

April 24, 2019

Dear members of Legislature and Government of New Brunswick,

**RE: EOS URGES FURTHER ACTION ON NEW BRUNSWICK'S CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN**

Responding to a recent report from the International Panel on Climate Change and New Brunswick's commitment to emission reductions, EOS Eco-Energy (EOS) is encouraged that the Government has adopted the document, "Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy: New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan".<sup>1</sup> This plan was created by and for New Brunswickers. However, **the EOS Board of Directors strongly recommends that a goal-oriented timeline accompany the plan to track progress of those targets set out for 2030. And, in order that the plan be fully implemented, it is necessary that the Government promptly support a fair price-on-carbon program.**

Since 2004, EOS has actively promoted regional energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable communities. EOS coordinates the Chignecto Climate Change Collaborative, created Beauséjour Renewable Energy Co-op, organizes the annual Tantramar Climate Change Week, and has received numerous awards including the top Eco360 Award for 2017. Members of the public and local governments can find out more about EOS and view examples of actions to combat climate change on the EOS website.<sup>2</sup>

The world's leading climate scientists have warned that global warming must not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030 in order to avoid even more catastrophic droughts, flooding, extreme heat, and increased poverty for millions of people.<sup>3</sup> Besides inland flooding, in New Brunswick increases in temperature will result in sea level rise, increased frequency of storm surges and forest fires, coastal erosion, and more extreme but less predictable weather patterns. The financial cost of mitigating the effects of these events is quickly escalating; by the 2050s in Canada it is estimated to be between \$21 and \$43 billion per year.<sup>4</sup>

In December 2018 Premier Higgs' provincial government committed to meeting or exceeding the federal government's emissions targets (30% reduction below 2005 levels by 2030) and endorsed New Brunswick's 2016 Climate Change Action Plan. The plan supports two objectives: reducing greenhouse gas emissions and growing the economy, while recognizing that strong action on climate change is required. Yet carbon pricing does not appear to be part of the [current government's] plan. Done right, carbon pricing changes household and business behaviour, reduces GHG emissions, and drives the development and adoption of the technologies that will play a key role in a low-carbon economy.<sup>5</sup> Further development of fossil-fuels will only delay the necessary transition. The Pembina Institute, a think tank created three decades ago in Alberta, works with government and industries to manage the impacts of energy development by advocating for better provincial and federal policies. The Pembina Institute has indicated that long-term economic and environmental sustainability can be achieved with renewable energies.<sup>6</sup>

There is strong support for creating timelines within NB's climate action plan, publicly reporting annual emissions reductions, and implementing a fair carbon pricing plan in New Brunswick. EOS is pleased to continue working with the Government of New Brunswick to further implement the province's climate change action plan and is always available for consultation or assistance.

Respectfully,  
The EOS Eco-Energy Board of Directors

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<sup>1</sup>Province of New Brunswick, 2016. Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy: New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan. <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/env/pdf/Climate-Climatiques/TransitioningToALowCarbonEconomy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://eosecoenergy.com/en/tips-for-living-sustainably/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments>.

<sup>4</sup> Paying the Price: the Economic Impacts of Climate Change for Canada. National Round Table on Environment and the Economy. <http://nrt-trn.ca>

<sup>5</sup>Ecofiscal, 2018. Cleaning the Air: How Carbon Pricing Helps Canada Fight Climate Change <https://ecofiscal.ca/reports/clearing-air-carbon-pricing-helps-canada-fight-climate-change/>

<sup>6</sup>Jeyakumar, Binnu. *Job Growth in Clean Energy: Employment in Alberta's emerging renewables and energy efficiency sectors*. The Pembina Institute, 2016. <https://www.pembina.org/reports/job-growth-in-clean-energy.pdf>.

