

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## Objectives/priorities

- The goals of the PEI Climate Change Strategy are:
  - » Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to mitigate the effects of global warming;
  - » Enhancing carbon sinks to reduce the harmful build-up of CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere;
  - » Improving our ability to adapt to climate change;
  - » Increase public awareness.
- PEI is part of regional efforts to reduce GHG emissions through the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Provinces Climate Change Action Plan:
  - » 1990 levels by 2010 (achieved);
  - » 10% below 1990 levels by 2020.

## Highlights/measures/actions

- **Renewable Energy:** In 2004, Prince Edward Island committed to a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) for electricity of at least 15% by 2010. This has been achieved and today about 25% of PEI's electricity consumption is sourced from on-Island wind farms. Biomass (wood) systems are now heating several schools and hospitals across the province.
- **Energy Efficiency:** The Office of Energy Efficiency provides Islanders with advice and programs that will promote sustainable energy use and reinforce the importance of sound energy management for the economic, social and environmental well-being of Island residents and businesses. Since it opened in 2008, the Office of Energy Efficiency has provided close to \$6 million in direct grants to over 6,500 residential and 500 commercial clients.
- **Climate Change and Energy Strategies:** There have been several strategies released since 2004 that focus on climate change, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** Prince Edward Island is examining our vulnerability to a variety of climate change impact, in particular coastal erosion and coastal flooding. Under the Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solutions Association (ACASA), we are working to help Atlantic Canadians better prepare for, and adapt to, climate change. New coastal developments continue to be assessed for potential shoreline erosion and flood risks. As well, we continue to develop awareness of appropriate climate change adaptation options using presentations, training workshops, and conferences.

## Opportunities for sustainable economic development

- PEI is upgrading the electrical cable interconnection with New Brunswick. A new connection of 360 MW will provide electricity security and allow for future growth.
- Development of a renewable energy industry including relevant post-secondary training programs.