



THE ATLANTIC CANADA ENERGY DATA ROADMAP

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Atlantic Canada Energy Data Roadmap (Roadmap) is a guide to changing the way we collect, manage, use, and think about energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data in a world of overwhelmingly large amounts of data.

The Roadmap was developed through a combination of research, and consultation with a diverse range of content experts and stakeholders, across Atlantic Canada - Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Through the research and consultations for the Roadmap, it was discovered that there is a broad need for more detailed data on energy use and GHG emissions; there is a compelling case for ensuring that individual consumer energy data remains private; and, that others have addressed these issues and Atlantic Canada can learn from their experience.

The Roadmap establishes a common vision, identifies the characteristics of a shared energy information system, and sets out policy and program options, as well as tools to support the effective implementation of the Roadmap.

The Roadmap starts with a vision for an energy information system that collects data in a comprehensive manner and regularly reports on an aggregated basis for community energy and emissions inventories. The Roadmap is also guided by a series of values which include:

- The need for society to make informed and good energy and environmental policy, program and investment decisions, and measure success.
- The protection of personal information by requiring the de-identification of energy use data before public reporting.
- The right of consumers to decide if they want to share personal energy data, and enable them to do so in an informed, secure, and simple manner.
- Technology solutions that use common standards and operate with simplicity, clarity, and enhanced accountability for users and efficiency programmers.

- Technology solutions that improve operations.
- Regional and national cooperation and linkages to other information initiatives.

To protect privacy, the Roadmap suggests that governments consider the balance between energy consumer privacy and the collection and analysis of useful information. In each case, data that is published or reported outside of a secure environment would need to be consolidated or de-identified unless there has been explicit, informed, voluntary permission granted by the energy user. The Roadmap also suggests governments make a decision on whether consumer rights should best be protected by the adoption of voluntary industry recommended best practices or by developing legislative compliance requirements.

The Roadmap outlines a series of policy and program options for governments and stakeholders to consider, including choices between voluntary requests for energy providers to provide more data, or legislative requirements that would be staged and sensitive to the economic costs of implementation.

The Roadmap suggests governments adopt the following outcomes:

- The rights and obligations of consumers and energy providers are fully supported by regulatory decisions, and if required, by new laws.
- Laws and policies surrounding energy data reflect a flexible and staged implementation through new programs, and if required, regulatory actions consistent with the Roadmap Implementation Milestones.
- To the greatest extent possible, governments and regulators should strive for a coordinated and consistent approach to definitions, standards and expected outcomes, with the understanding that not all provinces will move at the same pace.
- The framework establishes roles and responsibilities and delegates to efficiency and information/statistics agencies wherever possible.
- The framework anticipates the possibility of a Canadian Energy Information Agency and allows for delegation to that entity when and if it emerges.

In the end, the Roadmap suggests the decision on roles and responsibilities for energy data should be founded upon a determination of trust. Energy providers have been

protecting customer data since they started serving them and often have significant investments in information technologies and security with strong regulatory oversight. Governments have also established infrastructure and credibility for their statistics agencies. All players have strengths, and when choosing where to locate important roles and responsibilities, care should be taken on emphasizing how they will maintain public trust when they carry out these duties.

The Roadmap also puts forward suggestions on how to improve the presentation of energy and GHG data in a more efficient and useful form. The options include application developments by the private sector, by efficiency agencies and by regional cooperation on a common energy data use app across the region for consumers, planners, and researchers. The Roadmap also outlines how governments could play a role in developing technology that improves the operations of energy providers.

The Roadmap suggests energy providers adopt the following outcomes:

- Collaboration with governments and other stakeholders to develop cost-effective implementation of the Roadmap.
- Collaboration among energy providers to establish details such as standards for the classification of energy use by customer and building type, as well as, standards for de-identification of energy use and related data.

Finally, the Roadmap considers actions that could enhance regional cooperation and linkages to other initiatives such as climate change legislation and regulation, as well as, the potential creation of a Pan-Canadian Energy Information Agency.

To guide the implementation of the Roadmap, a timeline is presented for when to enact the suggested policies and programs over the course of the coming decade to balance between public interest and consumer costs. The timeline is flexible in order to reflect the reality that some parts of Atlantic Canada will take longer to enact the options recommended as a result of different needs, priorities, and past investment decisions.

KEY MILESTONES

End of 2018 – Energy use data reported annually on a provincial basis by all major energy providers.

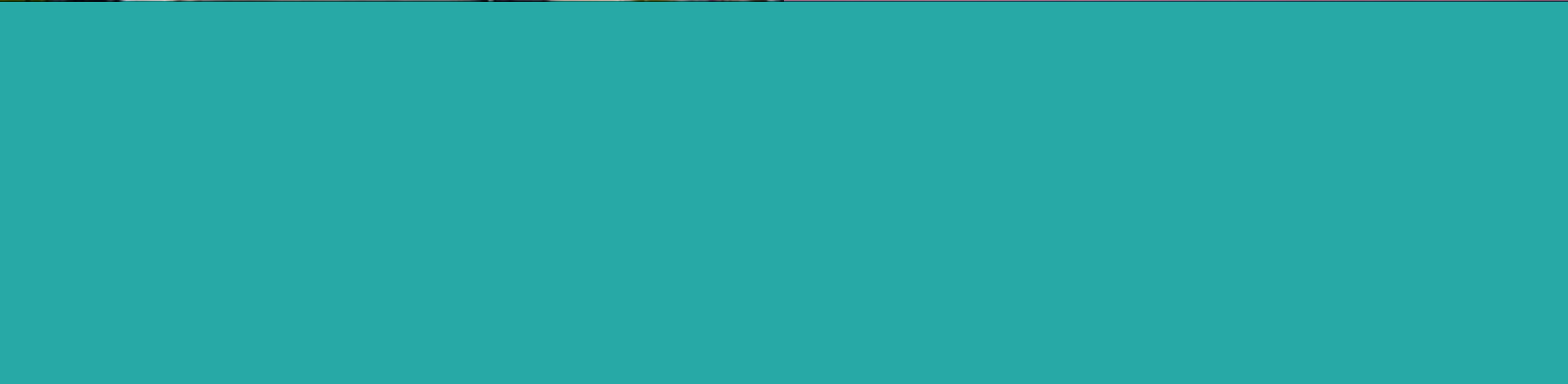
End of 2021 – Energy use data reported annually on a municipal boundary basis by all major energy providers in a consistent standard regarding building and occupancy type.

End of 2023 – Electricity and natural gas suppliers provide their customers with access to the energy use data in a standard electronic format, likely the Green Button Standard.

End of 2025 – Major oil heat and propane energy providers enable their customers to access usage data in a standard electronic format.

Electricity and natural gas energy providers enable their customers to electronically share their data.

End of 2028 – Oil and propane energy providers enable their customers to electronically share their data.



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