

# Melvin Lake Wind Project

Presentation to the Municipality of East Hants  
Planning Advisory Committee

December 12, 2023

# ABO Wind

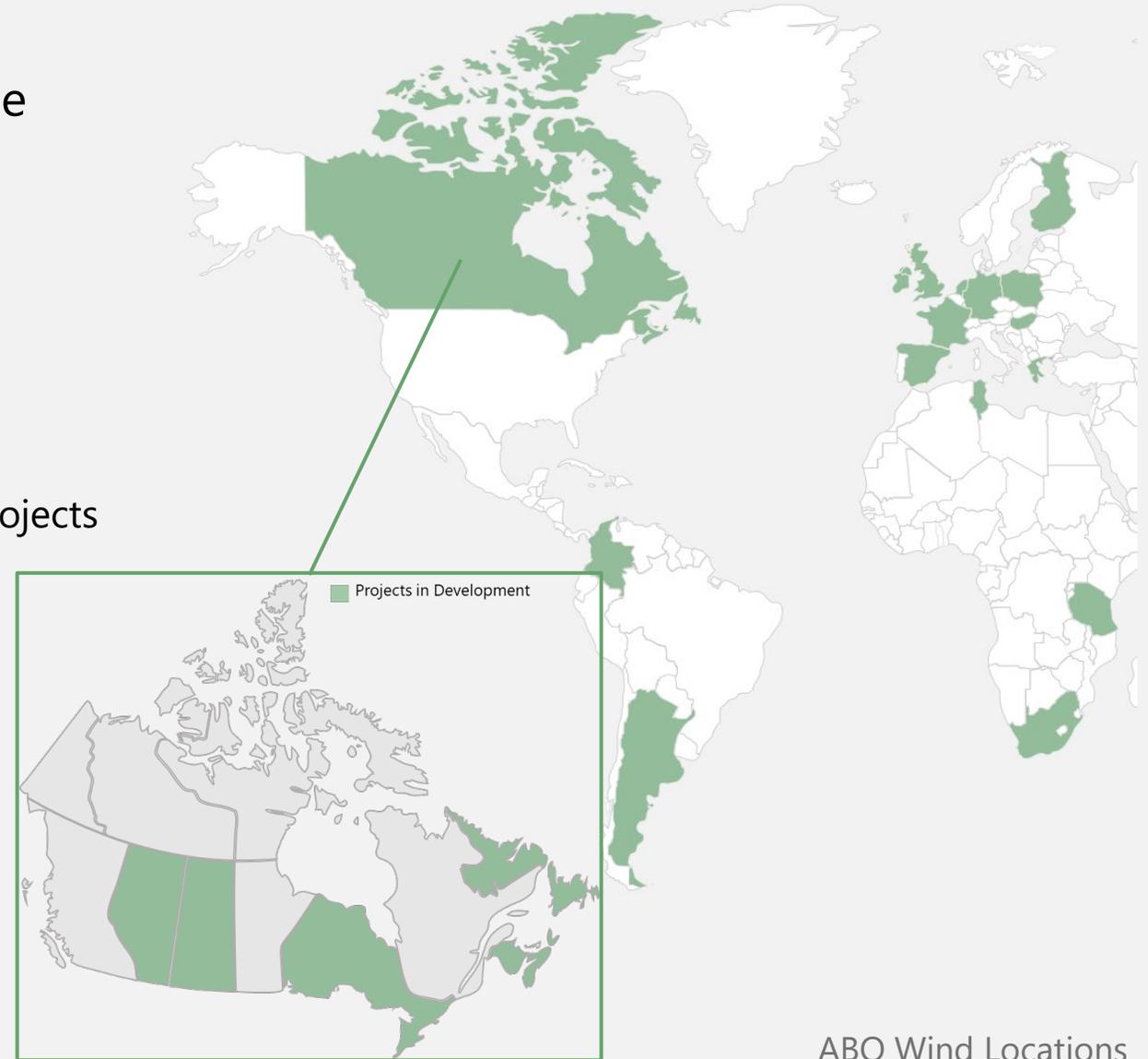
A global track record of success in renewable energy with a growing local presence

## Global Expertise:

- +27 years experience with 5 GW developed and sold
- 2.5 GW of long-term operations & maintenance contracts
- 5 billion € investment volume
- 21 GW Wind/Solar/Battery pipeline + 20 GW hydrogen projects
- +1000 employees
- >2 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided annually

## Canadian Developments:

- 514 MW Buffalo Plains Wind Farm fully developed
- 3 offices: Calgary, Halifax and St. John's
- +1,400 MW pipeline of grid-connected wind, solar, storage
- +11 GW pipeline of renewables for green hydrogen
- 25 professionals on staff and growing
- First Nations partners across the country



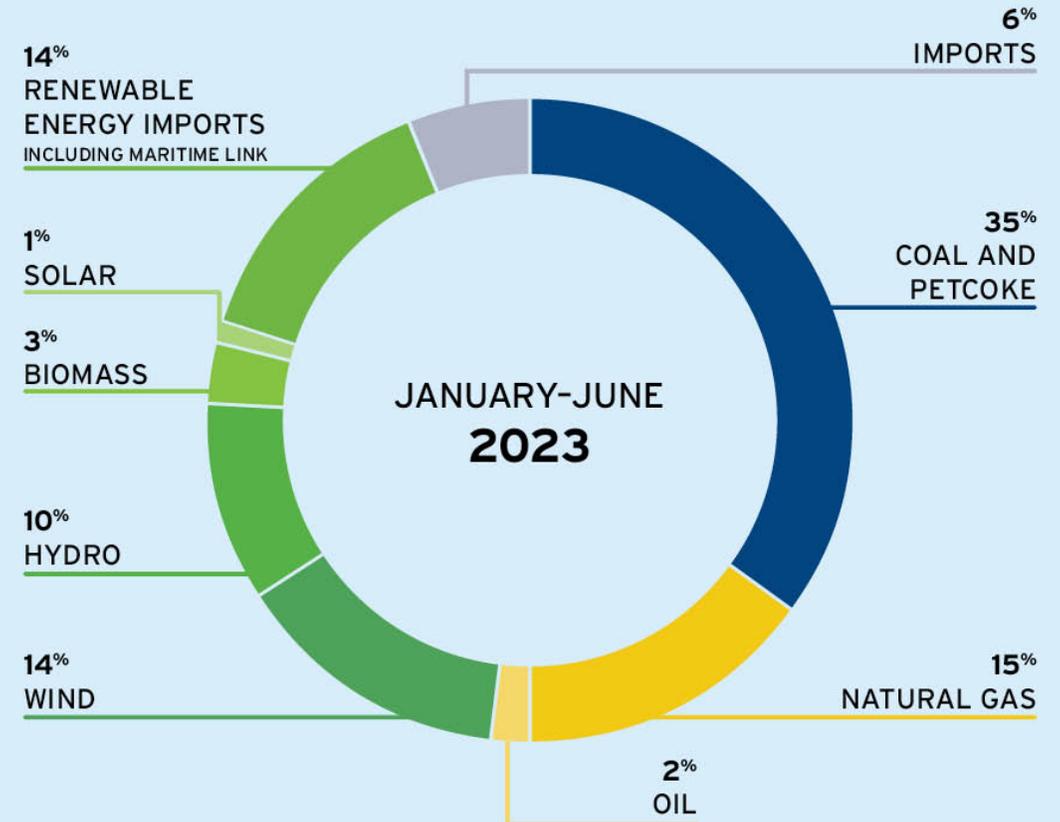
ABO Wind Locations

## A **Clean Energy** Future in Nova Scotia

*Low-carbon, low-cost energy to fight climate change*

- Legislated target of 80% renewable energy and closing all coal plants by 2030
- The Green Choice Program ([www.novascotiagcp.com](http://www.novascotiagcp.com)) was developed to allow Nova Scotia's large-scale energy customers to purchase up to 100% of their electricity use from local renewable energy sources
  - Includes governments, Mi'kmaw band councils, public schools, universities, Nova Scotia Community College, healthcare facilities and non-profit organizations.
- ABO is planning to submit the **Melvin Lake Wind Project (East Hants/HRM)** project this upcoming Green Choice program RFP.
- The Project is **115.5 MW** – that's equivalent to powering more than 25,000 homes annually and displacing over 2,000,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent during its lifetime.

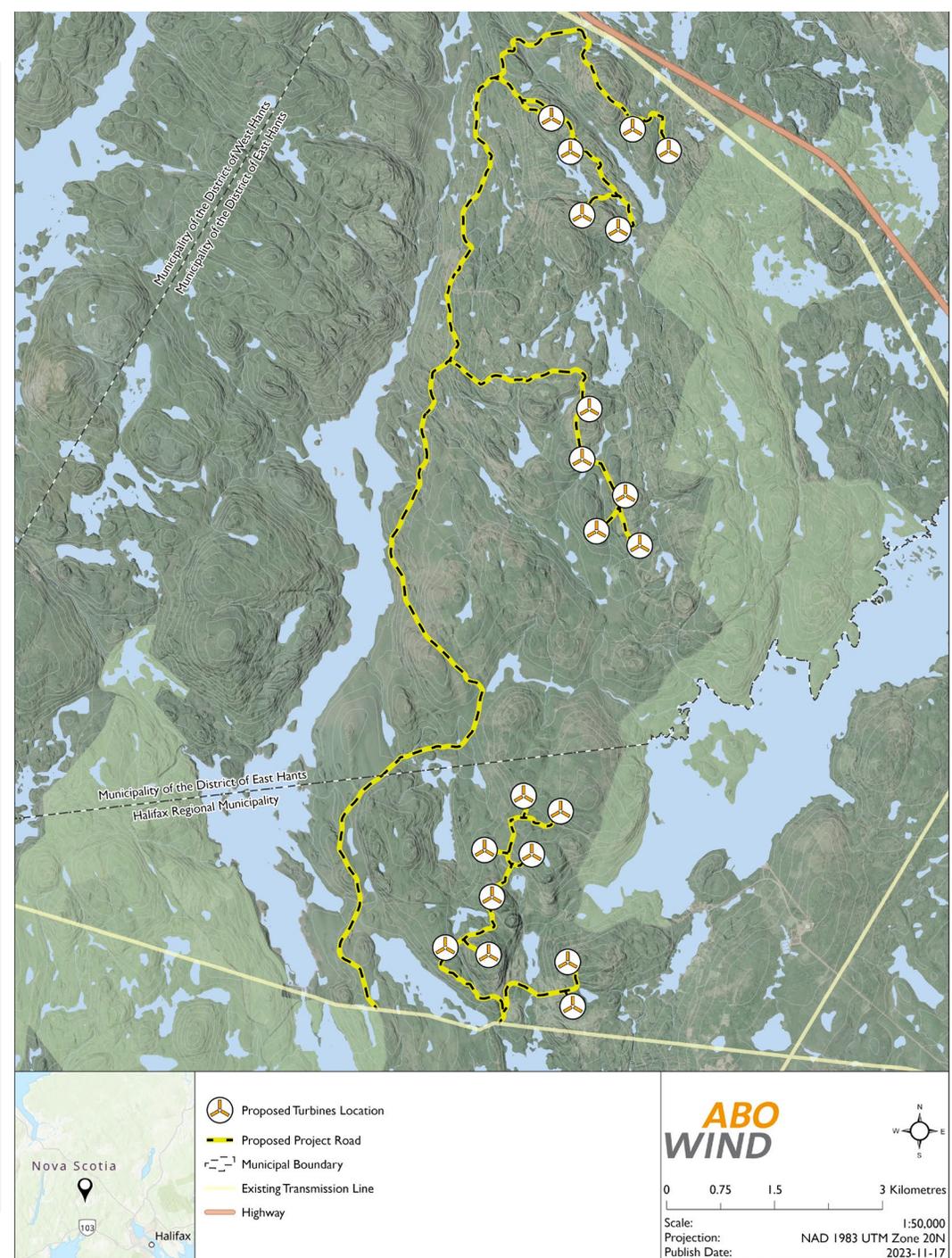
## WHERE YOUR ENERGY COMES FROM NOW



Nova Scotia Power (October 2023)

# Proposed Melvin Lake Wind Project

- The current Project design would place 20 wind turbines on private land south of Highway 101 and west of Pockwock Lake.
- The Project area of interest selected due to:
  - Acquisition of private land (100%)
  - Grid capacity and low grid connection cost, proximity to Halifax
  - Favourable wind speeds and land topography
  - An existing network of forestry roads
  - The ability to adhere to and exceed company, municipal and provincial setbacks. **Closest homes are over 1500m from any turbines**
- Wind measurement campaign running and fieldwork ongoing for Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Outreach with local stakeholders ongoing. Open House held in July at Estabrooks Community Hall. An additional public session expected in February or March 2024.



## Melvin Lake Wind Project – Local Benefits

- **Clean, carbon-free energy** to large energy customers in Nova Scotia, moving us away from coal.
- An estimated **\$20-25M in property tax payments** to the municipalities over the life of the Project that can be used for local services and infrastructure.
- **Revenue to local businesses** – during the construction period, tens of millions of dollars in materials and services could come from local businesses, including construction subcontracts, accommodations, restaurants and catering, and other amenities.
- **Benefit funds** will go to communities in the vicinity of the Project, for community-level initiatives and regional investment.

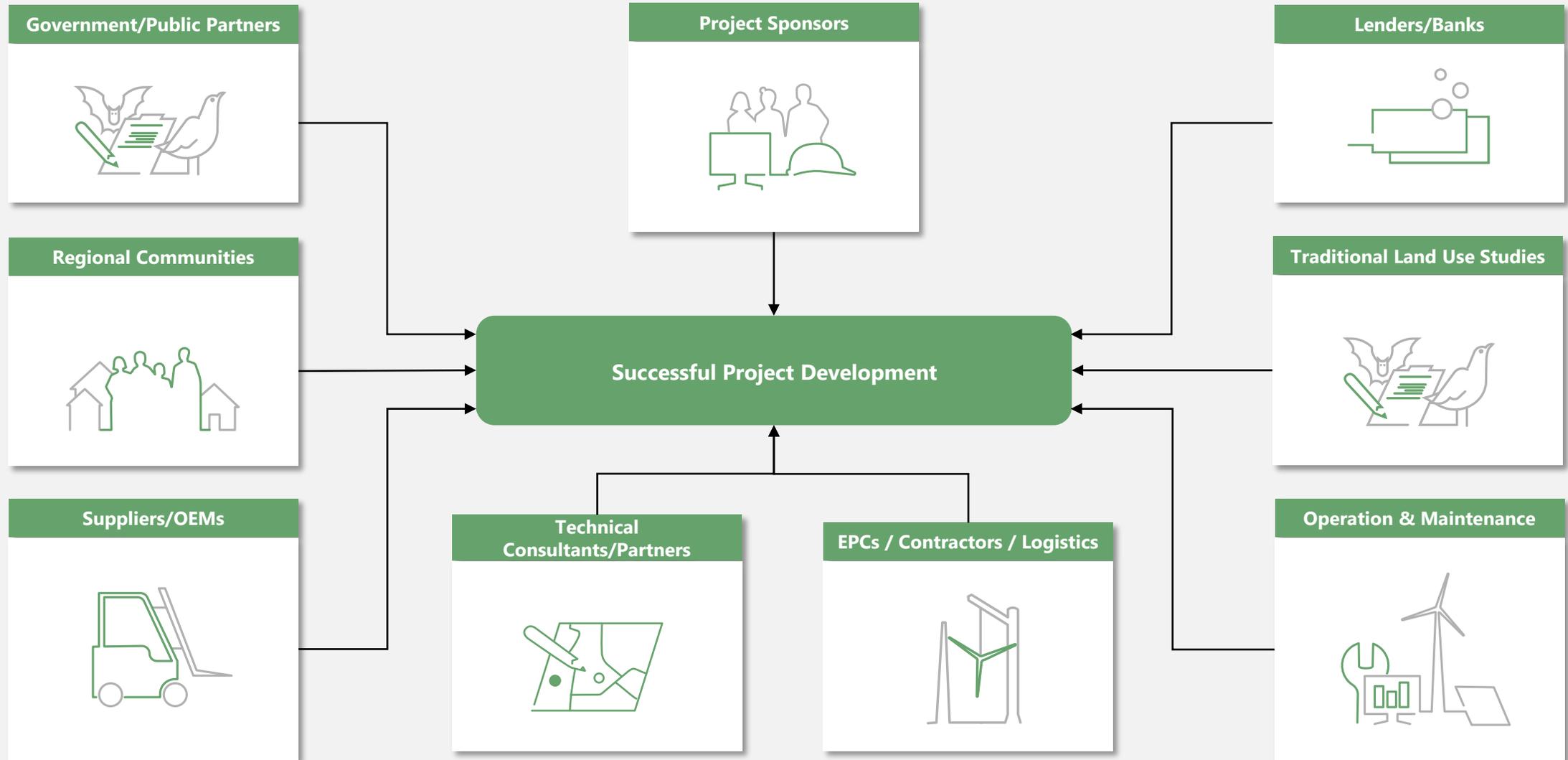


# Supplier and Employment Opportunities

- 75-125 short-term and long-term jobs for the Project, with contracts in site clearing, road building, electrical, construction, concrete work, and ongoing maintenance:
  - Tree clearing/harvesting where needed
  - Access road construction/upgrading
  - Construction of concrete foundations for turbines and substation equipment
  - Storage yard construction, onsite security, etc.
  - Transmission infrastructure (collector system, substation, etc.)
- Other types of professional jobs emerging with growing ABO Wind team in Halifax.



# Successful Projects Need Partners – Local Opportunities Throughout



# Environmental Studies



ABO Wind has been working with local third-party experts to complete required technical and environmental studies to support the siting of wind turbines. An EA will be submitted to the Province once studies have been completed.

## Studies include:

- Analysis of shadow flicker, visualizations/renderings of turbine locations, expected sound levels, and more.

## Some study results include:

- Wildlife surveys, including targeted Mainland moose surveys, identified a variety of species including White-tailed deer, Eastern coyote, Snowshoe hare and Bobcat.
- Although no evidence of Mainland moose was observed, potential habitat has been identified and documented.
- Identification of old growth stands and lichen species at risk to avoid, including blue felt lichen.
- Wetland and watercourses mapped throughout the site and incorporated into Project design to minimize direct impacts.

Avian (bird) assessments include year-round surveys

Field studies have been informative, resulting in some turbine location adjustments.

Project continues to be informed by ongoing input from the community, regulators, and environmental and technical experts.



# Nova Scotia Green Choice Program Submission:

## *Expected Timeline for Melvin Lake Wind*

- **December 1, 2023:** Green Choice RFP was Released
- **Ongoing:**
  - First Nations, government, community/stakeholder engagement (emergency services, environmental organizations, residents, ATV clubs, etc.)
  - Environmental studies and wind measurement campaign, and overall Project planning
- **Q1 2024:**
  - Sending project update mailout and open house invitation residents located in communities in near the Project (also to First Nations, government contacts, etc.)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Open House for the Project (date/location TBC) to be held, March-April 2024.
- **June 14, 2024:** The Project will be submitted for the Green Choice Program.
- **September 2024:** Anticipated Green Choice project award.
- **2024-2025:** Further field studies and EA submission / approval.
- **2025-2026:** Construction begins with tree and road clearing.
- **2027-2028:** Commissioning – The Project is producing clean energy.



# ABO Wind and Municipality of East Hants

## *Next Steps*

- Further discussion on municipal permitting and by-law requirements along with required applications/submissions.
  - ✓ ABO will ensure compliance with East Hants and HRM
- Project updates will be provided to East Hants staff and Councillors, including invitation to Open House
- ABO requesting East Hants consider Letter of Support for Green Choice bid





# Thank you

**Questions, Feedback?**

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