

## ***Climate Change and Forestry***

Climate is an important factor in forest management strategies. Climate change can have both positive and negative impacts on New Brunswick forests. Long-term changes in temperature and precipitation influence the growth and migration of tree species and can affect harvesting, pulp and paper production, biodiversity and wildlife. Forest management agencies and woodlot owners in the province need to stay informed and use far-sighted management approaches to monitor potential climate-related trends.

The **New Brunswick Climate Change Hub** is a clearinghouse for information on climate change. Through public education and outreach, the Hub can help forestry groups increase their knowledge about the effects of climate change and the actions they can take to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions. The Hub can also provide a forum for people and agencies concerned about climate change and its affect on New Brunswick forests.

Healthy forest ecosystems are more resilient to natural disturbances. Forest ecosystems under stress from a changing climate can become more vulnerable to fires, insects and disease. The expected increase of extreme weather events can also increase the chances of large-scale blowdowns, such as the 1994 Christmas Mountains storm.

Forest ecosystems can also act as carbon 'sinks' and absorb some of the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. New Brunswick representatives, along with reps from other provinces and territories, are presently working with the federal government in an attempt to find answers to outstanding forestry and climate change issues.

Learn more about the science of climate change and how climate change can affect New Brunswick forests at the Atlantic Forestry Centre website, [www.fcmr.forestry.ca](http://www.fcmr.forestry.ca).

### ***Making a Change...***

#### **New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy**

The Province of New Brunswick and its Department of Natural Resources and Energy (DNRE) has outlined several climate change goals, including:

- Increasing climate monitoring stations
- Expanded land conservation techniques
- Creating a regional emissions registry for trading and banking
- Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per megawatt hour of power consumed

In addition:

- The DNRE has already retrofitted several DNRE buildings to improve energy efficiency and has saved and estimated \$82,000 per year.
- The DNRE has also implemented a private lands afforestation program on old fields, and has converted 2600 ha since 1998

For more information, visit Natural Resources and Energy's website at [www.gnb.ca](http://www.gnb.ca), or email [dnreweb@gnb.ca](mailto:dnreweb@gnb.ca)

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.nbhub.org](http://www.nbhub.org)**

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