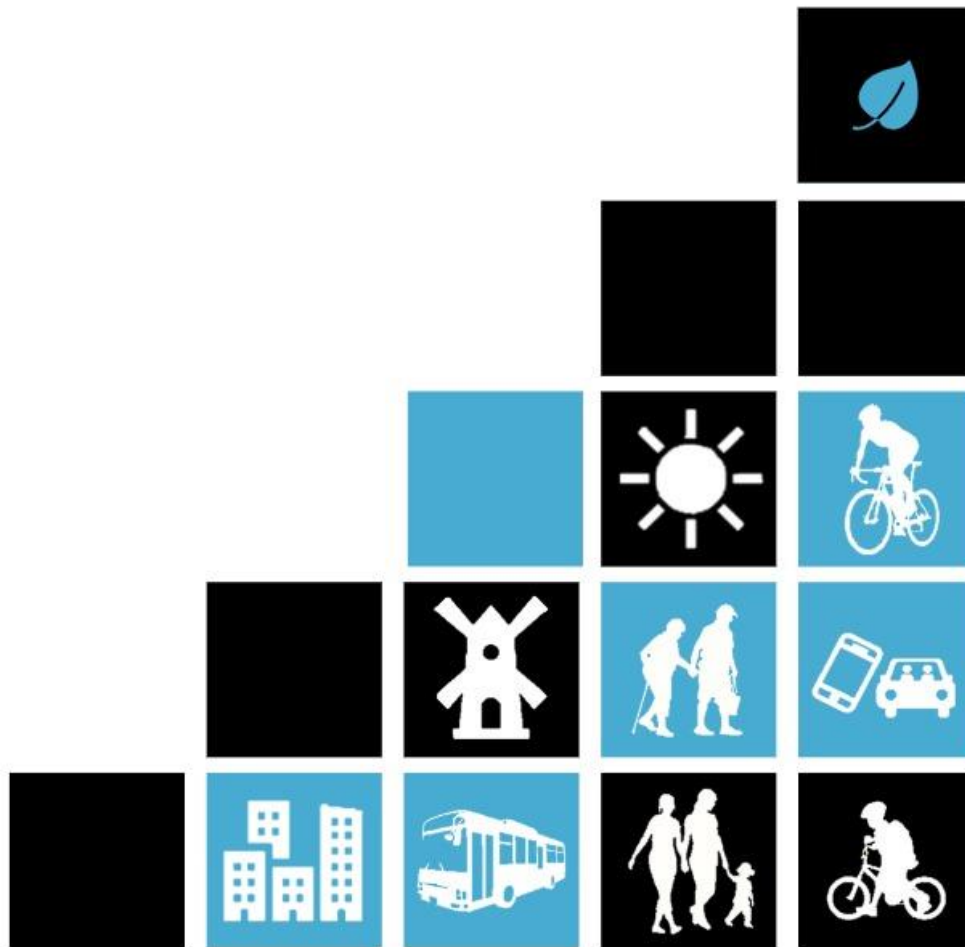


LowCarbonCommunities



Supporting Nova Scotian Community initiatives and solutions
to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in
Building Efficiency, Clean Electricity, and Clean Transportation

2021- 2022

Introduction

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables is committed to supporting locally driven projects that create long-lasting greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions in addition to helping communities develop and advance innovative solutions in the building efficiency, clean electricity, and clean transportation sectors.

The **Low Carbon Communities (LCC)** Provincial Grant Program is designed to respond to the growing need from communities to offer low carbon solutions and mitigate GHG emissions in the energy sector. The program is open **to community groups, municipalities, First Nations Bands, post-secondary institutions, businesses, and non-profit organizations** that have projects that benefit communities within Nova Scotia.

LCC aims to:

- Help communities complete the preparatory work required to implement their projects
- Advance community led, innovative solutions
- Support learning by doing and knowledge transfer
- Contribute to social and equitable investments in Nova Scotian communities

LCC areas of funding:

- Feasibility studies, Designs and Planning
- Engagement and Education activities
- Initiatives that demonstrate positive and innovative low carbon solutions

Program Overview

LOW CARBON COMMUNITIES (LCC)

The LCC grant program will help communities at any readiness level in their clean energy and climate change pursuits. The program provides communities an opportunity to leverage funding presently available for energy projects and helps applicants prepare the plans and studies necessary to implement these projects.

We are seeking projects that test new ideas or best practices, that increase equity and access to low carbon solutions for buildings, electricity, and transportation.

Projects are eligible for funding up to 75% of their total project costs and **are due to be completed by December 8th, 2022.**

2021-2022 Project Submission Process



Step 1: Review Program

Read the program description for eligibility requirements and guidelines to determine if your project fits the LCC program. Contact us if you have any ideas you want to discuss.

Step 2: Express your Interest

Submit a brief project overview through our online Expression of Interest form (EOI) **by November 15th, 2021**. Staff will review EOI submissions to verify eligibility and alignment with the LCC program and will confirm receipt of submission within 3 business days. Staff may contact you for clarification or questions.

Step 3: Receive an Application

Eligible projects will be sent an Application form inviting them to apply to the program.

Step 4: Submit your Application

Ensure you have submitted the Application form along with other required documents for consideration under the program **by November 18th, 2021**.

In addition to the application form, you will also need to include the following documentation:

- ✓ confirmation of matching funds or in-kind contributions **(required)**
- ✓ permits or statement of support from other provincial departments **(if required)**
- ✓ letters of support from community or partners
- ✓ visual materials (i.e. map of location)
- ✓ any additional relevant information

NOTE: Applicants are expected to ensure all forms are completed and that supporting documents are provided at the time of submission. Staff will confirm the receipt of your submission via email.

EOI submissions are open until November 15th, 2021. All applications will be reviewed following the November 18th, 2021 deadline.

Questions? Staff are available year-round to discuss potential projects, partnerships and supporting your application. Please contact our Program Staff:

Gabrielle Riley Gallagher at 902-219-0264

Salima Medouar at 902-717-7026

Lowcarboncommunities@novascotia.ca

Program Categories

Building Efficiency

Projects under this category may include:

- Energy audits and design plans for community buildings
- Benchmarking, modeling, data analysis that informs energy efficiency measures
- Advanced building design and plans, including neighbourhood retrofit plans
- Learning by doing: Testing an innovative solution in the Building Efficiency sector (requires evaluation and knowledge transfer built into project)

Low Carbon Communities will provide grants of up to **\$75,000** per project in this category.

Clean Electricity

Projects under this category may include:

- Plans and feasibility studies for: district energy, rooftop solar, shared solar, and energy storage.
- Community or neighbourhood energy planning
- Project implementation planning
- Innovative Electricity Resiliency for Communities (ex. Solutions for communities during electricity challenges)
- Learning by doing: Testing an innovative solution in the Electricity sector (requires evaluation and knowledge transfer built into project)

Low Carbon Communities will provide grants of up to **\$75,000** per project in this category.

Clean Transportation

Projects under this category may include:

- Zero emission vehicle strategies and planning
- Fleet conversion studies
- Infrastructure designs and planning
- Innovation in EVs: Clean Marine, EVs and E-Bike courier or local delivery service planning
- Learning by doing: Testing an innovative solution in the Clean Transportation sector (requires evaluation and knowledge transfer built into project)

Low Carbon Communities will provide grants of up to **\$75,000** per project in this category.

Education

Projects under this category may include:

- Municipal staff training, capacity building, public engagement, or support for networks
- Education or promotion of energy awareness initiatives, stewardship, or low carbon programs

Low Carbon Communities will provide grants of up to **\$50,000** per project in this category.

Please Note: LCC funding will not exceed the value of 75% the total project cost and/or the category capped value. Funds are disbursed 90% at project start, and 10% upon project completion and reporting. We welcome project ideas outside those listed, provided they align with a category.

The Program Coordinator will confirm the category your project is eligible under.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

This program welcomes applications from community groups, municipalities, universities, First Nations Bands, businesses and non-profit organizations that have community connected projects. Non-profits must be registered entities under *Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies*. Applicants demonstrating connections and/or partnerships with surrounding communities, local organizations, utilities, and private sector businesses will be viewed more favourably.

Program Specific Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary partner must be based in Nova Scotia and ideally will be based in the community or region the project will serve; • Project should be identified as a community priority, or identified in a community plan/municipal document, or should have a letter of support from Council; • Nova Scotia (NS) businesses are eligible to receive funding through this program if the project outcomes are directly linked to positive impacts/access/services for NS residents. • Applicant must be able to clearly demonstrate the project's ability to reduce GHGs; • Applicant must confirm all necessary permits are in place at the time of application; • Applicant must provide proof of matching funds and/or in-kind contributions; and • Multiple submissions from an applicant are allowed; however, the priority level of each submission should be identified.
Ineligible Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational costs for charging infrastructure, fleets, transit and shared-mobility services; • Organizational administration, start up costs, and restructuring; • Projects that are substantially large capital expense (example: purchase of solar panels); • Energy audits and design plans solely focused on upgrading existing electric systems; • Projects that have not demonstrated strong community support; • Project does not materially advance the objectives of the Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change

Funding Guidelines

Low Carbon Communities grant will cover up to **75% of eligible costs**, up to:

- a maximum of **\$75,000** for Building Efficiency, Clean Electricity, and Clean Transportation
- a maximum of **\$50,000** for Education projects,

Funds are disbursed 90% at project start, and 10% upon project completion and reporting.

All reasonable and direct project costs are eligible for funding under this program. NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables staff reserve the right to question/decline funding for costs that are deemed unreasonable.

For all projects, applicants must provide a matching fund and/or in-kind contribution that meets the following criteria:

- **In-kind contribution:** (An 'in-kind' reporting form will be provided)
 - Qualified in-kind contributions include donated material, equipment, and labour from another party
 - Incremental costs incurred by the applicant or partners must be in association with the proposed project. To be eligible, incremental costs must be new costs incurred because of the initiative, including new space provided for the project or volunteer labour associated with the project.

- **Remaining funding:**
 - Funding can include other sources of municipal, federal, provincial or community government contributions and/or other sources of funding, including resources from community organizations, non-profits or businesses.
 - However, no more than 75% of the total project cost can be funded through the provincial government.

For more information and resources please visit the “Additional Resources” section of our website or contact one of our Program Staff.

Gabrielle Riley Gallagher at 902-219-0264

Salima Medouar at 902-717-7026

OR

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