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Make renewable energy part of export strategy

New Brunswick's growing energy hub is often described in terms of traditional sources of energy: gasoline, natural gas, nuclear power and coal. But a European company's decision to open a branch office in Moncton is an important reminder that "green" power is also exportable.

Preneal Canada Inc. is a subsidiary of Spain-based Preneal Internacional. Like its parent, it specializes in wind power - and its president, Christian Monod, says the Maritimes and Quebec have enormous untapped potential to generate electricity from renewable sources.

Mr. Monod sees the Maritimes becoming a regional energy hub in "green" power - and it could be.

U.S. states are trying to increase the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources, but no one in the overdeveloped northeast wants a wind farm in their back yard.

Enter New Brunswick. With abundant wind, high tides and a small population, New Brunswick can become a leader in "green" power, just as it is poised to become a leader in gas, fuel and conventional power exports.

Clearly, power producers like Preneal are beginning to realize this. The provincial government should ensure renewable power is part of its export strategy.