity from renewable sources such as hydro, solar, wind, geothermal and biomass.

As part of the NWT's focus on sustainability, it plans to transition from diesel by expanding [biomass](#) use. There are also several small scale solar installations, and the NWT government offers installation incentives for renewables to businesses and homeowners. The NWT is also currently conducting [wind feasibility studies](#) for turbines in the Beaufort Delta.

Since 2013, the town of [Inuvik has used LNG](#) to power one of its power plants. Compared to diesel, LNG reduces GHG emissions by about 25%, and there are plans to use it in other NWT communities.

**TABLE 14**

Renewable Electric Capacity and Generation in NWT

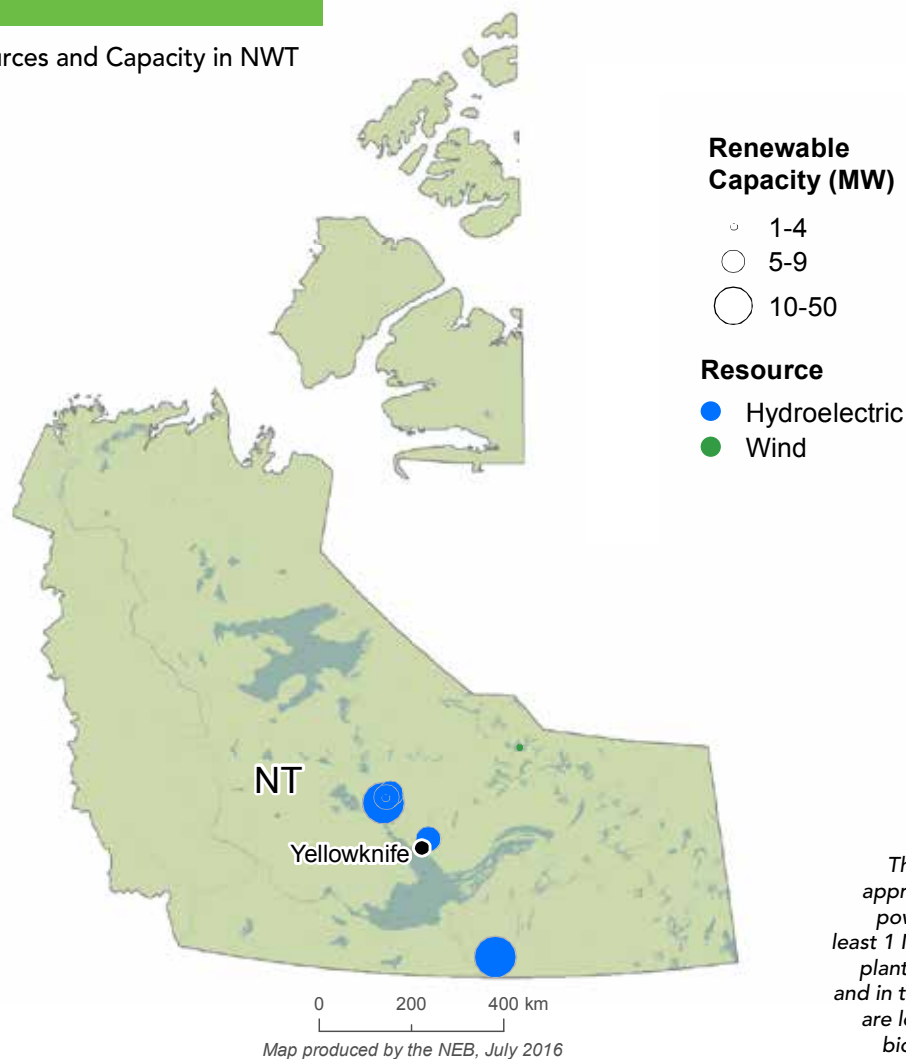
		Capacity in MW and %		Generation in GW.h and %	
		2005	2015	2005	2015
Hydro		65 30%	56 30%	259 37%	253 35%
Wind		0 0%	9 5%	0 0%	21 3%
All renewable sources		65 30%	65 35%	259 37%	274 38%
All sources		214	186	693	718

*This table shows NWT's electric capacity and generation from renewables in 2005 and 2015. The share of hydro in total capacity remained stable at 30% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 5%. The share of hydro in total generation decreased from 37% to 35% while the share of wind increased from 0% to 3%.*



**FIGURE 27**

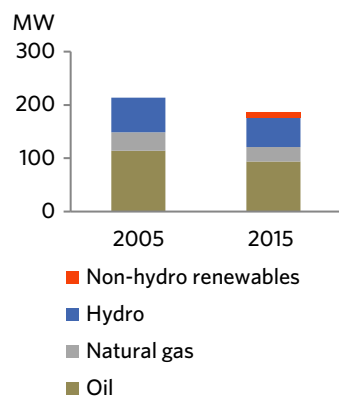
**Renewable Resources and Capacity in NWT**



*This map shows the location and approximate capacity of renewable power plants with a capacity of at least 1 MW across NWT. Hydroelectric plants are located near Yellowknife and in the south, while wind resources are located northeast. There are no biomass or solar resources with a capacity of at least 1 MW.*

**FIGURE 28**

**Electric Generation Capacity in NWT**



*This bar graph shows NWT's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity decreased from 214 MW to 186 MW, with renewables increasing from 30% to 35% of total capacity.*







# Nunavut

**Virtually all Nunavut's electricity is generated from diesel. A 3 kW PV system is currently installed and other small PV system additions are planned, but this represents a small portion of total capacity.**

Plans to replace some diesel generation with LNG and, to a limited extent, biomass, are in the initial stages. A transmission power line from Manitoba has also been proposed. The line would transport electricity generated from Manitoba Hydro plants to the Kivalliq region in southern Nunavut.

The [Qulliq Energy Corporation](#) (QEC), owned by the Nunavut government, is responsible for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in Nunavut. QEC operates 26 diesel plants in 25 communities which are not connected by roads or power lines.

In 2007, Nunavut released its [Ikummatiit Energy Strategy](#), with the goal of reducing dependence on fossil fuels through energy conservation and increased use of renewables.

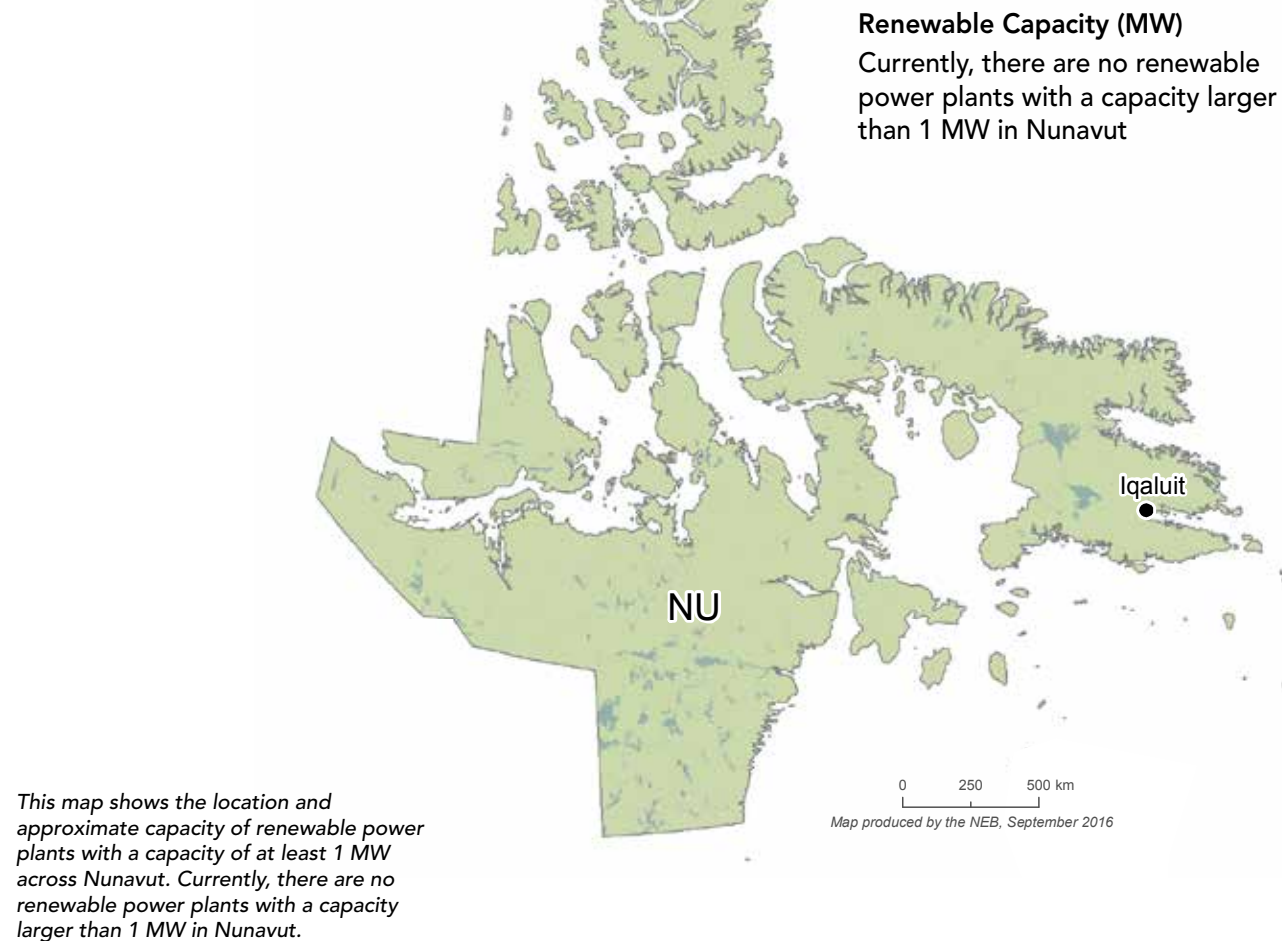
Nunavut also considered an Independent Power Purchase Policy to allow private individuals to generate renewable energy and sell it back to the QEC.

**Although Nunavut currently has no wind generation, it has piloted three wind projects since 1994.** Developing and maintaining the required infrastructure is difficult due to the QEC's inability to recover the costs from Nunavut's small communities. Similarly, plans for an Iqaluit hydroelectric facility were delayed in 2013.



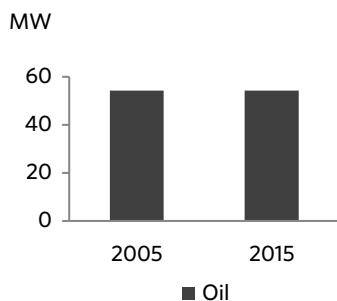
**FIGURE 29**

**Renewable Resources and Capacity in Nunavut**



**FIGURE 30**

**Electric Generation Capacity in Nunavut**



This bar graph shows Nunavut's total electric capacity in 2005 and 2015 for all fuel sources. Capacity remained stable at 54 MW, with oil accounting for close to 100% of total capacity in both years.





# Power in Canada's Northern Regions

Canada's vast and sparsely populated northern regions are not connected to integrated electricity grids and natural gas pipelines like the rest of North America, and there is little commercial incentive to build these connections because communities are small and widely dispersed.

As a result, many remote communities in the northern territories and the northern parts of most provinces rely on fossil fuels transported by truck, ocean-going tanker or barge for power generation.

Several feasibility studies and pilot projects in the past decades have explored the potential for wind turbines in northern regions. However, wind is a higher-cost option than diesel due to initial construction and transmission costs. Wind is also intermittent and requires reliable generation as back up.

**Solar power faces the same challenges with cost and intermittency.** Sunlight in northern regions is limited during the coldest parts of the year, which also makes it less attractive.

**Hydroelectricity faces major challenges in the North, including high capital costs and required transmission lines.** The majority of Yukon's electricity is hydraulically generated, but high costs limit hydro generation in NWT and Nunavut, where populations are more scattered and the necessary distribution networks do not exist.

## How can individuals support greater use of renewables?

These are some things individuals can do to encourage the use of renewable energy:

- Ask your local utility if you can purchase green power, for example, wind power at a premium.
- Look into the possibility of installing rooftop solar panels on your school, home, or business.
- Support green energy programs and initiatives at the community, municipal, provincial or federal level.
- Support businesses that use green energy.
- Donate to a renewable energy charity.
- Purchase carbon offsets or green energy credits for yourself and your family. For more ideas, please visit: [Top 10 Things You Can Do To Help](#)



# The Renewables Challenge



**Continued renewable growth in Canada is facing challenges.** Canadian electricity prices are among the lowest in the world, and although costs decreased for solar and wind power due to technological advances and large-scale production, it is still difficult for these relatively expensive renewable sources to compete for market share in many areas.

**Projects can face public criticism and approval delays.** Obtaining approval to build new projects can be difficult and sometimes projects face staunch opposition from local landowners. Citizens may also be concerned about effects such as bird and bat strikes for wind turbines, flooding or river impacts for dams, and impact on wildlife habitat from large solar projects.

**Renewables add operating complexities to power grids.** Solar and wind power are intermittent resources that generate power only when the sun shines and the wind blows.

To keep an electricity grid operating reliably, supply must match demand every second. This means **solar and wind require back-up** sources which reduce the appeal and cost-competitiveness of renewables.

**Canadian energy demand is generally flat.** Growth in renewables generally occurs as replacements for existing generation rather than in response to new demand. This occurred to an extent over the last decade as coal-fired generation was mandatorily phased out and replaced with renewables in Ontario.



## Data issues

Data in this report was derived from:

- [Statistics Canada](#)
- [Open Government](#) (a portal that provides access to the Government of Canada's searchable open data and open information)
- Provincial agencies
- Provincial utilities and system operators

Ontario is the only province with significant solar capacity. Total capacity of utility interconnected PV systems in other provinces and territories adds up to less than 2% of the Canadian total (see [Photovoltaic Technology Status and Prospects Canadian Annual Report 2015](#) for detailed numbers) and generation data is not available. As a result, only Ontario's solar capacity and generation data is included in the report. Small PV capacity figures for other provinces and territories are not listed but are included in capacity totals.

Accurate and detailed data on renewables is difficult to obtain. When values are small, the data might be aggregated for ease of reporting or omitted from reports for confidentiality. For example, when only one or two biomass facilities or wind facilities operate in an area, the generation data is not published.

The NEB used the best available data for this report, but it is likely that some data is absent. When necessary, estimates or older data was used.

For data questions or suggestions, please email [renewables@neb-one.gc.ca](mailto:renewables@neb-one.gc.ca)