

The Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA)

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Formed in 2014, AREA is a municipally owned corporation shared by the Nova Scotian towns of:





Ellershouse Wind Farm 23.5 MW

Current AREA Projects



DNRR Community Solar Program applications for municipal partners



Management of the Riverport Electric Light Commission Electric Utility



Regulatory support for NS Municipal Electric Utilities (MEUs)



Development of Maritime Municipal Electric Utility Alliance (MMEUA) with MEUs from NS, NB, and PEI



Finalizing Community Solar Gardens in owner towns of Berwick, Mahone Bay, and Antigonish



Assisting in MEU Modernization project



Writing, submitting, and administering multiple funding applications





Town of Berwick 3.45MW Solar Garden



Town of Mahone Bay 1.5 MW Solar Garden



Town of Antigonish 1.65 MW Solar Garden

What's on the horizon?



Energy Reform Act (2024)

- The Energy Reform (2024) Act creates two new acts and repeals the Utility and Review Board Act.
- The new Energy and Regulatory Boards Act will split the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board into two new boards.
- The new More Access to Energy Act will create an Independent Energy System Operator to manage the operations of the electricity system. It will also manage the connection of renewable energy projects to the grid. These will no longer be functions of Nova Scotia Power.
- The new independent, non-profit organization, managed by a CEO reporting to a board of directors, will also take on responsibilities for system planning and procuring new energy sources. This change will enhance transparency and accountability to Nova Scotians and the energy sector.
- The Nova Scotia Energy Board is expected to be established this year, with the new Independent Energy System Operator fully operational by late 2025.



What is an Independent System Operator?

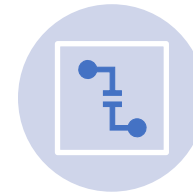
Key Functions:



Grid Reliability (balancing supply and demand, contingency planning)



Market Facilitation (competitive sale of electricity, prevents market manipulation)



Transmission Access and Planning (open & equal access for energy producers)



Renewable Energy Integration (balancing intermittent load from wind and solar)



Supports Innovation (integrating new technology, renewable energy sources and storage)



Cybersecurity (protecting from cyber threats with increased grid digitization)