

Global

Wind turbine generators have been producing renewable electricity for decades. Countries such as the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and Spain have shown that wind energy is a safe, effective means to produce electricity without the negative impacts on the climate, air and water quality associated with conventional fossil-fuel based generation.

As fuel costs and concerns over carbon emissions rise, many countries are now encouraging the deployment of wind power at a massive scale. With the UK, US, India, Australia, and China all investing heavily, wind power is the fastest growing method of electrical generation in the world.

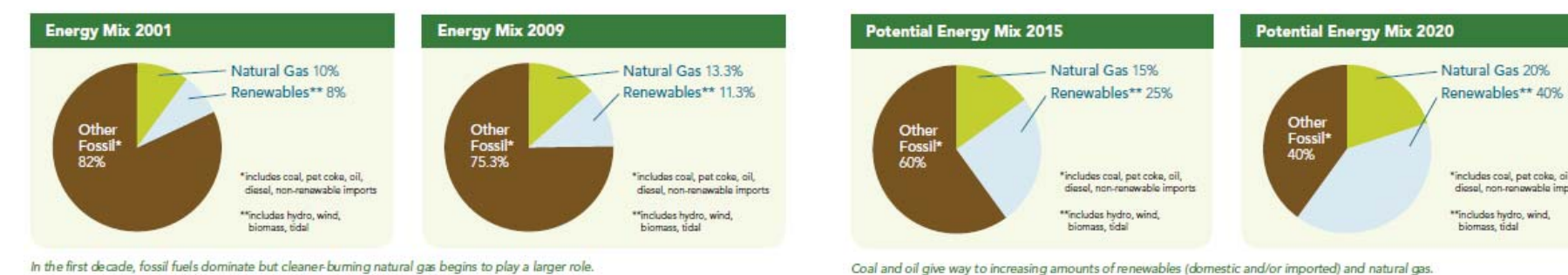


The 450MW Biglow Canyon Wind Farm under construction in Oregon. Source: Ted Timmons (2009)

Provincial

While there have been several wind power projects constructed in Nova Scotia in recent years, it is still relatively unfamiliar to many. That is quickly changing; wind energy is set to become a substantial component our province's electricity generation mix.

In recognition of the potential impacts of climate change in a province of coastal communities, and the susceptibility of power rates to forecasted fuel price escalation, the NS Government legislated goals for renewable energy generation.



Source: NS Dept. of Energy Renewable Electricity Plan (2010)

To help reach those goals, a Community Feed-In Tariff (COMFIT) program was established to encourage local production and distribution of renewable electricity by independent community-based project developers. The structure of COMFIT ensures that 100% of the power generated by these projects is used by the homes, businesses, and industries in the communities they are located.

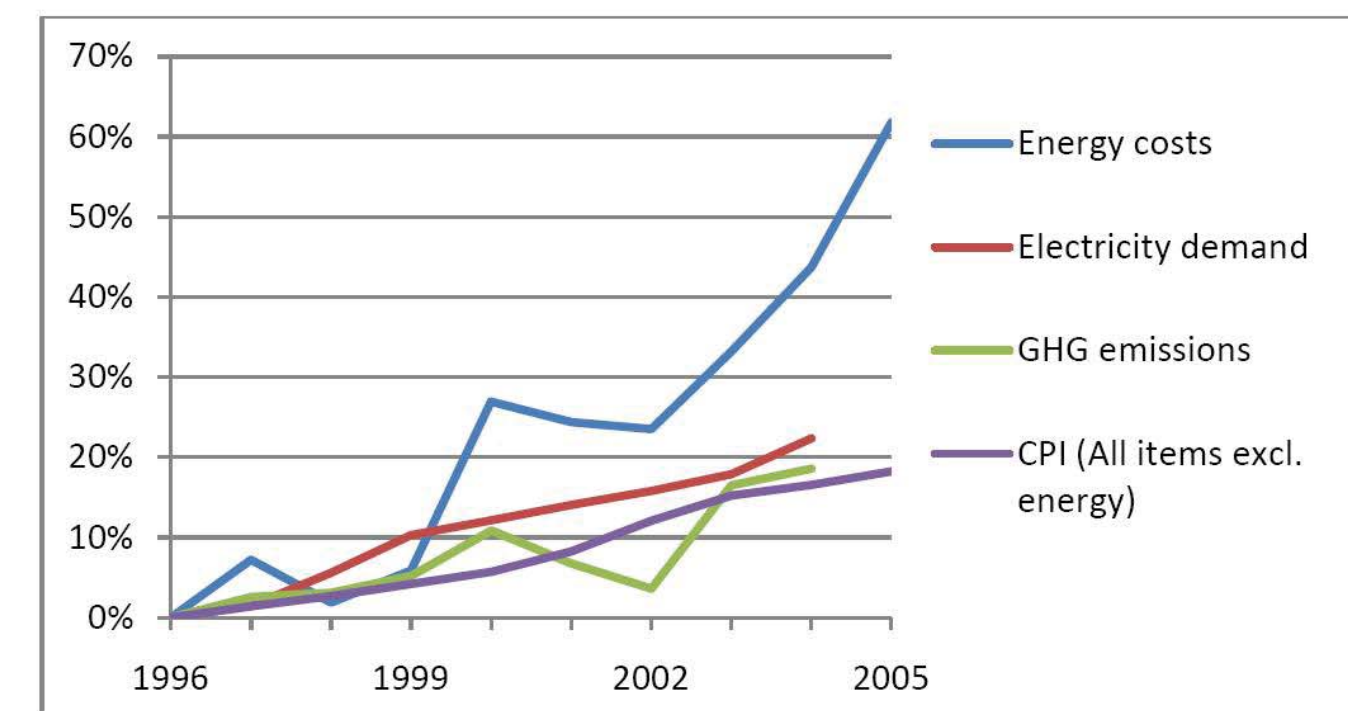


Figure 1: Growth in energy cost, electricity demand, greenhouse gases, and the CPI for Nova Scotia (Stats Can 2007a; Env Can 2006) Source: Hughes, Energy Security in Nova Scotia.

Though projects are paid a premium for the power they produce in today's terms, that rate is locked for 20 years. Over that period, prices for fossil fuel-based energy will continue to climb as they always have. Introducing more renewable power now will help stabilize long term rates.

Community

1% Scotian WindFields donates 1% of the projects annual revenue directly to the local community in which it's projects are located.

Community Ownership

The corporate structure of Scotian WindFields enables Nova Scotians to participate directly in renewable energy development by investing in their local WindField CEDIF.

