



## Meadowview Solar Project- “What We Heard” Report

### March 7, 2024

More than 60 people attended a Meadowview Solar Project Community Update Meeting hosted in the Meadowview Community Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 12. The well-attended meeting served as a starting point for community conversations about a proposed solar garden project envisioned for a capped landfill site in Meadowview.

District 2 Councillor Lexie Burgess, Deputy Mayor Emily Lutz, and the Municipality’s CAO Scott Conrod shared an overview of the project before opening the floor to questions. The slide deck from the Meadowview Solar presentation can be found [here](#).

More community meetings will be held after project partners receive key information about upcoming provincial programs and regulations that will help determine if – and how – the proposed Meadowview Solar Project could move forward.

The following points were discussed as key elements going forward:

- Follow up and continued community discussions will commence after the provincial program has been released.
- The completion of a business plan will determine if the project can be viable under a forthcoming provincial program. For example:
  - Can a favourable sale of power agreement be secured with Nova Scotia Power?
  - Will the provincial program be open for people to sign up (subscribe) to buy the power – and what will be the associated details?
  - Can enough grant funding be secured to make the project financially viable?
- What are the potential incentives for subscribers and options for direct benefits to the specific communities represented by the project partners?

This report groups comments from the public into common themes emphasized in bold. The bullet points below each theme are all summarized comments from members of the public participating in the community conversation hosted in Meadowview Feb. 12.

**This is “What We Heard” in public comments shared at the Feb. 12 meeting:**

**Improved communications between the project partners and the Annapolis Valley First Nation is required:**

- Project information should be presented at a meeting held in the Annapolis Valley First Nation community to ensure Elders, leaders, and the community are directly informed.
- There is not enough information to ease the minds of community members with concerns about what lies deep below the surface of the capped landfill.
- Community members want more information before project partners become liable or responsible for the proposed solar garden and activities at the capped landfill site.

**Do your research – then do some more.**

- Area residents want to know more about safety measures relating to methane monitoring and off-gassing at the capped landfill.
- Share more information about the process of closing the landfill and how that went.
- Explore ways to repurpose unused land at the site for recreational community uses, such as hiking and biking trails.
- Make technical reports available to the public.
- Share plans on how the solar site will be maintained and eventually be decommissioned.

**Community members want to know more about the benefits to all three project partners.**

- Hold information sessions in Meadowview and the First Nations communities to share important updates in a timely manner as more information becomes available.
- Be transparent. Post more information about the project online as it becomes available.

**Be clear about the impacts and benefits in the host community of Meadowview.**

- Many community members feel Meadowview is viewed as a “dumping ground” by governments.
- The hardships caused by the landfill continue to be felt in the tightknit community to this day.
- Community members want the Municipality to communicate more, be transparent, and advocate for the best interests of the community.

- Area residents want a clear answer to the question: ‘What’s in it for us?’
- Residents want to know if the solar garden will impact property values.

**It’s been a long time since this project was first discussed in Meadowview. Why hasn’t it progressed?**

- Pauline Raven, a former Councillor for the Municipality of the County of Kings, said early conversations about the potential for a solar project at the capped landfill site began in 2014.
- Some board members of the Meadowview Community Development Association were involved and shared what they envisioned.
- The group held a community meeting about the potential for a solar garden at the capped landfill site and about 30 people attended.
- The supporters from the community wanted the project to be something Meadowview could be proud of.
- The early supporters of the solar garden believed the project would be beneficial to future generations as a source of cleaner energy.

**Tell us more about why Glooscap wants to be involved in the project.**

- Michael Peters, CEO of Glooscap Ventures, noted:
  - Together the Municipality and the First Nations have greater access to funding programs (funding required to make a project viable).
  - Glooscap has experience with solar at Glooscap Landing and its fish plant in Yarmouth.
  - Glooscap is trying to invest more in solar energy to do its part for the environment.
  - Glooscap is talking with the Municipality about working together to be good partners and good neighbours.
- The Municipality representatives noted:
  - It is the right thing to do as part of Truth and Reconciliation.
  - Glooscap and other First Nations have direct experience in large scale alternative energy projects, and we are benefiting from their experience.

**Why does Nova Scotia Power have to be involved with the sale and distribution of power?**

- Is there no way to do this without connecting to Nova Scotia Power’s grid? For example, is there a way to keep the power in the community and feed electricity into Camp Aldershot?
- The discussion involved electricity being a regulated industry and that it is likely that a forthcoming provincial program will require the energy to be placed on the grid. There is

also the practicality of the situation that other power will be required if there is no storage associated with solar projects.

- Can you advocate for legislative changes that would allow for more flexibility to keep power off the grid for local uses?
- How does this project compare to the solar garden in Berwick, with its standalone, municipally-owned power utility?

**Note for clarification:** The project must follow provincial regulations, including the *Electricity Act* and new guidelines expected in the coming months, that will outline how the power produced by the proposed solar garden can be sold.