

13,000 Nova Scotia Solar Customers Signal a Clear Shift in Atlantic Canada?s Rooftop Market

April 17, 2026

Halifax, Nova Scotia - April 17, 2026 -

Solar adoption in Nova Scotia has moved past the stage of curiosity and entered something more durable: broad public trust. New figures tied to Nova Scotia Power show 13,000 customers in the province are now participating in solar generation, while commercial solar capacity rose 82% in 2025 alone. For SolarEnergies.ca, the numbers point to a market that is no longer proving whether rooftop solar can work in Atlantic Canada. That question has largely been answered. The more relevant question now is which homes and businesses are best positioned to benefit next.

Residential customers still hold the larger share of installed solar in the province, at roughly 110 megawatts, while the commercial side is accelerating fast, with at least 342 commercial installations and 99 new commercial projects completed in 2025. That mix matters. It shows that solar is already established on homes, while businesses are adding weight, volume, and visibility to the market. ?This is the kind of shift that changes how people look at solar,? Vitaliy Lano, author and owner of SolarEnergies.ca, stated. ?Once a province reaches 13,000 solar customers, the old idea that rooftop solar is some fringe project starts to fall

apart.?

That change did not happen by accident. Nova Scotia?s commercial net-metering rules expanded in 2022, raising the size cap from the old 100-kilowatt structure to as much as 1,000 kilowatts for many eligible customers, while some smaller businesses can now go up to 200 kilowatts. Bigger allowable systems made stronger business cases possible. Costs per watt tend to improve as projects scale. Fixed costs get spread across more panels. Installers gain repetition. The market gets sharper. Lano commented that the commercial surge should not be read as a story about corporations alone. ?Business growth helps the entire solar ecosystem,? he said. ?More crews, more trained electricians, more installation history, more local confidence. Homeowners benefit from that even if they are shopping for a much smaller system.?

For years, one claim kept hanging over solar in Atlantic Canada: the weather makes the math weak. The provincial data says otherwise. Nova Scotia?s solar resource remains fairly uniform across the province, with annual production around 1,100 kilowatt-hours per installed kilowatt of PV capacity, a level that supports strong output on suitable roofs. Cold weather, contrary to common assumptions, does not ruin solar performance. Solar cells generally operate more efficiently in lower temperatures than in high heat. Snow can cut production hard in certain winter stretches, but annual losses are often far smaller than people expect. ?Too many property owners still make a decision based on a weather joke instead of site data,? Lano expressed. ?Roof angle, shading, annual power use, and available space tell the real story. Casual opinions do not.?

That practical reading is especially important now because the incentive picture has changed. Nova Scotia homeowners still have access to 1:1 net-metering credits through the Self-Generating Option, allowing surplus production to be banked and applied against later usage within the same calendar year, though excess above annual use is not purchased. That remains a meaningful part of the value equation. Yet some of the easier financial support has faded. Efficiency Nova Scotia?s SolarHomes rebate program closed on April 17, 2025. The federal Canada Greener Homes Loan closed to new applicants on October 1, 2025. For buyers entering the market in 2026, that means a solar project has to stand more firmly on system sizing, roof quality, electricity consumption, and pricing discipline.

Even so, the economics have not disappeared. Nova Scotia?s residential electricity rate, listed by CanREA at $0.18094 per kilowatt-hour in its February 2025 update, gives bill-offset value that many markets would consider attractive. For households with good exposure and steady usage, solar still has a serious case. For homes with aging roofs, heavy shade, or very low electricity use, the numbers may not hold. That is not a weakness in solar. It is basic screening. ?A strong solar market is not built on telling every homeowner to install panels,? Lano added. ?It is built on honest filtering. Some properties are a great fit. Some are average. Some should wait. Credibility matters more than a sales rush.?

There is another reason the 13,000-customer figure carries weight. It changes the tone of the conversation. Early markets are filled with theory. Mature markets are filled with references. Neighbours compare installers. Business owners talk payback. Households ask how long approvals took, how credits are applied, and whether battery storage is worth adding for backup. That is a healthier place for the public to be. Solar still represents only a small share of Nova Scotia Power?s overall energy mix, but growth in commercial and residential adoption suggests the province?s rooftop segment is becoming more normal, more visible, and harder to dismiss.

SolarEnergies.ca said the lesson from Nova Scotia is simple: Atlantic Canada is no longer a market where rooftop solar needs defending as a concept. The focus now is execution, pricing, and proper fit. ?The encouraging part is not just that adoption is growing,? Lano suggested. ?It is that the questions are getting better. Better questions usually lead to better projects, and better projects are what move a market forward.? Prepared by Vitaliy Lano for SolarEnergies.ca, this release reflects the publication?s ongoing coverage of practical solar adoption across Canada.

###

For more information about Solar Energies In Canada SEIC, contact the company here:Solar Energies In Canada SEICVitaliy Lano2368680609admin@solarenergies.ca

Solar Energies In Canada SEIC

SEIC is Canada?s platform for solar energy insights, dedicated to making green living accessible and practical. From detailed guides to savings calculators, SolarEnergies.ca empowers Canadians to make informed decisions for a sustainable future.

Website: https://solarenergies.ca/

Email: admin@solarenergies.ca

Phone: 2368680609