



Climate Change

Report of the Auditor General – June 2017

Volume I, Chapter 3

Why Is This Important?

- Canada has experienced larger temperature changes than the global average
- New Brunswick has been experiencing extreme weather events, an elevated risk of rising sea levels and related coastal erosion

What We Found

Overall Conclusions

- Both the Province & NB Power have made progress towards commitments to reduce GHG emissions and adapting to climate change
- However, many action items do not have a timeline, allocated funding or implementation plans

NB's Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)

- Electricity generation, industry and transportation are the three dominant contributors to NB's GHG emissions
- GHG emissions peaked in 2001, but are now trending downward
- NB's GHG emissions were 14.1 Mt in 2015

NB emissions compared to the rest of Canada: (*No. 1 rank is largest polluter and 13 is the least*)

- 8th in total emissions
- 7th in emissions per capita (17.5 tonnes / person)

Uncertainty around Belledune Generation Station

- Federal government's plan to phase-out coal-fired electricity by 2030 poses risks to NB Power's future operations
- NB is the only province that has not reached an agreement or agreement in principle with the Federal government to operate a coal-fired plant beyond 2030 deadline

Adapting to Climate Change

- Vulnerability assessments completed in 46 NB communities
- However, there is no documented comprehensive risk assessment for the Province
- CCAP includes a fairly comprehensive list of adaptation activities
- However, detail of how each activity will be achieved, timelines and allocated funding are lacking

Commitments and Targets

- GHG emissions targets set for the Province are in the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)
- NB on track to meet 2020 target of 14.8 Mt
- However, significant actions are required to meet both 2030 and 2050 targets
- GHG emission targets should be legislated in NB as specified in its CCAP
- Specific GHG emission reduction targets should be set for NB Power