

HEAT FOR LESS MAKES THE MOST OF GREEN ENERGY IN SUMMERSIDE



After building its own wind farm, the City of Summerside wanted to ensure its residents benefitted from every green megawatt.

The wind farm generates more energy than the city can use at some times of day. Without storage capacity, the city could only sell the excess energy at a low price on the open market. In 2012, the Heat for Less Now program put that excess energy to use for the community. Under the program, residents and business owners buy special appliances—such as furnaces or hot water heaters—with electric thermal storage. The city's smart grid system detects extra energy produced in off-peak hours and transmits it to the appliances for later use.

Program users receive a guarantee they will never run out of heat or hot water. They also reap long-term savings. The utility can sell the power produced in off-peak periods more cheaply, and the savings from not using oil cover the cost of an appliance in less than five years. The city's energy exports have dropped from 8,500 MWH to 2,615 MWH per year under the program. Overall, the program reduces

costs for consumers, cuts oil consumption, boosts utility efficiency, and promotes the city's green agenda.

The program has also left an impressive legacy of high-tech infrastructure. Through extra revenues from federal government funding, efficiency, and selling the wind power in the community, the city paid for the fibre optic network used for electrical communications.

This fibre optic network has modernized the utility for other developments, such as solar panel interfacing. The network also provides endless opportunities under the city's Living Lab—since the city and its entrepreneurial partners now have a communications network they can use to design and test products for use across the globe.

**COME AND GROW WITH US
HERE, IN BEAUTIFUL
SUMMERSIDE!!**

