

## Keeping the Lights On in Saint John

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In early 2005, New Brunswick Power (NB Power) announced its intention to raise utility rates by 16%. This increase would be catastrophic for low-income residents, who already paid 10-15% of their incomes on home energy.

Vibrant Communities Saint John (VCSJ) provided a voice for low-income residents at the Public Utility Board hearings surrounding the proposed increase. Working with other organizations, VCSJ prepared a detailed case for tackling energy poverty, looking at rate design, energy efficiency measures, and other issues.

Several shifts in energy policy in New Brunswick have resulted from the advocacy of VCSJ and others.

First, NB Power's rate design has changed from offering volume discounts to high energy users to rewarding energy conservation. The provincial government has capped the maximum rate increase at 8%, far lower than the proposed 16%.

And, NB Power has agreed that energy is an essential service – that everyone, regardless of income, has the right to be warm.

 [Read the full story of how Vibrant Communities Saint John is tackling energy poverty!](#)

### Related Links:

- [Vibrant Communities Saint John](#)
- [Vibrant Communities Saint John: Dismantling the Poverty Traps](#)

