



NOVA SCOTIA Offshore Wind Energy Agreement Signed

Premier Tim Houston and Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey signed an agreement on February 4, to work toward Nova Scotia supplying the state with clean energy from offshore wind. New England, like many markets, anticipates growing energy needs that could be met in part by Nova Scotia's budding offshore wind industry.

A coalition of three of Atlantic Canada's leading environmental organizations is applauding a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Nova Scotia and Massachusetts, focused on offshore wind development and cross-border energy delivery. The Atlantic Offshore Wind Coalition (AOSWC) says the agreement is a welcome step and hopes to see similar coordination and collaboration between Atlantic provinces, Quebec and the Government of Canada.

"This kind of inter-jurisdictional partnership is crucial for the transition to clean energy," says Gretchen Fitzgerald, Executive Director at Sierra Club Canada. "It's important for Canada to seek collaboration with states that will respect our sovereignty - especially at a time where the U.S. federal government seeks to undermine it."

The MOU - which was signed by Premier Tim Houston and Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey states both parties will explore options for energy transfer and interregional transmission planning, coordinate offshore wind supply chain and logistical infrastructure and share data, learnings from procurement strategies, technical analysis and more. The AOSWC says these are important steps in developing wind energy along the Atlantic coast - but in order for Canadians to see the full benefits of offshore wind, more needs to be done here at home.

"We're on the verge of our first call for bids to license the first offshore wind projects in Canada, and we're advancing Wind West to build the transmission infrastructure to send that clean energy to markets," said Premier Houston. "Our agreement with Massachusetts signals to developers that markets for their clean energy are solidifying, giving them even more confidence to invest in our new offshore wind industry. I look forward to sharing this clean energy with Massachusetts, powering economic opportunities for the New England region, and creating thousands of jobs and billions in investment in Nova Scotia."

NS Power's 2026 Scholarship and Bursary Program

Applications will be accepted until March 28, 2026 for Nova Scotia Power's 2026 Scholarship and Bursary Program. The program is accepting applications, and students in Nova Scotia are encouraged to apply.

A press release issued on February 4 stated Nova Scotia Power is proud to foster education, diversity, equity, inclusion, and innovation to help empower students and open doors for learning and development.

"We are pleased to support programs and initiatives that help remove barriers to education for equity-deserving communities, and to support the next generation of leaders in Nova Scotia," says Senior Vice President, People, Communication, and Enterprise Efficiency Caroline Blair-Smith. "Providing opportunities for learning and growth is essential for creating a workforce that will help build successful and inclusive communities of tomorrow."

For over 60 years, Nova Scotia Power has been pleased to offer scholarships annually to students seeking post-secondary education in a variety of programs across the province. There are 20 scholarships and eight bursaries available (28 total) each year to qualifying students enrolled in trades and degree programs. The categories are: Emerging Leaders Scholarship, Mi'kmaw Bursary, Women in Trades, Engineering, and Technology Scholarship, Black Nova Scotian Bursary, and Nova Scotia Power Family Scholarship. Interested applicants can apply through the Nova Scotia Power website.

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A Letter to our Customers in Onslow & Surrounding Areas

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Community Reliability Meeting at the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade February 18, 2026. It was a great conversation with thoughtful questions about power service in your area including tree trimming and safe clearance around our equipment.

Members of our Reliability team were joined by the Municipality of Colchester Mayor Christine Blair and Councillors Marie Benoit and Lisa Patton for an opportunity to share an update on important work in your area to improve the reliability of service and gather input to incorporate into our planning. Here are some highlights:

Completed Reliability Work

Over the last five years we have invested \$7 million in projects to upgrade equipment on both the transmission and distribution power lines that serve your area. We have also made a significant increase in vegetation management, or tree trimming, clearing and removing trees and branches from power lines. This is essential as trees coming into contact with power lines is one of the leading causes of outages.

- **2021-2025:** Transmission & Distribution Tree Trimming - \$4.6 million
- **2023-2025:** Transmission Line Upgrades - \$1.9 million
- **2025:** Distribution System Equipment Upgrades - \$540,000

Upcoming Reliability Work

There is more work to do to continue to strengthen and improve the system and we have projects planned over the next two years to do that. A second Transmission line is being built between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to provide a reliable supply of power to customers in Nova Scotia; support the province in reaching 80% renewable energy by 2030; and help with import and export options. Project partners include the Canada Infrastructure Bank and First Nations in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. There are also substation upgrades planned, more upgrades to distribution and transmission lines, and tree trimming. These projects will enhance reliability in your area.

- **2025-2027:** Wasoqonatl Transmission Line - \$680 million
- **2026/27:** Onslow Substation Transformer - \$3.6 million
- **2026:** Transmission Line Upgrades - \$1.1 million
- **2026:** Distribution System Upgrades - \$330,000
- **2026:** Tree Trimming - \$595,000

Our Five-Year Reliability Plan (2025-2029)

We are in year two of our reliability plan which will see us invest \$1.3 billion to continue to strengthen the electricity grid. This includes investing an average of \$250 million in projects across Nova Scotia each year, installing protective devices, upgrading lines, replacing poles and transformers and clearing more trees and branches from power lines to reduce outages. We have nearly doubled our tree trimming investment over the last three years - from \$25 million to \$45 million a year.

Community Engagement

These community meetings have proven valuable to our team and we hope to you, our customers, as well. We are committed to keeping you informed and making sure you have service you can rely on. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your Reliability Advisor, Ben Arsenault, with any other questions you may have: Benjamin.Arsenault@nspower.ca

Keith O'Callaghan
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