

FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND PROJECT HIGHLIGHT
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH
MUNICIPAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

National objective: Cleaner environment

Federal Gas Tax Fund contribution to project: \$38,116

Total project cost: \$76,323

In an effort to make its operations more sustainable, the Municipality of the County of Antigonish installed a 25 kWh solar photovoltaic system on its main administration building. With the ability to produce its own renewable energy to offset its electricity needs, the Municipality is able to reduce its dependency on carbon-based fuels, thus contributing to a cleaner environment.

The Municipality purchased the 100-panel system through the *Antigonish Community Energy Cooperative* and was able to save costs through a bulk purchase, while supporting this local group. Commissioned in August 2016, the system qualified for a net



metering agreement with Nova Scotia Power. This allows the County of Antigonish to produce and use its own electricity, while having the option to draw from the main power grid as needed.

To enhance awareness of the benefits of solar energy, the Municipality has a real-time monitoring system tied to the project and has installed an educational kiosk in the lobby of the administration building. Although the majority of the panels were placed on the back of the

building to maximize solar gain, a few were strategically installed on the front roof for increased visibility.