

Climate Watch NL *Policy Recommendation & Research Priorities*

Climate Watch NL is promoting policy action and research in transitioning to a low carbon society and economy in Newfoundland and Labrador. Below we list our primary policy recommendations as well as priorities for further research.

1. We advocate for a **local, renewable, sustainable energy economy** instead of megaprojects that can come with substantial social, environmental and economic risks. We support the development of wind-power, micro-hydro, geothermal, biofuel, solar, and other green energy projects, developed with full community engagement and comprehensive monitoring and mitigation of cumulative impacts. We also endorse the development of locally sourced products and food.
2. We support putting a **fair price on carbon**. Revenue from a carbon levy must be reinvested in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change impacts. This must include offsetting any new costs to vulnerable families and communities, particularly to rural communities, low-income households, and regions struggling to cope with the growing impacts of climate change.
3. We recommend substantial provincial **investment in green energy and infrastructure** initiatives, particularly in low carbon transportation systems (supporting public transit, electric vehicles, and active transportation), low emissions commercial and residential buildings, green energy production systems, and energy efficiency.
4. We support **training and skill development for workers** to transition to employment in green industries and renewable energy.
5. We urge the provincial government to align its economic development plans with the new international reality that most remaining oil cannot be extracted. To safeguard the global climate (keeping temperatures below a 1.5 to 2 degree increase), the global scientific consensus is that most of the world's oil reserves cannot be consumed. As a major oil producer, these **realities have significant implications for future oil production and economic development in NL**.
6. We call for an **end to subsidies to the fossil fuel industry**. It is time to focus instead on support the green energy sector.
7. We encourage the provincial government to focus on **developing industries that can be managed sustainably for the long term**, such as fisheries, agriculture, and eco-tourism. The development of ecological forms of agriculture is key to both mitigation and adaptation. This focus also includes the development of policies which protect these sectors from the impacts of climate change and other unsustainable industries.
8. We call on the provincial government to **ban hydraulic fracturing** given its negative health, environmental, and social impacts, including its contribution to climate change. We urge the government to be very cautious about approving any new forms of fossil fuel development.
9. An area for further policy development and research is net metering. However, **net metering policy must be meaningful – caps must not be overly restrictive and there must be an incentive for undertaking net metering**; latter points are of serious concern in terms of current plans to implement net metering.
10. We recommend the provincial government (and other institutions in the province) to **divest from the fossil fuel industry**. By withdrawing from fossil fuel investments, the province can help protect the economy from the volatility of fossil fuels and the risk of stranded assets, and

can withdraw from profiting from climate destruction, all while facilitating the growth of green energy alternatives.

- 11. Regarding adaptation, we stress the importance of financial and personnel support for municipalities, particularly in more distant rural communities,** who are likely to face the greatest impacts of climate change. This could include regional or community level coordinators specifically working towards facilitating climate change adaptation. We also stress the importance of improving and building upon existing social services and infrastructure