



Residential Energy Efficiency Programs – Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, NB Power

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Why Is This Important?

- Energy efficiency is a key element to address climate change and reduce the Province’s greenhouse gas emissions
- Energy efficiency programs help households spend less on energy bills and have healthier homes
- During 2018-2023 about \$124 million will be invested in energy efficiency programs in New Brunswick, mostly on residential programs

Overall Conclusions

- The Department was not effective in providing oversight regarding energy efficiency programs
- NB Power’s energy efficiency programs were not equally accessible to all New Brunswick residents
- NB Power is effective in delivering its current residential energy efficiency programs to those who can participate

What We Found

Insufficient oversight from the Department

- The Department has no energy-saving targets set for NB Power’s energy efficiency programs
- The Department did not challenge NB Power’s decision to lower electricity-saving targets
- The Department had no sustainable funding source for all-fuel residential energy efficiency programs in place

NB Power’s Current Programs are Not Equally Accessible to All New Brunswick Residents

- Moderate-income households may have difficulty accessing NB Power’s energy efficiency programs, due to lack of financing mechanisms
- New Brunswick is one of only two jurisdictions in Canada without financing mechanisms for energy efficiency programs
- Fewer households with a primary heating source other than electricity participated in the programs

NB Power effectively delivers current residential energy efficiency programs to those who can participate

- NB Power has an adequate process for determining eligibility and calculating incentives
- NB Power has reasonable monitoring and evaluation processes
- NB Power did not publicly report its finalized electricity-saving targets
- Finalized targets were 60% lower than those publicly reported

Major changes to energy efficiency landscape since 2015

- The Province shifted funding responsibilities for energy efficiency to NB Power in 2015
- According to NB Power’s interpretation of the *Electricity Act*, it requires a third-party funding for non-electric customers
- NB Power’s top priorities of keeping low and stable electricity rates and reducing debt affect its investments in energy efficiency programs