



*Advice and
financial incentives
to become more
Energy Efficient*

City of Saint John- Commercial Sector Energy Efficiency Champion

The City of Saint John's energy program is making great gains in improving efficiency in municipal buildings and lowering the City's greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy efficiency efforts have been widespread across all city operations, including retrofits to municipal buildings, fire stations, and recreational facilities, lighting upgrades for street lights and parking lots, as well as upgrades to waste water operations. The City has also mandated high energy efficiency standards for all new construction projects.



The City has been quietly but steadfastly leading the way in municipal energy efficiency efforts since 1997, when it adopted the Municipal Energy Efficiency Program (MEEP) as its environmental and fiscal code- the first municipality to do so in the country. The MEEP supports the efforts of other citizens and environmentally focused organizations that are working with the same intent: to become even more environmentally responsible.

"At the City of Saint John we are committed to reaching the goals as outlined in our award-winning Municipal Energy Efficiency Program. We are committed to retrofitting our older municipal facilities and to building new

ones to the highest standards," says Mayor Ivan Court.

By leveraging energy audits, incentives and energy plans through Efficiency NB's Energy Smart Program and its own MEEP procedures, the City has been able to make drastic reductions in energy consumption and realize accelerated investment periods. As of 2007, the City's adopted procedures have resulted in current annual savings of \$1.24 million, 5,792 tonnes of CO₂ and 320,000 litres of fuel from 1996 to 2007, resulting in an overall reduction of the City's ecological footprint by 17%.

Thanks to Monitoring and Verification the City has actively tracked energy savings and energy cost avoidance since the initial projects were put in place 10 years ago. This approach and methodology has resulted in sustained savings and Samir Yammine, the City's Energy Manager credits it, along with staff education and training as crucial to the City's success.

"It is vital to make energy visible and to monitor it. That shows you how the building is performing, and in energy management, that is critical."

"Departments understand their role in sustainability. They are eager to continue working together and are committed to implementing new sustainable initiatives," says Samir. Among those new initiatives is the new Saint John Transit



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Operations Centre, built to a LEED silver standard and this year's award winner in Efficiency NB's commercial new construction category for achieving the highest energy simulation score of all program participants in 2010.

"Efficiency NB has been a great help in many areas," says Samir, "not just in financial incentives, but in capacity building as well as constant support and promoting energy efficiency in the whole of the province."

With numerous awards recognizing the City's strategies and results, and future plans to examine renewable energy sources and heat recovery systems, the City of Saint John is expanding on and evolving its highly successful approach to energy management. "Our citizens want Saint John to lead the nation as an example of a sustainable community. I believe the City of Saint John is setting the standard," says Mayor Court.



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