

## Follow-Up to “What We’ve Heard” Report

### Community Update Meeting #2

#### Meadowview Community Solar Garden

On February 12, 2024, the Municipality of the County of Kings, and its partners – Glooscap First Nation and Annapolis Valley First Nation – held a meeting at the Meadowview Community Hall to discuss with the local community a proposed Community Solar Garden for the lands associated with the closed Meadowview Landfill.

Based on public comments received at the meeting, the Municipality prepared a “*What We’ve Heard Report*”, which can be downloaded [here](#).

The following are responses to the public comments received at the meeting and reported in the “*What We’ve Heard Report*”:

Topic	Public Comment	Response
<p>Improved communications between the project partners and the Annapolis Valley First Nation (AVFN) is required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Community members want more information before project partners become liable or responsible for the proposed solar garden and activities at the capped landfill site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update meeting and open house for Annapolis Valley First Nation, Glooscap First Nation, and Municipality of the County of Kings community members will be held at the Municipal Complex in Coldbrook on <a href="#">July 16, 2024</a>.</li> <li>• The Municipality checked landfill methane gas levels in March 2024. Results indicate that landfill gas is not an issue. Further gas monitoring will be completed by a private firm in late summer / early fall.</li> <li>• Project Partners have entered into a formal agreement that recognizes the site as a former municipal landfill. The Agreement places the Municipality fully responsible for any pre-existing environmental contamination.</li> </ul>

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<p>Do your research – Then do some more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area residents want to know more about safety measures relating to methane monitoring and off-gassing at the capped landfill</li> <li>• Share more information about the process of closing the landfill and how that went</li> <li>• Explore ways to repurpose unused land at the site for recreational community uses, such as hiking and biking trails</li> <li>• Make technical reports available to the public</li> <li>• Share plans on how the solar site will be maintained and eventually decommissioned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Municipality checked landfill methane gas levels in March 2024. Results indicate that landfill gas is not an issue. Further gas monitoring will be completed by a private firm in late summer / early fall.</li> <li>• Recent Environmental Monitoring Reports for the Meadowview Landfill (2016 to 2020) and related documents are available on the Municipality's <a href="#">website</a>.</li> <li>• Upon completion of the Meadowview Community Solar Garden, the Municipality will consider other community uses that would align with the solar project. These discussions will involve further engagement with the community.</li> <li>• Reports that do not impact the competitive nature of the forthcoming Provincial application will be posted on the Municipality's <a href="#">website</a>.</li> <li>• Financial planning by the Project Partners will contain provisions for appropriate decommissioning of the site at end of life.</li> </ul>

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<p>Community members want to know more about the benefits to all three project partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold information sessions in Meadowview and the First Nation communities to share important updates in a timely manner as more information becomes available</li> <li>• Be transparent. Post more information about the project online as it becomes available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sessions are planned with the Meadowview and First Nation communities on <a href="#">July 15 &amp; 16, 2024</a>. Additional information sessions will occur throughout the project to keep the communities up-to-date on progress.</li> <li>• Information that does not impact the competitive nature of the forthcoming Provincial application will be posted on the Municipality’s <a href="#">website</a>.</li> </ul>

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<p>Be clear about the impacts and benefits in the host community of Meadowview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many community members feel Meadowview is viewed as a “dumping ground” by Governments</li> <li>• The hardships caused by the landfill continue to be felt in the tightknit community</li> <li>• Community members want the Municipality to communicate more, be transparent, and advocate for the best interests of the community</li> <li>• Area residents want a clear answer to the question: ‘What’s in it for us?’</li> <li>• Residents want to know if the solar garden will impact property values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project Partners want to fully engage with the Meadowview community throughout the lifecycle of this solar project. The Project Partners believe that repurposing a closed landfill into an alternative energy brightfield will positively impact property values.</li> <li>• The Meadowview Community Solar Garden is intended to provide both economic and environmental value to the community.</li> <li>• The Municipality is committed to communicate more with the Meadowview community, be transparent throughout the project, and to continue to advocate for your best interests.</li> <li>• The Provincial Program is now open for applications – details on the program can be found <a href="#">here</a>. The Project Partners plan to list the residents of Meadowview and the two First Nations as Priority Subscribers under the Community Solar Program. There is no cost associated with subscribing. The program enables residents to receive a \$0.02/kWh credit (~12% reduction) on their power bill, with no annual or additional fee. For a residence that uses 12,000 kWh of electricity per year, this would equate to an annual savings of \$240. The Municipality will explore the idea of sharing a community dividend (an annual share of the Municipality’s portion of profits) with the Meadowview Community Development Association (MCDA). MCDA would then decide on how to use the funds.</li> <li>• The Municipality anticipates that the proposed Meadowview Community Solar Garden will have a positive impact on nearby real estate.</li> </ul>

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<p>It’s been a long time since this project was first discussed in Meadowview. Why hasn’t it progressed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Some Board Members of the Meadowview Community Development Association were involved and shared what they envisioned</li> <li>The MCDA held a community meeting about the potential for a solar garden at the capped landfill site and about 30 community members attended</li> <li>The supporters from the community wanted the project to be something Meadowview could be proud of</li> <li>The early supporters of the solar garden believed the project would be beneficial to future generations as a source of cleaner energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concept for the Meadowview Community Solar Garden project originated with the Meadowview Community Development Association (MCDA). A copy of the <i>MCDA Solar Energy Feasibility Study - Kings County Landfill Site - Meadowview, Nova Scotia</i> (May, 2016) is available on the Municipality's <a href="#">website</a>.</li> <li>It is the Municipality's understanding that the Board of the MCDA initiated and funded the preliminary work on the solar project.</li> <li>This statement is consistent with the Municipality's understanding of the community meeting and attendance at that time.</li> <li>The Municipality agrees that the proposed Meadowview Community Solar Garden should be something that both the community of Meadowview and the Municipality as a whole could be proud of, and reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship.</li> <li>The Project Partners’ intent for the Meadowview Community Solar Garden is to provide an option for alternative clean energy for the community.</li> </ul>

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<p>Tell us more about why Glooscap wants to be involved in the project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Funding Programs (Michael Peters, CEO - Glooscap Ventures)</li> <li>On Experience (Michael Peters, CEO - Glooscap Ventures &amp; Scott Conrod, CAO, Municipality of the County of Kings)</li> <li>On Environmental Stewardship (Michael Peters, CEO - Glooscap Ventures)</li> <li>On being good partners and neighbours (Michael Peters, CEO - Glooscap Ventures &amp; Scott Conrod, CAO, Municipality of the County of Kings)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Together the Municipality and the First Nations have greater access to funding programs (funding required to make the project viable)</li> <li>Glooscap has experience with solar at Glooscap Landing and its fish plant in Yarmouth (Michael Peters). Glooscap and AVFN have direct experience in large scale alternative energy projects, and we are benefiting from their experience (Scott Conrod).</li> <li>Glooscap is trying to invest more in solar energy to do its part for the environment.</li> <li>Glooscap is talking with the Municipality about working together to be good partners and good neighbours (Michael Peters). It is the right thing to do as part of Truth and Reconciliation (Scott Conrod).</li> </ul>

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<p>Why does Nova Scotia Power have to be involved with the sale and distribution of power?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• Can you advocate for legislative changes that would allow for more flexibility to keep power off the grid for local uses?</li> <li>• How does this project compare to the solar garden in Berwick, with its standalone, municipally-owned power utility?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity is regulated by Provincial law. The Provincial Program under which this project would be advanced will require the sale of electricity to Nova Scotia Power.</li> <li>• The Municipality does not believe changes could be introduced in a timeframe to allow this project to move forward under the existing program.</li> <li>• The Berwick solar farm is a 4.8 MW DC facility that provides electricity directly to the Berwick Electric Commission and is not accessible by electricity consumers outside of their utility.</li> </ul>
<p>On Groundwater and Surface Water Quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the status of groundwater and surface water at the Meadowview Landfill?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal staff with expertise in environmental monitoring of groundwater and surface water have reviewed in detail the more recent annual environmental monitoring reports.</li> <li>• Analysis of these reports show that contamination of the water from landfill operations is generally decreasing.</li> <li>• Based on available historical environmental reporting for the site, there is a low potential for additional environmental impacts from the closed landfill.</li> <li>• Copies of environmental monitoring reports from 2016 to 2020 are available for review on the Municipality’s <a href="#">website</a>.</li> </ul>

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<p>On Landfill Methane Gas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the status of landfill off-gassing (methane) at the Meadowview Landfill?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipal staff with expertise in environmental monitoring of methane gas checked the gas levels on twenty-seven (27) monitoring wells at the site on March 26 and 27, 2024.</li> <li>Twenty-six (26) of the twenty-seven (27) wells had zero (0.0) part per million (ppm) landfill (methane) gas readings, while one (1) well had a reading of 1.6 ppm. Methane gas is explosive at 50,000 ppm. Given the results, landfill gas was not interpreted to be an issue at the closed Meadowview Landfill.</li> </ul>
<p>On future environmental monitoring programs for groundwater, surface water, and landfill gas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the Municipality intend to do to ensure that the proposed community solar garden does not create additional environmental impacts to the community from the closed landfill?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Municipality is in the process of retaining third-party environmental consultants to conduct annual groundwater, surface water, and landfill gas monitoring events for the closed Meadowview Landfill.</li> <li>The next monitoring events are planned for late summer / early fall 2024.</li> </ul>