

AECI Welcomes New Maritime Electricity Cooperation Agreement

July 24, 2026

The Atlantic Electricity Cooperation Initiative (AECI) welcomes the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, with support from the Government of Canada, to advance regional electricity cooperation and system integration across the Maritime provinces.

The agreement commits participating governments to developing a Maritime Regional Resource and Transmission Roadmap and evaluating options for further collaboration, including a Maritime Independent Electricity System Operator.

This announcement is an important milestone for Atlantic Canada and signals growing recognition that the region's electricity future will be strengthened through collaboration and coordinated planning. The agreement reflects many of the core themes that AECI was established to advance, including regional cooperation, transmission development, and electricity planning across provincial boundaries.

"For years, greater electricity cooperation across Atlantic Canada has been discussed as a future opportunity," said Andy MacCallum, Executive Director of AECI. "This agreement establishes a clear path from discussion to implementation and positions the Maritime provinces to build a more reliable, affordable and resilient electricity system."

As Canada works to move toward an increasingly electrified economy, electricity systems across the country will face growing demand from transportation, home heating, industrial development and other emerging technologies. Meeting this demand while maintaining affordability and reliability will require significant investment in electricity generation and transmission infrastructure. Increased cooperation can help optimize investments, improve efficiency, and strengthen resilience across the Maritime provinces.

For Atlantic Canadians, the potential benefits of greater regional cooperation are significant, ranging from improved affordability and reliability to economic growth and new job opportunities.

The agreement is particularly notable because it extends beyond high-level commitments and establishes a process for implementation. The MOU includes commitments to delivering an initial roadmap and cost-benefit analysis by Fall 2026, followed by a more

detailed implementation plan by Spring 2027 that addresses governance, regulatory, and operational considerations required to advance regional integration. The MOU explicitly states that this work is intended to move beyond recommendations and focus on practical actions that can be advanced in the near term. Moving from discussion to action is essential to realizing the benefits of a more connected regional electricity system.

"As electricity demand grows, access to reliable and affordable electricity will influence where businesses choose to invest and expand," said Alisdair McLean, CEO of Net Zero Atlantic and a member of AECI's advisory council. "Greater regional cooperation can help attract investment, support economic growth and ensure Atlantic Canada is well positioned to capitalize on the opportunities created by electrification."

AECI is looking forward to continued work alongside governments, utilities, industry leaders, rightsholders, and stakeholders as this process moves forward. We are excited by the momentum reflected in this agreement and by the commitment to pursuing practical implementation of solutions that will strengthen the region's electricity future. Atlantic Canada has substantial opportunity.

If we work together, the region can build a more resilient, affordably, and interconnected electricity system that supports economic growth, energy security, and prosperity for generations to come.

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