

Dear Members of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly.

My name is Chris Rouse, founder of New Clear Free Solutions, which is a New Brunswick, solutions-based, organization. I am writing to each MLA to make a plea that you vote against repealing the Climate Change Fund out of the Climate Change Act. The Climate Change Fund must remain an integral part of New Brunswick's overall climate change policy, for the economic, social and environmental benefit of all New Brunswickers.

The climate change fund can co-exist with the federal plan, as it does not introduce any new cost to consumers, which is the reason the federal government did not approve of it. By not approving it, the federal government did not mean we have to get rid of it, as they have no jurisdiction to do so. Given that there is no cost to consumers, the climate change fund would still be in line with all party's election commitments -even the commitment of "No Carbon Tax". That is because it is a fund not a tax.

The Climate Change Fund provides a viable adjunct if not an alternative to the federal government's plan. Our current policy can deliver on the required emissions reductions while our current Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) does not. What we need to change is our IRP, not our policy.

To support the request for you to vote against repealing the Climate Change Fund, I have attached "A Sustainable Business Case for the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy in New Brunswick- 2019 Integrated Resource Plan". This IRP document demonstrates that the climate change fund is not only good environmental policy but just as importantly, a well-documented business plan that will pay huge dividends to the people of New Brunswick. Planning for New Brunswick to make profits on our renewable energy resources is beneficial for all.

An Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is a comprehensive decision support tool and road map for meeting a utility's objective of providing reliable and least-cost sustainable electric service to its customers while addressing the substantial risks and uncertainties inherent in the electric utility business. It is essentially the utility's long-term business plan.

New Clear Free Solutions' plan is a comprehensive visual document intended to guide the public and official decision makers through the critical decisions that need to be made in developing an IRP for New Brunswick. It is also intended to provide an alternative and comparison to our current business as usual (BAU) IRP.

This alternative IRP examines the business case for a public investment of the Climate Change Fund revenue through our publicly owned utility into renewables, efficiency and fuel switching. It is consistent with current legislation including the Electricity Act and Climate Change Act that came into force in April 2018.

It has the objective of transitioning 95% of our total energy needs to renewables using our own local renewable energy resources. This displaces most of our carbon energy cost that is external to our economy and redirects these funds back into the province.

The alternative IRP examines the technical and economic aspects of this transition and is designed to address the most common questions about the cost and viability of the transition. In addition to addressing the common questions, it also identifies important issues that are not usually discussed such as do we want private or public investments into our renewable energy resources which is arguably the biggest decision that needs to be made. The results demonstrate that private investment is not in the public's interest.

This document relies on modeling from New Clear Free Solutions (NCFS), NB Power and the Pan Canadian Wind Integration study. The results of all three modeling sources are consistent with each other giving the public and official decision makers confidence that the results and conclusions are robust.

The results of this IRP are clear:

1. There are no technical or economic barriers to the transition to a low-carbon economy.
2. Publicly investing the Climate Change Fund revenue into renewables, efficiency, and fuel switching will provide significant benefits to the economy, environment and the New Brunswick society.
3. The investment coupled with the reinvestment will provide all the capital needed to transition to a low-carbon economy.
4. Publicly investing the Climate Change Fund revenue will keep rates low and stable.
5. Publicly investing the Climate Change Fund revenue will pay huge dividends to the province and hence all New Brunswickers not just a select few.
6. Publicly investing the Climate Change Fund revenue will get NB Power out of debt.
7. Publicly investing the Climate Change Fund revenue will significantly reduce our emissions.
8. Publicly investing the Climate Change Fund revenue will create many jobs and create a huge multi-decade construction boom.

Given the benefits the Climate Change Fund can realize, we request that you vote against repealing the Climate Change Fund. Each MLA has the responsibility to take climate change and the economy seriously. This attached IRP gives the people of New Brunswick what they want which is a strong economy and clean energy at low rates that are provided by NB Power. The IRP that exists currently is the problem, not the Fund. We can seize the day, vote to keep what works and change what doesn't.

Warm Regards
Chris Rouse