



# What Is Electricity Resilience During Winter Storms?

Climate change is making winter storms more intense and unpredictable. That means more snow, more ice and more outages. This places more stress on our power systems.

Electricity resilience means getting ready now so we can keep the lights on during storms. This is part of climate change adaptation.

## Why Winter Storm Preparedness Keeps Us Safe

With more freezing rain, snowstorms, and ice build-up, Nova Scotia homes and power lines are under greater pressure than ever.

By taking action now, we can:

- Keep our homes safe and warm
- Use electricity more efficiently
- Reduce pressure on the grid
- Help our communities bounce back faster

## What You Can Do To Prepare For Winter Storms

Being prepared for winter storms increases electricity resilience. Here's what you can do.

### Before the winter season:

- Seal windows and doors with weatherstripping to keep warm air in
- Clear gutters to prevent ice build-up and water damage
- Get your heating system and chimney checked each year
- Top up your fuel tank, if you use oil heating
- Add warm blankets, extra socks, and hand warmers to your emergency kit
- Make sure trees are away from wires
- Know where your local comfort centre is in case of an outage so you can warm up or recharge your devices

Before a winter storm, charge phones and backup power devices.

### ADAPTATION TIP

*Winterizing your home helps lower energy use, reduces strain on the grid, and keeps you warmer during outages.*

### During a winter storm:

- Stay indoors and dress in warm layers
- Use battery-powered lights or glow sticks – not candles
- Never use BBQs, camping stoves, or outdoor heaters inside
- If the power goes out, turn off appliances and leave one light on
- Keep fridge/freezer doors closed to preserve food
- Listen to updates via radio, TV, or social media
- Go to a comfort centre if you need warmth or services

#### ADAPTATION TIP

*Reducing your electricity use during peak times helps keep the grid more stable for everyone.*

### After a winter storm:

- Shovel snow slowly and take breaks – overexertion is a real risk
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia
- Check in on neighbours, especially seniors or those who live alone
- Replenish your supplies and note what to improve for next time
- Check on trees that are close to powerlines. If safe, remove ice.

#### ADAPTATION TIP

*Each storm helps us learn. Small upgrades now can reduce risk the next time around.*

## Winter Resilience Starts With You

Winter storms are getting more severe. But adaptation and resilience give us tools to respond and recover more quickly.

Start with your home and grow your impact from there. Because in a changing climate, being prepared is power.

### Learn More:



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