

## Proposal 10

**Title:** *Proposal Encouraging Community Development of Renewable Energy through Standard Offer Contracts / Feed-in Tariffs*

**Originating Body:** *Church in Action Committee of Maritime Conference  
(Environment Working Group)*

### Background

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” ..... “God saw all that God had made, and it was very good.” (Genesis 1:1, 31);*

**Whereas:** We believe that life and creation are gifts from God that elicit our respect, awe and reverence; that we are one earth community, one human family and share one destiny; that we recognize God’s call to live in harmony with all of creation and to care for it that all may benefit equitably now and in the future; and

**Whereas:** The carbon cycle, one of life’s sustaining systems, is out of balance by human causes both from production of greenhouse gases by lifestyle choices and a large carbon foot print from our dependence on fossil fuels; and

**Whereas:** According to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate and Change), Canada’s GHG emissions per capita are among the highest in the world. NS is among the highest in Canada, with Green energy making up less than 1 % of the total of the entire energy grid in the Maritimes. NB is slightly higher in emissions than NS and PEI is below the national average. (In 2004 PEI generated 0.5% of its energy from on island wind power, but in 2007 that increased to 15 %. NB and NS have yet to make such a breakthrough using renewable energy. (pg 18; The Maritimes and Climate Change by Richard Zurawski, 2008)); and

**Whereas:** The Maritime provinces have one of the best wind regimes in the world and good solar potential as well as other resources such as Community Economic Development Investment Funds, an active cooperative movement and a college and university sector distributed throughout the area; and

**Whereas:** The United Church policy statement, Energy in One Earth Community calls for us to shift from an emphasis on large-scale fossil fuel and nuclear energy generation projects to a focus on energy conservation, increased energy efficiency and the development of renewable alternate energy sources, and to move away from mega energy projects and to move toward “development and utilization of appropriate technologies for small-scale, decentralized energy systems” and also says that “legislation should be enacted which would allow small scale electrical generating projects to sell excess power to the electrical utility at a fair price in order to help make such projects economically viable.” (“Energy in the One Earth Community” article 4.6.1); and

**Whereas:** Standard Offer Contract or “feed-in tariff” is government legislation that stimulates renewable energy production by requiring electric utilities to buy renewable energy at a fair, set (by government) price from anyone who wishes to produce renewable energy; and

**Whereas:** Standard Offer Contracts or Feed-in Tariffs have been the most successful policy in stimulating the rapid development of renewable energy in many countries worldwide including Germany, Denmark, Spain, and Australia and also in the province of Ontario; and

**Whereas:** In addition to the clear environmental benefits, small renewable energy projects provide new sources of income for individuals, communities and provinces and local employment opportunities – secure, long-term jobs in renewable energy equipment manufacturing, operation and maintenance.

**It is proposed that the 84<sup>th</sup> Maritime Conference (2009) urge the four provinces within its boundaries to take the necessary steps to establish systems of Standard Offer Contracts or Feed-in Tariffs in order to support community development of renewable energy by:**

- 1) Contacting the premiers of the 4 provinces to urge them to take necessary action and**
- 2) Developing a plan to communicate with congregations and presbyteries encouraging them to advocate for these measures within their area.**

It is moved by Bob Johnson, seconded by Peter Smith that the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference approve Proposal #10 entitled “Proposal Encouraging Community Development of Renewable Energy through Standard Offer Contracts/Feed-in Tariffs.”

**MOTION CARRIED**