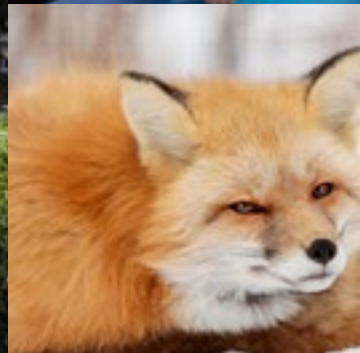


APPENDIX A



POWERING THE TRANSITION.

CLEAN ECONOMY, CLIMATE ACTION, SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY

APPENDIX A TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Climate Change Reduction Act and Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change

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Progress on Commitments under the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act* and Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth

This appendix shows the progress since the 2024 report on the Act's goals and the Plan's actions.

A close-up photograph of a person's face, slightly out of focus, holding a clear test tube. Inside the test tube is a small green plant with many leaves. The person is wearing glasses. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor scene.

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 1

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 53 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050.

The most recent data shows that Nova Scotia's emissions have been reduced by 38 per cent from 2005 levels and that the province is on track to reach its 2030 target of 53 per cent below 2005 levels.¹

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that help reduce emissions:

¹ <https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.506002/publication.html>

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
21	Work with our neighbouring provinces to transfer more electricity across Atlantic Canada and Québec through projects like the Atlantic Loop, Muskrat Falls, and stronger connections with New Brunswick	<p>The Nova Scotia–New Brunswick Reliability Intertie Project is expected to begin construction in 2026 and be in service by 2028. It will improve reliability, support renewable energy, and strengthen the power connection between provinces.</p> <p>Atlantic Premiers have established the Eastern Energy Partnership to strengthen transmission across the east and open new power generation for clean energy and energy security, and trigger investment that builds energy infrastructure and economic development. The Partnership will enhance Team Canada’s energy sovereignty and security by unlocking access to Atlantic Canada’s energy resources. Nova Scotia’s contribution to the Eastern Energy Partnership is ‘Wind West’—a project that will create jobs, attract investment and strengthen our economy with a new transmission cable. The establishment of an economic corridor for energy transmission is critical to establish a true national energy corridor.</p>
29	Ban installations of oil-fired heating equipment in new buildings by 2025.	Government is focused on building as many homes as quickly as possible, so Nova Scotians have affordable places to live while also investing in energy efficiency and addressing climate change. Work on this action is being considered in a way that considers affordability for Nova Scotians.

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
63	Invest in research needed for new clean technologies and practices to help meet our net-zero by 2050 target.	<p>In 2024-25, Government invested over \$6 million in two biomanufacturing facilities to support net-zero goals. These facilities will boost precision fermentation capacity, launch Canada's first bioinnovation centre, and expand clean-tech training. The initiatives will drive green supply chains, create jobs, and accelerate sustainable, low-carbon innovation across sectors.</p>



Under the [Department of Energy's Clean Fuels Fund](#), a Hydrogen Working Group (previously established by Invest Nova Scotia) with Michelin, Port Hawkesbury Paper, and the Shaw Group, undertook feasibility studies to explore applications and approaches to hydrogen integration.

[Invest Nova Scotia](#) has played a key role in supporting early industry leaders who are exploring hydrogen solutions. The agency also participates in project management for related initiatives.

To support wider adoption, Invest Nova Scotia works with other [Clean Fuels Fund](#) applicants and recipients to encourage collaboration.

TAKING ACTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 2

Develop Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth.

This plan addresses:

- achieving the greenhouse gas emission targets set out in the Act
- adapting to the impacts of climate change and building a climate resilient future
- accelerating the integration of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches, and
- clean inclusive growth

Government has committed to reporting progress on the Act's goals every year and reviewing the Plan within five years. These commitments are reflected in Actions 67 and 68 of the Climate Change Action Plan. Past reports are available [here](#).



INCREASING THE USE OF ZERO-EMISSIONS VEHICLES

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 3

Develop and implement a zero-emission vehicle mandate that ensures, at a minimum, that at least 30 per cent of new vehicle sales for all light-duty and personal vehicle in the province will be zero-emission vehicles by 2030. Develop and implement supporting initiatives for this goal.

- this goal is reinforced in action #36 in the Climate Change Action Plan

In 2024, over five per cent of all new vehicles purchased in Nova Scotia were zero-emission, with a peak of seven per cent sales in the 4th quarter of 2024. That is a steady increase from the 4.4 per cent in 2023 and three per cent in 2022.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that are Increasing the use of zero-emissions vehicles:

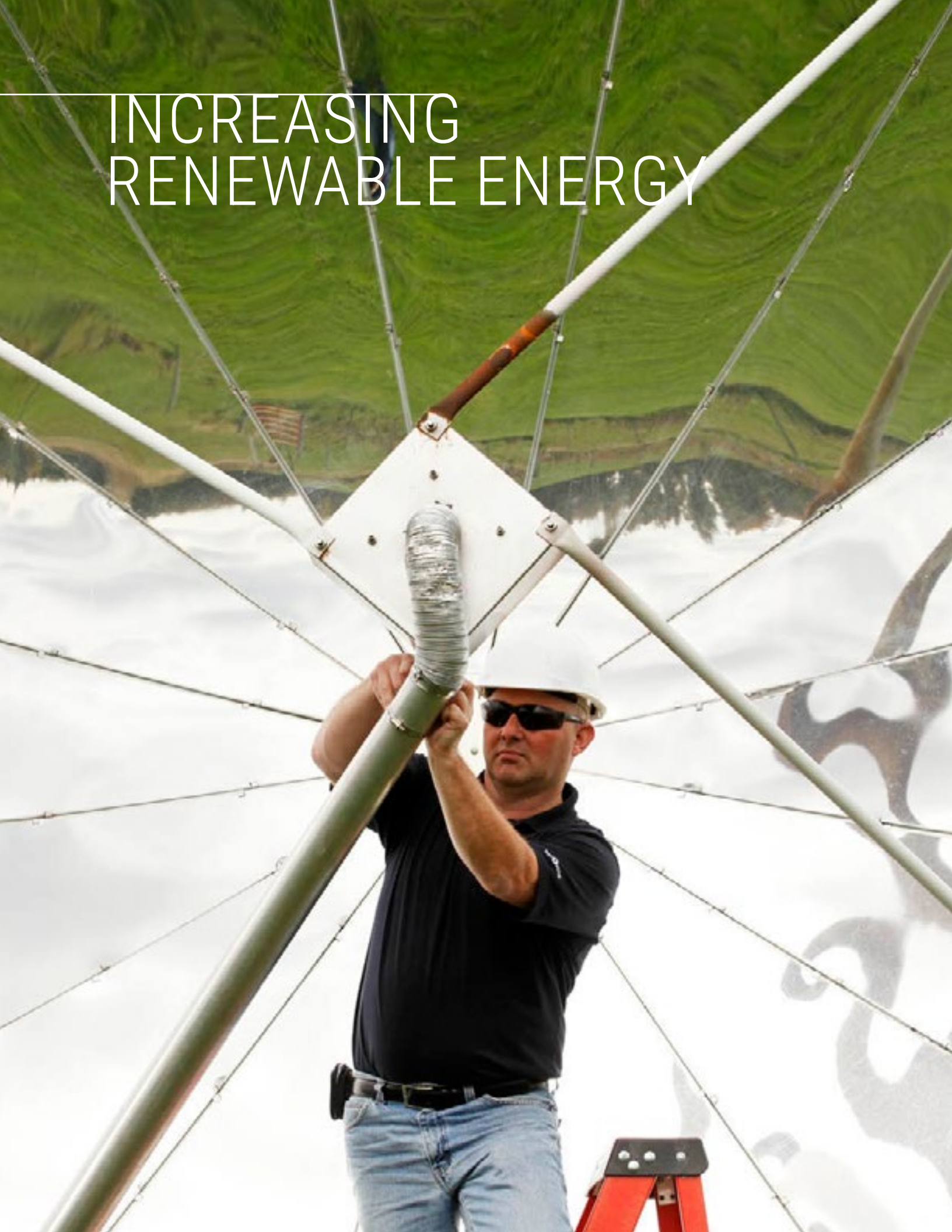
ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
20	Research how we can use battery technologies or electric vehicles for electricity storage and backup power supplies to make our electricity system more reliable.	<p>In December 2023, government approved a 150-megawatt battery energy storage project with Nova Scotia Power under Section 4D of the Electricity Act. The three-site project will increase the province's energy storage capacity. Construction begins in 2025 and is expected to finish in 2026.</p> <p>Two research projects were completed to assess the potential for vehicle-to-grid technology in Nova Scotia and identify the best way to advance it. This technology stores energy in electric vehicle batteries during low demand and supplies it back to the grid during peak demand—reducing the need for new power plants and improving the use of clean energy</p>
35	Build more electric vehicle charging stations across the province so Nova Scotians can access them when and where they need to.	<p>Nova Scotia invested \$425,000 in the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program, run by Natural Resources Canada. By providing matching funds, Nova Scotia is benefitting from the installation of more Level Three fast chargers across the province.</p> <p>As of March 2025, six 180 kW fast chargers were installed at three locations.</p> <p>By the end of March 2025, 24 Level Two chargers were installed for multi-residential buildings.</p>
36	Increase the number of zero-emission vehicles and e-bikes to meet the 2030 target of 30 per cent zero-emission vehicle sales by continuing rebates, education, and outreach programs.	<p>The Electrify Nova Scotia Program has achieved its goal of encouraging early adoption and has now ended rebates for light-duty electric vehicles and e-bikes.</p> <p>In total, more than 13,000 rebates were issued, including over 8,500 for e-bikes and 4,500 for electric vehicles.</p> <p>NextRide continued to expand this year, with greater community reach and more events held across the province. The team attended 130 events, helping over 2000 Nova Scotians complete test drives. To test drive an electric vehicle, visit Next Ride: https://nextridens.com/</p>



ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
37	Increase the number of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty, freight, and marine vehicles through new incentives.	<p>The Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Rebate Program launched in April 2024 to support the transition of commercial and industrial vans, trucks, and ice resurfacers to zero emission vehicles. To date, 38 rebates have been issued, supporting businesses, non-profits, municipalities, and Mi'kmaw communities that want to move to electric vehicles.</p> <p>The Fisheries and Aquaculture Energy Efficiency Innovation Fund is also helping to increase the number of zero emissions medium and heavy-duty, freight and marine vehicles in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>In February 2025, 14 seafood companies and related organizations across the province received funding, helping them reduce their carbon footprint. The fund opened for a second round of applications in the spring.</p>

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
40	Electrify public transit across the province by partnering with municipalities and the federal government.	<p>The Government of Nova Scotia continues to support electrification projects approved through the Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program. The Government also helps eligible groups—mainly municipalities and transit operators—access federal funding to advance electrification in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>Through the program, Halifax Transit’s partial network electrification is nearly complete. The Ragged Lake project includes the purchase of 60 electric buses, and a major facility retrofit and expansion.</p> <p>Halifax Transit’s total fleet includes more than 300 buses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as of March 2025, 59 out of 60 electric buses were on site, with 17 available for service, while the remainder were undergoing testing and commissioning • at the end of March 2025, the facility was undergoing commissioning while the charging infrastructure was in testing or being used for training
41	Explore opportunities for electric school buses through a strategic pilot project.	A feasibility study was completed in 2024-25 to evaluate options for the electrification of provincially owned school bus fleets. The study enhanced our knowledge of zero-emission transportation and provided information to support decision-making on the electrification of school buses.

INCREASING RENEWABLE ENERGY



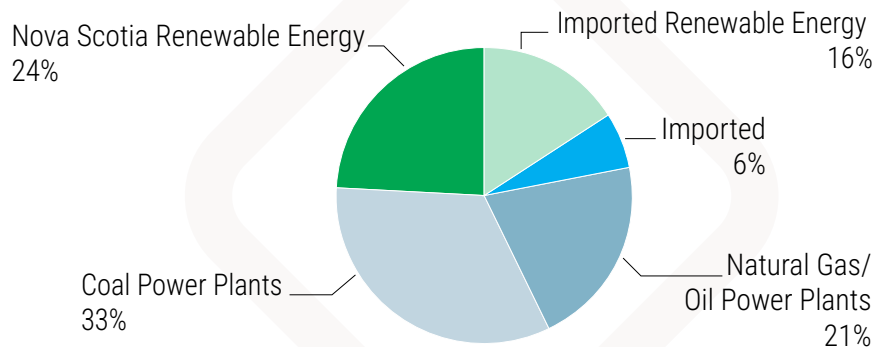
ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 4

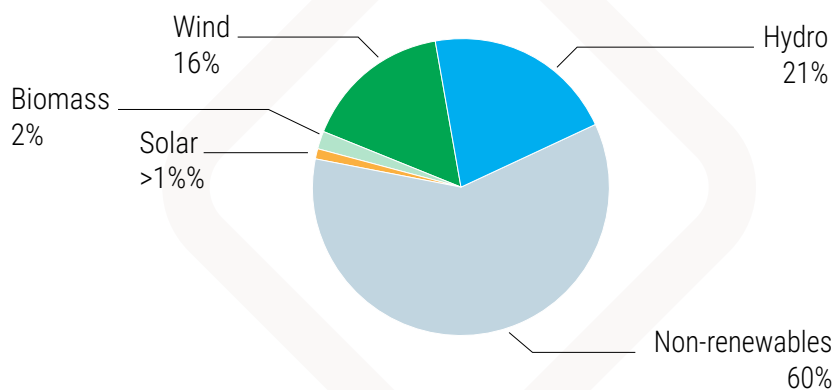
By 2030, 80 per cent of electricity needs will be supplied by renewable energy.

Currently, 40.5 per cent of electricity consumed in the province is supplied by renewables.

WHERE YOUR ELECTRICITY COMES FROM NOW, 2024



NOVA SCOTIA'S 2024 ELECTRICITY MIX **RENEWABLES = 40%**



Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that are increasing renewable energy:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
18	<p>Increase the amount of renewable energy used for electricity generation by building at least 500 megawatts of new local, renewable energy by 2026—and an additional 50 megawatts of new community solar.</p>	<p>Increasing the megawatts of new local renewable energy in Nova Scotia is well underway.</p> <p>Efforts contributing to this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nova Scotia Power and the Wskijnu'k Mtmo'tagnuow Agency's 150 MW battery storage project. Construction starts in 2025 and will be completed in 2026 • selecting six wind farms and eleven large-scale electricity customers to participate in the Green Choice Program. The wind farms will generate up to 2,000 gigawatt hours of clean electricity per year by the end of 2028, for participating large-scale electricity consumers • issuing an environmental assessment approval for Melvin Lake Wind Farm - the 14th onshore wind energy project since 2021 to receive environment assessment approval • launching the Community Solar program - Since its launch, 9.25MW have been approved, including the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Dawn -Pine Tree Park Community Solar Garden – 0.5MW (Cape Breton) • AI Renewables and Potlotek First Nation – 4.8MW Brooklyn Solar (Annapolis Valley) • AI Renewables and the Multicultural Association of Cape Breton - 1.7MW Sydney Solar (Cape Breton) • AI Renewables and the Chabad Lubavitch Society of Atlantic Canada - 2.2MW Petpeswick Solar (Central)
19	<p>Provide funding support for farms and other businesses to adopt more solar power.</p>	<p>Efficiency Nova Scotia continues to ensure a Navigator is available to support farmers in applying for funding programs, who can help advance their renewable energy and efficiency projects.</p>



ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
19	Provide funding support for farms and other businesses to adopt more solar power.	Efficiency Nova Scotia continues to ensure a Navigator is available to support farmers in applying for funding programs, who can help advance their renewable energy and efficiency projects.
34	Launched in 2023, the Green Choice Program will enable the government to purchase 100 per cent renewable electricity for our operations as it becomes available.	<p>The Green Choice Program will add more clean energy to the grid, create green jobs and investment, help stabilize power rates, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Six wind farms were selected through a competitive, independent process to supply clean electricity for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of Nova Scotia (including schools, hospitals, and housing) • Government of Canada (federal departments and Crown facilities like Canada Post) • Nova Scotia universities and colleges (Dalhousie University, Acadia University, Cape Breton University, Mount Saint Vincent University, Saint Mary's University, University of King's College, Université Sainte-Anne, NSCAD University, and all Nova Scotia Community College campuses) • Halifax Regional Municipality and Halifax Water • Cape Breton Regional Municipality <p>Each wind farm is co-owned by a private developer and one or more Mi'kmaw communities. Developers are investing approximately \$73.5 million in local benefits, including training, skill development, grants, and scholarships.</p> <p>The projects will create about 700 construction jobs and 30 full-time operations jobs.</p>

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
59	Issue leases for five gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030, with a first call for bids by 2025.	<p>Amendments to the Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Implementation Accord Act have been undertaken.</p> <p>Nova Scotia’s Department of Energy in partnership with Natural Resources Canada announced five proposed wind energy areas and undertook public engagement. Later this year, after areas are designated, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator will manage a competitive licensing process for developing wind farms. The process will include identifying specific parcels within wind energy areas for development.</p> <p>The Department of Energy held an offshore wind Research and Development Forum in November 2024. Another Research & Development Forum will be held in September 2025.</p> <p>Module Three of the Offshore Wind Roadmap will be released in 2025.</p>



ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
64	Launch the Green Choice Program in 2023, which will allow large industrial energy consumers to purchase 100 per cent renewable electricity as it becomes available.	<p>The Green Choice Program launched in December 2023.</p> <p>Proposals closed in June 2024, with successful projects announced in January 2025.</p> <p>In total, developers are investing about \$73.5 million in social and economic benefits for communities where the wind farms will be located. The six wind farms selected to participate in the program will generate more than 2,000 gigawatt hours of clean electricity per year by the end of 2028. Benefits include jobs, training, skill development, capacity-building grants, and scholarships. There will be about 700 construction jobs and 30 full-time jobs to operate the wind farms.</p> <p>Participants joined the program in June 2024, with agreements to be signed by Fall 2025.</p> <p>In addition to supporting government operations, the program will also supply clean energy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halifax International Airport Authority • Wal-Mart Canada Corporation • Michelin North America (Canada) Inc. • PSA Canada Ventures Ltd

STRENGTHENING ENERGY EFFICIENCY



ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 5

Support, strengthen, and set targets for energy efficiency programming while prioritizing equitable access and benefits for low-income and marginalized Nova Scotians.

Since 2021, Government has invested about \$239 million in energy efficiency programs to help Nova Scotians get off oil heat, reduce their energy use, and make their homes more comfortable.

Extra support is provided to low- and middle-income households, and to households in Mi'kmaq communities. In 2024-25, over 16,000 Nova Scotian households benefitted from the [HomeWarming program](#), [Home Energy Assessment program](#), and the [Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project](#).

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that are strengthening energy efficiency:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
22	Help Nova Scotians reduce their electricity demand by continuing and expanding programs delivered by Efficiency Nova Scotia and its partners.	<p>In 2024, Efficiency Nova Scotia's programs exceeded their targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 172.8 gigawatt hours of electricity saved –110 per cent of the target • energy demand reduced by 30.7 megawatts –116 per cent of the target <p>Programs funded by the province also reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 19,890 tonnes.</p>
23	Support businesses and communities in reducing their energy demand by expanding access to on-site energy managers and continuing support for energy efficiency programming.	<p>Efficiency Nova Scotia Energy Managers help businesses and communities across Nova Scotia identify energy savings and access clean technology programs. In 2024–25, Efficiency Nova Scotia added five new energy managers to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations (shared position) • Department of Public Works • Department of Health and Wellness • University of King's College, Université Sainte-Anne, NSCAD University, and Acadia University (shared position) • IWK and Shannex (shared position) <p>The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture also hired two Energy Managers to provide dedicated support to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.</p>
24	Help new building developments install shared heating systems to make multi-building heating more efficient.	<p>The Cogswell District Energy System, led by Halifax Water, will use wastewater effluent from the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility to supply renewable energy to six mixed-use buildings in the redevelopment area. The system will improve energy efficiency, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and provide a clean, stable, and affordable energy source for years to come.</p> <p>In late 2024, installation of district energy pipes began, and a request for tender was issued for the detailed engineering design of the energy centre.</p>

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
25	Review energy efficiency programming in Nova Scotia to identify areas where the program has gaps or can be improved.	<p>The Department of Energy is planning a review of energy efficiency programming in 2025-26 and will align with the operations of the new Independent Energy System Operator.</p> <p>The Independent System Operator is managing the electricity system operations, making sure electricity is delivered to Nova Scotians where and when it is needed.</p>



ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
26	Reduce heating oil use by at least 20 per cent by 2030 by helping retrofit 60,000 homes and piloting a new off-oil program for homeowners to completely replace oil heating equipment with electric ones.	<p>In the 2024–25 fiscal year, 17,905 homes benefitted from programs that help reduce reliance on home heating oil. That's up from the 14,273 homes that benefitted last year. This year, home heating oil was cut by over 4.5 million litres, resulting in 12,697 tonnes of first-year GHG reductions and over \$11.3 million in first-year bill savings.</p> <p>Efficiency Nova Scotia has also been working to improve access to air-to-water heat pump technology—a key technology for cutting home heating oil.</p>
27	Provide energy efficiency upgrades to more low-income households by expanding programs such as HomeWarming and the Affordable Multifamily Housing program .	<p>In the 2024–25 fiscal year, 3,255 low-income households participated in the HomeWarming program and 231 in the Affordable Multi-Family Housing (AMFH) programs.</p> <p>Together, these programs resulted in 4344 tonnes of first-year GHG reductions and \$3.8 million in first-year bill savings.</p>
28	Continue with the Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project and pilot a similar program for African Nova Scotian communities.	<p>The African Nova Scotian Communities Retrofit Program launched in October 2024. By March 2025, 81 applications were approved for assessment and retrofit work began in 24 homes.</p> <p>The Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project had 354 participants in the 2024-2025 fiscal year - a 35 per cent increase in participation from last year. This marks the highest number of annual participants since the contract began.</p>

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
31	Support the construction and renovation of net-zero homes and multi-unit residential buildings, including net-zero affordable housing.	<p>Several funding initiatives support the construction and renovation of net-zero homes and multi-unit residential buildings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the launch of the EnergyForward New Homes Program on March 28, 2025, encouraging builders to construct high-performance homes that are more affordable, durable, and energy efficient. Some funds are also being used to explore net-zero construction for multi-unit residential buildings launching the Affordable Rental Construction Pilot, on September 26, 2024. It offers incentives for building Net Zero Energy affordable housing. Funding is provided once construction is complete, and an occupancy permit has been granted \$3,054,000 in funding for the Affordable Multifamily Housing Program, which provides no-cost energy assessments and rebates to help affordable housing providers complete energy efficiency upgrades. In 2024–25, five projects received funding, while another 94 were underway with funding expected upon completion. The completed projects are projected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 32 tonnes
32	Help owners of commercial and institutional buildings better understand their energy performance and plan for energy efficiency upgrades through voluntary energy-use monitoring.	<p>To support commercial and institutional building owners in understanding their buildings' performance, Government is introducing building owners to energy benchmarking using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager.</p> <p>Benchmarking for 302 buildings began through the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager in the past year. These building owners can make more informed decisions on their maintenance plans and prioritize efficient upgrades to save money and energy.</p>





**ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
REDUCTION ACT**

GOAL 6

Complete and release a province-wide climate change risk assessment in 2022, with updates in 2025 and every five years thereafter.

[Nova Scotia's 2022 climate change risk assessment](#)

continues to inform how provincial government departments, municipalities and key economic sectors prepare and respond to climate change. Work is underway to update Nova Scotia's climate change risk assessment, which will include updated information on coastal and inland flood risks. Under the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act*, the updated assessment will be released later this year.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that help to understand risk:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
1	Build on the research findings of the climate change risk assessment to better understand the risks identified and research important data and information gaps.	Support is ongoing to help municipalities, provincial departments, and others use the 2022 climate risk assessment in decision-making. For example, 10 workshops/presentations were delivered to our partners to raise awareness about climate risk, and Nova Scotians have downloaded the 2022 risk assessment 699 times this year. The risk assessment is also being used to help Nova Scotia's tourism sector understand the climate risks facing their industry and to plan effective adaptation action.
12	Strengthen and coordinate responses to coastal and inland flood risk by investing in natural flood protection and implementing new regulations under the Coastal Protection Act in 2023.	<p>In February 2024, Government launched its Coastal Protection Action Plan—a three-year plan with 15 actions to protect coastal homes and communities.</p> <p>Since then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • navigators are available to support Nova Scotians in accessing and understanding information about hazards on coastal properties. Contact them at coastalnavigator@novascotia.ca or 1-888-570-4240 • coastal hazard assessment reports are available or Nova Scotians- giving coastal property owners information on potential coastal flooding and erosion risks on their property. Contact the Navigators to request a report



ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a guide on how to use trees, plants and other natural techniques to protect properties from erosion, rising sea levels and flooding is available • the coastal hazard mapping tool, first launched in 2024 to show possible coastal flooding for the year 2100, has been updated to include information for the current year and for the year 2050, along with areas of potential coastal flooding beyond 100 metres inland from the coastline • a checklist and education video for real estate agents to use to help their clients make informed decisions about buying coastal property, developed in partnership with the Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS is now available • real estate property disclosure statements have been updated by the Nova Scotia Real Estate Commission to request that a seller of coastal property disclose whether coastal flooding, coastal erosion, general flooding, pooling or drainage issues have affected the property • new example municipal bylaws were developed, in consultation with municipalities, to help municipalities guide coastal development, including coastal buffers and elevation rules. Municipalities have jurisdiction for zoning, land-use planning and buildings permits • \$1.34 million in funding was announced for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities to help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ municipalities adopt the example bylaw text and customize it to their unique needs and climate change impacts ◦ to create a climate change policy and sustainability analyst position to support municipalities in their work to make their communities resilient to climate change



ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62 signs have been installed across the province, marking provincial roads and bridges that are at risk of flooding • 50 per cent of Nova Scotia has flood hazard mapping complete, under the Municipal Flood Line Mapping Program • coastline projects are being prioritized for the third round of funding through the Province's Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund • CLIMAtlantic has connected Nova Scotians with information through the Climate Adaptation Toolkit, and Nova Scotia Adaptation Community of Practice and trained more adaptation practitioners through the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Training program. <p>In addition, the Government is in the seventh year of a nine-year project aimed at upgrading and improving the provincial dykeland system. Work on four of the five sites is underway or complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Mary's Bay system (complete) • Annapolis, Advocate and Grand-Pre systems (in-progress) • detailed design work continues in other locations.

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
15	Invest in infrastructure and natural systems to reduce heat and flood risks. This includes planting trees in urban areas, installing heat pumps and cooling centres for vulnerable Nova Scotians, and restoring coastal wetlands to help manage flooding.	<p>The Department of Health and Wellness is examining heat risks to protect Nova Scotians from the health effects of extreme heat. Nova Scotia Health is preparing a climate change and vulnerability assessment to help the health system respond to climate impacts.</p> <p>A greenery cover study was also completed in 2024 to support planning for green infrastructure. This work will help municipalities and others reduce extreme heat in urban areas and build safer, more climate-resilient communities. Environment and Climate Change is providing expertise on climate impacts and adaptation options to support this work.</p>





PHASING OUT COAL-FIRED ELECTRICITY GENERATION

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 7

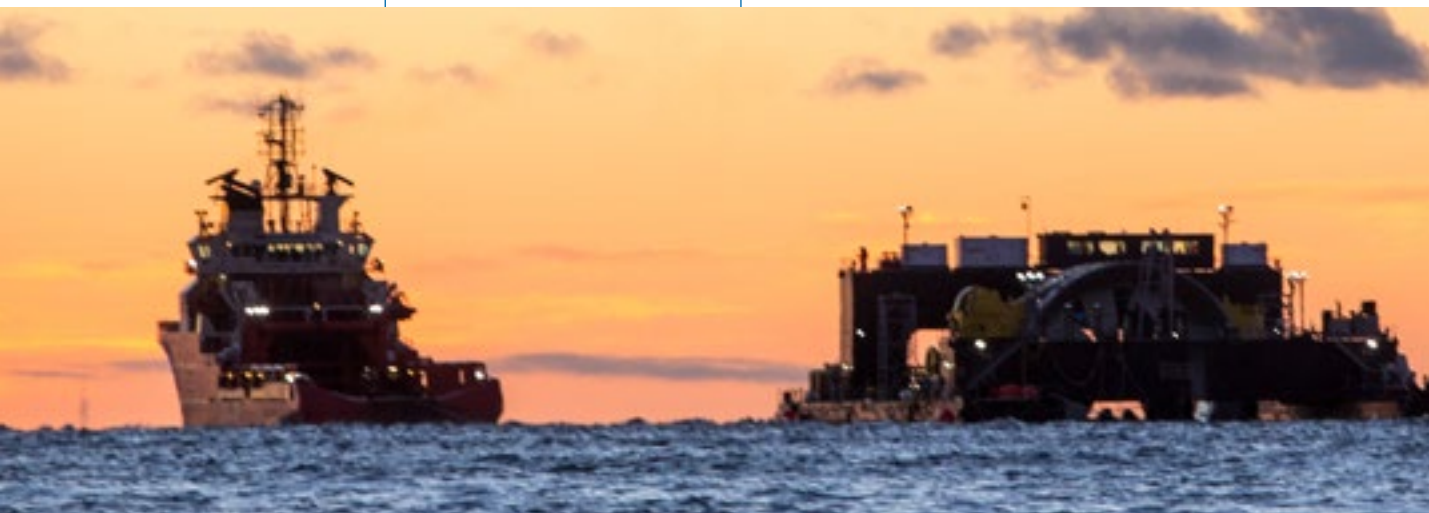
Phase out coal-fired electricity generation by the year 2030.

Government's [2030 Clean Power Plan](#) is the road map for achieving the province's renewable energy goals and eliminating its reliance on coal-fired electricity generation. Also supporting this is the newly created [Nova Scotia Independent Energy System Operator](#)- it is responsible for system planning and procuring new energy sources- key for phasing off coal-fired electricity.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that are phasing out coal-fired electricity generation:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
17	Create provincial regulations to phase out coal-fired electricity generation by 2030—with the goal of achieving at least a 90 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector by 2035.	<p>In 2024, the Canada–Nova Scotia Equivalency Agreement was renewed from 2025 through 2029. It supports the Province’s goals to reach 80 per cent renewables, phase out coal, cut electricity emissions by 90 per cent, and strengthen the grid. This work is essential to supporting Nova Scotia’s transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources and meeting established climate objectives.</p> <p>The province’s transition to clean energy, fighting climate change faster, growing the economy and phasing out of coal-fired electricity includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. establishing “Wind West” in June 2025 as Nova Scotia’s contribution to the Eastern Energy Partnership that could potentially produce energy equivalent to powering about 27 per cent of Canada’s needs. 2. launching the Green Choice Request for Proposal in December 2023 with a target of 1,500 GWh. It closed in June 2024, and awards were announced in January 2025 3. launching the Community Solar Program in March 2024 with a target of 100 MW by 2030 4. launching Commercial Net-Metering Program in 2022 following new legislation 5. continuing the construction of Rate-Based Procurement wind projects with commissioning expected between 2025 and the end of 2026 6. Nova Scotia Power has exceeded its 40 per cent clean electricity requirement

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
		<p>7. operationalizing Nova Scotia's Output-Based Pricing System. The results from the first year of compliance (2023) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All 15 regulated facilities met compliance requirements b. \$17.4 million in credits were purchased to offset emissions exceeding reduction targets, with all proceeds reinvested in Nova Scotia's Climate Action Plan c. Nova Scotia Power, responsible for approximately 94 per cent of total emissions, reduced its emissions by 14.24 per cent from 2022, largely due to increased renewable energy supplied by the Maritime Link d. Overall emissions across all 15 participating facilities fell by 13.42 per cent compared to 2022 <p>8. opening applications for companies interested in testing tidal energy projects in the Bay of Fundy. The Department of Energy will grant licences and power purchase agreements with Nova Scotia Power to successful applicants. Licence holders will develop agreements with FORCE to use the facility.</p>



UPDATING BUILDING CODES



ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 8

Provincially adopt the [2020 National Energy Code for Buildings](#) within 18 months of it being published by the federal government.

- this goal is reinforced in action #30 in the Climate Change Action Plan.
 - action #30 adds the requirement of adopting the 2020 National Building Code

The National Building and Energy Codes were adopted in Nova Scotia on April 1, 2025. Over 1,000 industry professionals attended training on the new code. This training responded to industry feedback and supported them in transitioning to the new code requirements.

TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT GOAL 9

Government will support the well-being of Nova Scotians through active transportation by:

- (a) Establishing a Provincial Active Transportation Strategy to increase active transportation options by 2023, and
- (b) Completing core active transportation networks that are accessible for all ages and all abilities in 65 per cent of Nova Scotian communities by 2030.
 - this goal is reinforced in action #43 in the Climate Change Action Plan.

534 km of the [Blue Route](#) are currently open for Nova Scotians to enjoy. The Blue Route is a province-wide project to create a continuous network of cycling infrastructure. In 2025-26, shoulders will be added to 36 km of provincial roads, extending the Blue Route.

Construction is also underway on 5.4 km of multi-use paths, including five kilometers on the Aerotech Connector and 0.4 km on the Antigonish Corridor Conversion.

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
39	Increase access to community transportation services for all communities outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality and Cape Breton Regional Municipality.	<p>The province's Community Transportation Action Plan is helping to improve access to community transportation, enabling people to reach healthcare, jobs, schools, and stay connected.</p> <p>Since 2022–23, the Department of Public Works has supported the development of three new community transportation services in the Municipality of the District of Guysborough and the Town of Mulgrave, the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, the Towns of Mahone Bay, Bridgewater, Lunenburg, and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.</p> <p>With the development of these new services, there are now 23 Community Transportation Operators, serving 100 per cent of the population outside Halifax Regional Municipality and Cape Breton Regional Municipality.</p> <p>The Department of Public Works also helped launch a second route for Pictou County Transit, expanding service to Trenton, Pictou, Westville, and Pictou Landing First Nation.</p>
42	Developing new transportation efficiency strategies to reduce single-person vehicle trips.	<p>This year, four pilot projects helped reduce single-person vehicle trips and increased the number of people using active transportation and transit province-wide.</p> <p>We are supporting Cycling Nova Scotia in completing designs for two active transportation network projects in New Glasgow and Wagmatcook. The design work for Wagmatcook has been completed, and the New Glasgow designs are ongoing.</p>

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND RESILIENCE OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Government will demonstrate leadership and contribute to greenhouse gas emission reductions by ensuring that:

- (a) any new build or major retrofit in government buildings, including schools and hospitals, that enter the planning stage after 2022, is to be net-zero energy performance and climate resilient
- (b) Encouraging landlords who currently lease office space to the government to transition existing office space to meet net-zero energy performance
- (c) Prioritizing leased office accommodations in buildings that are climate resilient and meet net-zero energy performance starting in 2030
- (d) Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions across government-owned buildings by 75 per cent by the year 2035
 - this goal is reinforced in action #33 in the Climate Change Action Plan

The [Department of Public Works](#), in collaboration with [Efficiency Nova Scotia](#), has completed energy audits for over 88 per cent of its 465 heated and occupied buildings. Using RETScreen software, the Department of Public Works will track energy use before and after project work to measure savings and verify return on investment.

To support net-zero goals, the Department of Public Works is encouraging landlords who lease office space to the government to improve energy performance. Building owners have been notified of available programs, and many have started upgrades.

The Department of Public Works has also introduced a scoring incentive for sustainability in requests for proposals, rewarding proposals that exceed basic energy efficiency requirements.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that support improving efficiency and resilience of government buildings:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
6	Review the infrastructure that Build Nova Scotia manages to assess climate risks and develop adaptation plans to reduce future damages from climate change.	Build Nova Scotia is preparing to assess climate risks related to its infrastructure with the goal of developing integrated adaptation plans.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 11

Helping Municipalities and Communities Unlock Their Potential

Work with Nova Scotian municipalities, First Nations, and African Nova Scotian communities to take immediate and long-term action on their climate change priorities.

The [Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund](#) continues to support community-led action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen climate resilience across the province.

Building on last year's announcement of \$7.8 million for 26 projects—20 per cent of which directly benefited First Nations and African Nova Scotian communities—the province announced a second round of funding in 2024–25.

Round two has invested \$3.28 million in 17 projects to-date across Nova Scotia. A complete list of recipients will be published once all funding decisions have been finalized.

[Learn more about the Challenge Fund.](#)

In addition to the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund, the [Community Climate Capacity Program](#), is providing communities with a dedicated staff of specialists who can help guide them through climate and sustainability initiatives at the local level. To date, 19 participants continue to receive dedicated support to identify climate challenges, develop policy and planning initiatives and help implement local adaptation and mitigation actions. As of June 2025, expressions of interest are being considered for six to 10 coastal municipalities in Nova Scotia to join the program.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that support work with communities:


Sustainable Communities
Challenge Fund


NOVA SCOTIA

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
53	<p>Provide funding through programs like the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund and support new community-based climate change coordinators to help municipalities, Mi'kmaq, and African Nova Scotian communities respond to their climate priorities.</p>	<p>With support from the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources has hired a project coordinator to support community climate projects.</p> <p>Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources engaged five Unama'ki communities through sessions, training, and culturally relevant materials. They are developing a climate monitoring program and adaptation strategy for Unama'ki.</p> <p>Additionally, in 2024, The African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors program hosted 13 workshops across the province, following 12 in 2023. The program is producing a film, 12 podcasts, 12 modules, and 25 community climate plans. It supports a cohort of leaders building skills to address local climate issues.</p>
54	<p>Fund community-based clean energy projects in areas such as buildings, transportation, electricity, and capacity building through programs like the Low Carbon Communities program and the Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation, and Impact (HCi3) Fund.</p>	<p>In 2024–25, the Low Carbon Communities program supported 27 projects. Round seven launched on March 31, 2025.</p> <p>The Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation, and Impact Fund (HCi3) awarded 10 grants totalling \$400,000 in 2024–25.</p> <p>Funding focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community renewable energy • shared and electric transportation • low-carbon affordable housing <p>HCi3 highlights from 2024–25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invested \$500,000 in the Recover Initiative for the Atlantic Canada Deep Retrofit Accelerator • launched a new retrofit financing stream under the same initiative

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partnered with HRM and Bloomberg Philanthropies to deliver the first Youth Climate Action Fund (11 micro-grants awarded) • co-hosted a Youth Climate Pitch Competition with Tribe Network • hosted a solar equity panel at the Atlantic Canada Solar Summit • developed an EDI accountability framework • Hired Balsam Indigenous Education and Advisory to lead a Reconciliation Action Plan <p>69 per cent of HCl3 grant funding went to projects led by or benefiting equity-deserving groups.</p>
55	Continue support for federal-provincial partnerships on large infrastructure projects through programs like the national Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program .	Under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program both the federal and provincial governments are supporting infrastructure projects in Nova Scotia. All money under this program has been allocated and progress on Nova Scotian projects that received funding can be found on the Housing and Infrastructure Project Map .
56	Create a new funding navigator at the Department of Environment and Climate Change to connect Nova Scotians to climate change funding opportunities.	In 2024–25, the Department’s Funding Navigator program responded to 73 referrals and continues to connect non-profits, businesses, academic institutions, and all levels of government to access climate funding opportunities. The Funding Navigator has also continued to build on early momentum by engaging in outreach activities such as the inaugural Community Climate Capacity Program Summit .




CLIMATE ADAPTATION CAPACITY


**ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
REDUCTION ACT**

GOAL 12

Build climate change adaptive capacity and resilience by requiring climate adaptation planning across government departments.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that contribute to climate adaptation capacity:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
7	<p>Increase climate change adaptation capacity across government by developing and implementing climate change adaptation strategies for all government departments.</p> 	<p>In 2024–25, the Department of Environment and Climate Change led the implementation of its climate adaptation plan and supported the departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage in carrying out their plans. Some of the projects implemented under the plans included the development of educational materials, such as mailout to drinking water suppliers about water safety during extreme weather events, and the installation of new coastal climate change signs at Risser's beach.</p> <p>New plans were also launched for Service Nova Scotia, Health and Wellness, and Opportunities and Social Development.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture's Climate Change Specialist continues to lead the actions outlined in its Climate Adaptation Strategy. At the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, a new Climate Change Action Coordinator is guiding the department's climate projects.</p>
8	<p>Increase climate change adaptation capacity in communities and business sectors by supporting them in hiring their own climate change coordinators.</p>	<p>In 2024–25, seven sectors continued implementing climate adaptation strategies, including in relation to electricity, Christmas trees, cattle/sheep, archaeology, coastal parks, and horticulture.</p> <p>Three more sectors—wild blueberries, tree fruit, and honeybees, advanced work on strategy development.</p>

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
		<p>Coordinators led teams in setting priorities, creating work plans, and delivering actions.</p> <p>Highlights of adaptation projects from this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the use of drones to assess wind damage and potential infestations on Christmas tree farms • a new application to warn farmers of heat threats to cattle • development of a citizen reporting tool for archaeological sites at risk from climate change • the development of interpretive panels about climate change in two provincial parks, offered in French and English.
10	Bring key partners together to plan for responses to multiple climate risks facing our natural, built, human, social, and financial systems.	<p>In February 2024, Nova Scotia released The Future of Nova Scotia's Coastline: The Plan to Protect People, Homes and Nature from Climate Change. As part of the plan, the province is working with partners to help Nova Scotians understand and prepare for coastal hazards.</p> <p>Navigators are offering one-on-one support using tools like the Coastal Hazard Map, Coastal Hazard Assessment Reports, the Nature-Based Solutions Resource Guide, and CLIMAtlantic's Adaptation Toolkit.</p> <p>Staff from Environment and Climate Change—including the Climate Services Specialist, Stormwater Engineer, Flood Management and Adaptation Lead, and Coastal Lead—are helping individuals, communities, and municipalities use climate information in local decision-making and advance coastal climate action. This work is being done in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities' Coastal Land Use Planner.</p>

ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY



ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 13

Implement an ecological forestry approach for Crown lands by 2023, consistent with the recommendations in [An Independent Review of Forest Practices in Nova Scotia](#) (Dr. William Lahey, 2018) through the triad model of forest management that prioritizes the sustainability of ecosystems and biodiversity in the province. Also, by 2023, identify the percentage allocation of Crown land dedicated to each pillar of the triad model of forest management.

Nova Scotia is transforming the way forestry is done in the province to benefit biodiversity and the sustainability of ecosystems. The three zones recommended in the [forest practices review](#) were implemented in 2023.

Work is complete or underway on about 95 per cent of the review's 45 recommendations. Key ongoing work includes outcomes-based forestry, a silviculture review, development of a private land strategy, and completing a state of the forest report.



PROTECTING LAND AND USING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 14

Conserve at least 20 per cent of the province's total land and water mass by 2030 as protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, in a manner consistent with national reporting criteria. Support this goal with a collaborative protected areas strategy to be released by December 31, 2023.

- this goal is reinforced in action #14 in the Climate Change Action Plan

The [Collaborative Protected Areas Strategy: An Action Plan for Achieving 20 per cent](#) continues to guide Nova Scotia's work to protect land and water. To date, more than 24,000 additional hectares of land and water have been protected across the province since 2021, bringing the total to 13.75 per cent of the province's land and water. Currently, 13.1 per cent of the coastline is protected. The focus at this time is on achieving the interim goal of protecting 15 per cent of the province's land and water by 2026, including supporting the work of private land conservation trusts.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that are contributing to protecting land and using nature-based solutions:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
16	Plant 21 million trees across Nova Scotia in partnership with the federal government's 2 Billion Trees Commitment .	<p>Completed pilot year (2024), ramping up planting efforts in 2025/26.</p> <p>Approximately \$1.2 million was spent in 2024-2025, planting 600,000 trees.</p> <p>Following the 2023 wildfires, 200 households in Upper Tantallon and Hammonds Plains joined forces with Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests program and Clean Foundation to replant about 118,000 in a collaborative effort to restore damaged neighbourhoods and renew local ecosystems.</p>





SUPPORTING CLEAN AIR

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 15

Ensure Nova Scotians have clean air to breathe by:

- (a) Managing Nova Scotia's air zones consistent with the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- (b) Reviewing and updating Nova Scotia's air emissions targets and ambient air standards by 2025 and continuing to review and update as required or every five years.

Nova Scotians can have confidence in the air they breathe. We continue to meet, and in some areas exceed (do better than), the [Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards](#). The province is working towards updating Nova Scotia's air quality standards. Broader efforts— such as increasing renewable energy and phasing out coal-fired electricity—also contribute to long-term improvements in air quality.

CLEAN WATER

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 16

Improve drinking water safety and water quality in lakes, rivers, and groundwater by:

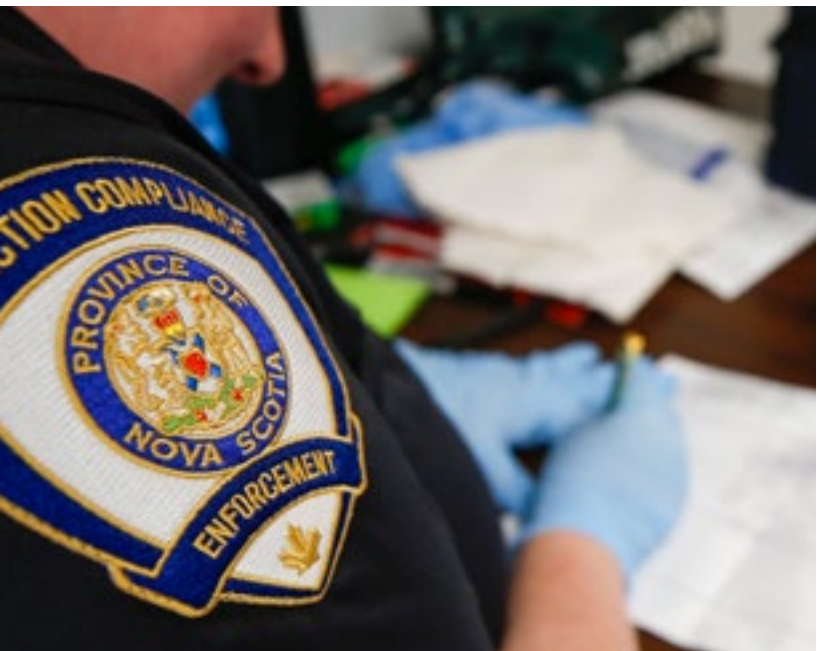
- (a) Developing, by 2026, provincial water quality objective that will guide activities that affect water quality
- (b) Addressing, by 2026, key barriers Nova Scotians face to testing and treatment of rural wells

The province is developing provincial water quality objectives to ensure they reflect Nova Scotia's environmental, development, and climate realities.

Over the past year, the Department of Environment and Climate Change has:

- supported efforts to engage with communities and raise awareness about the importance of well water testing
- assisted residents in testing and treating their well water. The Department continues to work with partners across Canada, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions to identify and assess the barriers to regular testing and to develop effective solutions that improve both testing and treatment in Nova Scotia. These efforts aim to support better access to safe drinking water for all residents.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that are contributing to clean water:



ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
2	Improve municipal stormwater infrastructure by updating planning requirements and helping develop stormwater management plans.	<p>Municipal Stormwater Needs Assessment was completed to assess current stormwater planning and identify key challenges.</p> <p>The findings will guide provincial support through tools, policies, and funding to help municipalities improve stormwater management.</p> <p>Municipalities are also being supported by the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Stormwater Engineer, as they work to improve municipal stormwater infrastructure.</p>



3	Improve the quality and availability of water resource data for better management and flood line mapping by upgrading provincial water monitoring networks.	<p>As of March 31, 2025, half of Nova Scotia's primary watersheds have completed flood hazard mapping. Data collection has begun in all remaining watersheds.</p> <p>Over \$1 million in grants has supported municipalities in using flood hazard data for land-use planning.</p> <p>Five new hydrometric stations were added in 2024–25. These stations provide real-time water level and flow data to support flood prediction, water management, agriculture, conservation, and climate monitoring.</p>
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MODERNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 17

Modernize the environmental assessment process by the end of 2024, including consideration of:

- (a) Cumulative impacts
- (b) Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- (c) Independent review
- (d) Netukulimk
- (e) Climate change

- this goal is reinforced in action #62 in the Climate Change Action Plan

[This goal was completed in May 2025.](#) Changes to Nova Scotia's environmental assessment process will help speed up the province's transition to clean energy, fight climate change faster, grow the economy and support sustainable development.

The changes create a more streamlined and clear path for clean energy projects, which will help Nova Scotia move to a clean economy faster, and make it easier for Nova Scotians to understand the environmental assessment process and be part of the consultation process.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 18

Support low-impact, sustainable aquaculture through a licensing process that weighs environmental considerations and includes provincial regulation for potential environmental impacts, animal welfare, and fish health.

In Fall 2024, Government passed legislation to streamline the approval process for sustainable shellfish and marine plant aquaculture, while strengthening environmental oversight. These changes introduced a 30-day consultation period for all finfish, shellfish, and marine plant applications. It provided the Minister with the authority to set clear environmental, fish health, and operational requirements at the scoping stage.

These updates stem from the [comprehensive regulatory review](#) conducted under the guidance of the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Regulatory Advisory Committee. The committee's recommendations focused on rightsizing regulation, increasing transparency, and strengthening public participation.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that are supporting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
4	Create a new climate change information hub for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to improve the sharing of data on adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.	The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture launched the Climate Change Information Portal in January 2025. The portal provides centralized access to resources and data related to climate adaptation and emissions reduction, supporting the fisheries and aquaculture sector in building resilience and making informed decisions.
9	Support the fisheries and aquaculture sector in completing climate change vulnerability assessments on key infrastructure and developing sector-specific adaptation plans.	<p>The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture continues to support the sector in assessing climate risks and identifying adaptation needs.</p> <p>Over the past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy efficiency upgrades (heat pumps, LED lighting, high efficiency pumps) were completed at all three provincially owned fish hatcheries in 2024/25 and continue through 2025-26 • larger adaptation projects began in 2024–25 to improve fish health, water quality, and supply • Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture commissioned the Centre for Marine Applied Research to complete a climate vulnerability assessment of the aquaculture industry • NSDFA also engaged the Nova Scotia Salmon Association to assess climate risks in the sportfishing industry. That work will be completed in 2025–26.

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
66	Create a new fisheries and aquaculture energy efficiency innovation fund and a climate change adaptation fund to help the sector reduce energy use and better prepare for climate change impacts.	<p>CLIMAtlantic is designing and managing the Fisheries and Aquaculture Climate Change Adaptation Fund. Program development is underway to support the sector in preparing for climate change impacts.</p> <p>The Fisheries and Aquaculture Energy Efficiency Innovation Fund was launched in June 2024 in partnership with the Department of Energy. The \$6.5 million fund, administered by Efficiency Nova Scotia, supports clean growth in the sector through renewable energy, electrification, and operational efficiency.</p> <p>To date, 36 projects have received funding through the fund, totalling \$3.54 million.</p> <p>To complement this program, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board introduced a dedicated lending option in June 2024, which will remain available through 2026–27. This lending program will support energy efficiency in the seafood sector by providing successful applicants with lower-interest financing.</p>



INCREASING LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION



ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 19

Develop a Provincial Food Strategy for enhanced awareness of, improved access to and increased production of local food to achieve 20 per cent consumption of local food by 2030.

The Department of Agriculture continues to work to support farmers and processors to produce healthy, local food.

This work is supported by actions such as the [Nova Scotia Beef Initiative](#), launched in 2023. This initiative continues to help increase the availability of locally grown and processed beef through extension projects, producer supports, and targeted funding programs.

The [Nova Scotia Loyal brand](#) is also driving local consumption by promoting local food and beverage producers and connecting them with public institutions and consumers. This year, the Department of Agriculture launched the [Buy Local: A Guide for Nova Scotia Public Institutions](#) and transitioned its producer directory to the NS Loyal platform to streamline access to local suppliers.



SUPPORTING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 20

Encourage the growth of the circular economy, including expanding extended producer responsibility, reducing single-use plastics, and reducing solid waste disposal rates to no more than 300 kilograms per person per year by 2030. A plan will be developed by 2023 to meet this solid waste goal, including specific actions and interim targets.

In 2024, the province introduced [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\) programs](#) for additional electronics, batteries (under five kg), and lamps. These are now implemented and banned from landfills.

Extended producer responsibility for materials in residential blue bags, including packaging and paper will launch in later this year and is expected to result in a \$30 million savings for municipalities.

Extended producer responsibility means that companies are responsible for what happens to their products after people are done using them. This encourages companies to design products that are easier to recycle, fix, or use again, which helps reduce waste and support a more sustainable economy.

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 21

Demonstrate leadership in sustainable procurement by increasing innovation, sustainability, diversity, and inclusion in government procurement, as well as consider community benefits attached to procurements.

The Province has developed a [Sustainable Procurement Strategy and Action Plan](#) to support intentional benefits through Indigenous, social, local, diverse, accessible, environmental, and ethical procurement.

This builds on earlier work by the [Department of Service Nova Scotia](#) to include environmental, economic, and social factors in procurement—and to use purchasing as a tool to support inclusive economic development and broader government goals.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that encourage sustainable procurement:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
38	Develop a greening fleets strategy for government vehicles.	Following a competitive bidding process, a contract was awarded to a consultant to conduct a fleet analysis and assessment. This work will support the development of a comprehensive greening fleet strategy for government vehicles, including recommendations on vehicle types, infrastructure, policy, and training needed to support the transition, starting with light-duty vehicles.



DOING BUSINESS IN NOVA SCOTIA

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ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 22

Actively encourage innovative, sustainable, and green businesses to establish or relocate to the province and promote an environment to enable innovative, sustainable, and green business start-ups

In 2024–25, the Province continued to deliver programs and support projects that promote sustainable and green businesses across Nova Scotia. With the building blocks of the clean economy- offshore and onshore wind, green hydrogen, tidal energy, and critical minerals- Government continues to reduce red tape and make it easier for diverse businesses to innovate, invest and grow.

This year, this included [improving the industrial approval process for metal mining](#) to make it faster, clearer and more efficient – while continuing to protect the environment. The changes will help projects start sooner, reduce delays and support responsible natural resource development in the province. Nova Scotia has the building blocks of the clean economy- wind, tidal power and critical minerals.

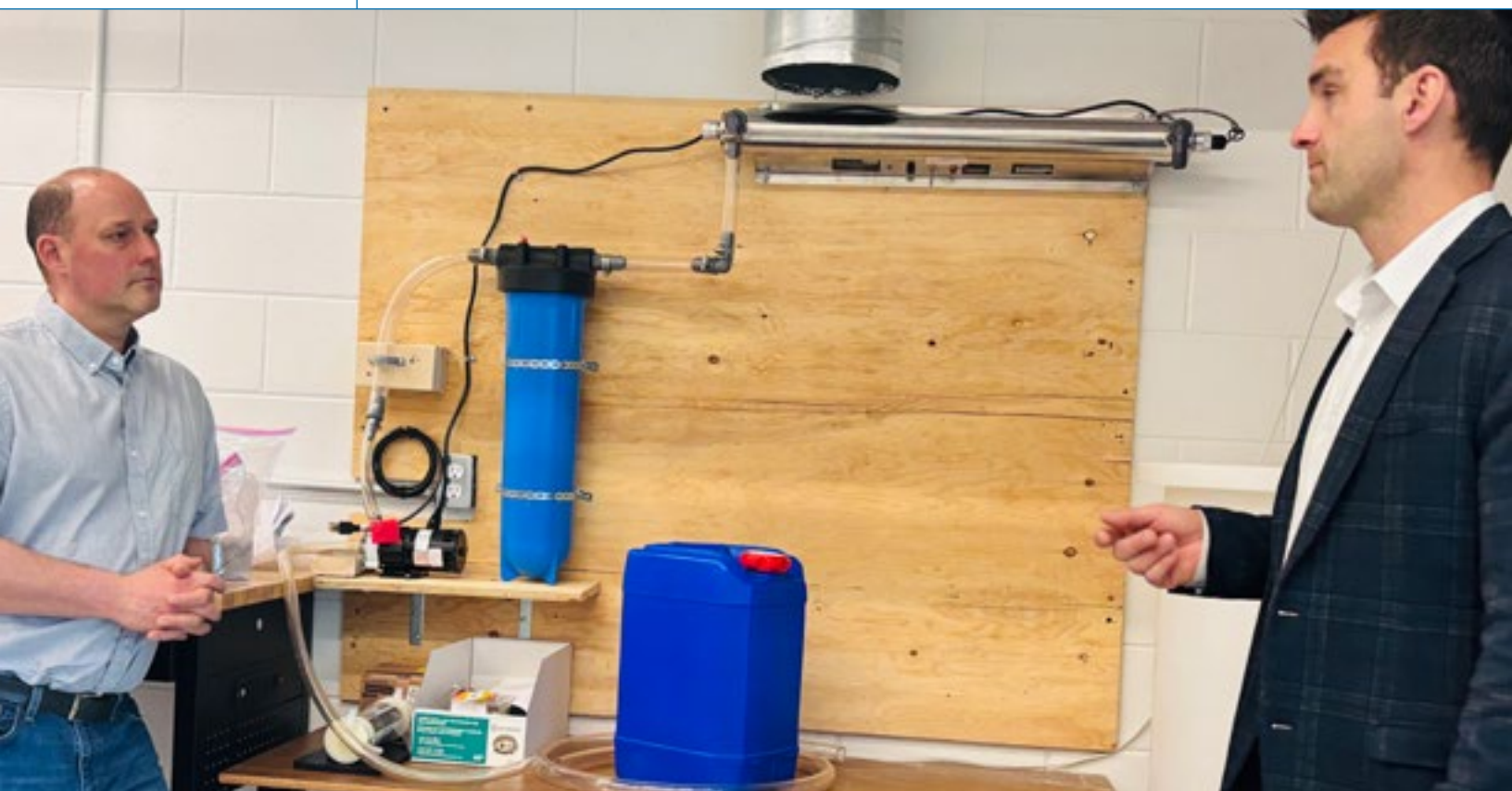
Funding was also provided to grow the province's innovation ecosystem and help more sustainable, green businesses launch and succeed.

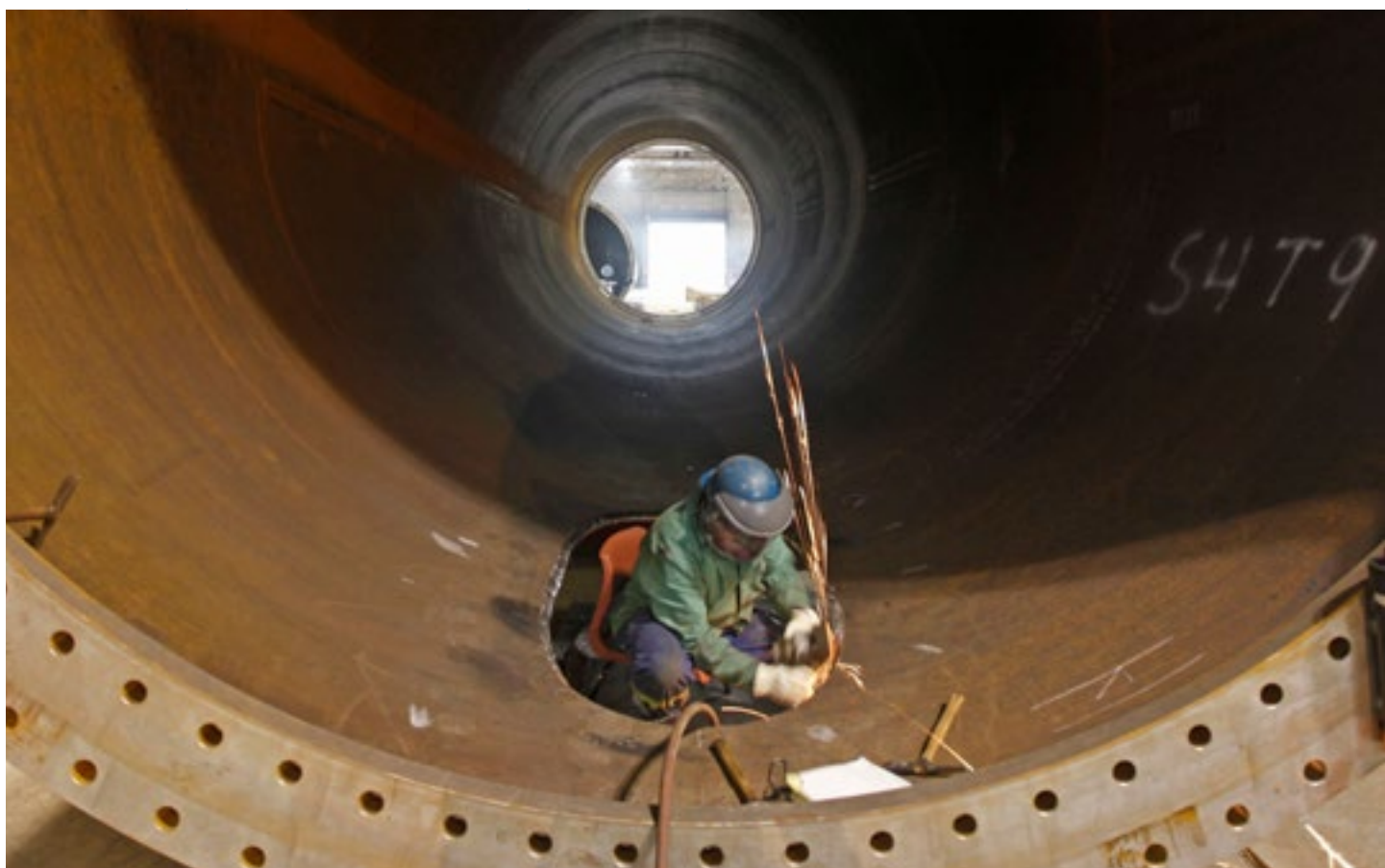
Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that support doing business in Nova Scotia:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
13	Research natural carbon sinks to help offset any remaining greenhouse gas emissions needed to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.	<p>Net Zero Atlantic's Emerging Concepts and Technologies program completed its 2024 funding calls, which awarded funds to 18 projects.</p> <p>A further call for projects to seek follow-on funding resulted in funding for four additional projects, bringing the total to 22 funded projects in the 2024/25 fiscal year.</p>



The grant program supports made-in-Nova Scotia solutions to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help the province adopt new technologies. The priority research themes include decarbonization of fishing vessels and ferry fleets, nature-based solutions, direct air capture, agricultural emissions, electricity system challenges post 2030 and long-term energy storage.





ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
57	Develop a clean investment plan with deliberate, strategic actions to prepare Nova Scotia's economy for the transition to a low-carbon future.	<p>The Clean Investment Plan supported the release of the Offshore Wind Roadmap Module 2 in June 2024. Four additional projects are now underway, with expected delivery by March 2026.</p> <p>These projects focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean energy infrastructure to address challenges affecting onshore wind development • advancing the Green Hydrogen Action Plan by creating conditions for a sustainable, prosperous sector with local economic benefits • partnering with the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Sustainability • developing and delivering a clean energy workforce strategy

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
58	Create a green hydrogen action plan by 2023 to support the development of the green hydrogen sector in Nova Scotia.	The Green Hydrogen Action Plan was released in December 2023. Implementation of its seven goals and 23 actions, to support domestic use and export of green hydrogen, began in 2024.
61	Implement the Innovation Rebate Program and pilot a low-carbon stream of the Early Stage Commercialization Fund through Invest Nova Scotia to support innovative businesses.	<p>Invest Nova Scotia continues to work with the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables to support selected projects in the Low Carbon Technology Stream.</p> <p>This is part of a broader Early Stage Commercialization program.</p> <p>Each year, the Innovation Rebate Program supports high-value investments by advanced manufacturing companies in Nova Scotia. These investments help drive innovation, boost productivity, expand production capacity, and promote cleaner, more sustainable growth across the province.</p> <p>Highlights from this year's programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting 10 research projects through the Early Stage Commercialization Fund • approving 16 business development incentives through the Innovation Rebate Program • funding four start-ups to participate in the second cohort of GreenShoots

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES AND THEIR CLIMATE ACTION

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 23

Work with small businesses across the province and in all sectors to get their feedback on potential ways to further enable them to take action to reduce emissions—including through rebates, targeted investments, and other supports.

- this goal is reinforced in action #44 in the Climate Change Action Plan.

The Province continues to listen to businesses and improve programs that help businesses reduce emissions while meeting their business needs.

- the [Department of Growth and Development](#) is working with federal, provincial, academic, and industry partners to attract clean tech companies to Nova Scotia and grow the sector
- in April 2025, the Province announced a \$5 million investment in the new [Neptune BioInnovation Centre](#) in Dartmouth—[Canada's first large-scale bioinnovation hub](#). The centre will help grow and attract bio-industrial companies in Nova Scotia

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that support businesses in taking climate action:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
50	Support professionals across Nova Scotia in understanding how they can participate in the clean economy and grow their businesses through new specialized training programs.	CLIMAtlantic launched the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Training . The first Nova Scotia cohort participated from January to March 2025, with 20 participants from municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, First Nations communities, and students. The program, which runs for 12 weeks, is designed for individuals who wish to address climate change within their workplace. CLIMAtlantic will offer a French cohort for participants from across Atlantic Canada in the fall of 2025.

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
60	<p>Create a Clean Fuels Fund to support industries and businesses in adopting low-carbon and renewable fuels—such as green hydrogen, renewable natural gas, biofuels, and sustainable biomass.</p>	<p>The Province is supporting several green hydrogen projects in the second round of funding from the Clean Fuels Fund. In all, seven projects involving clean fuels innovation were provided a total of \$3 million.</p> <p>Examples of the projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innergex is receiving \$793,000 to develop a hydrogen production hub called Osprey H2 in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). The aim is to produce hydrogen for domestic customers. • Waterford Energy Services Inc. is also receiving \$793,000 for a demonstration project to build a small-scale, mobile green hydrogen production facility. The aim is to create a facility that can be moved to different locations as needed. • The Municipality of the County of Richmond will use \$221,250 to develop a clean fuels strategy for the Strait of Canso. The aim is to harness the significant green hydrogen potential for local heavy industry. <p>Other projects explore further potential for hydrogen to de-carbonize transportation and the use of biomass for heating and clean fuel.</p>
65	<p>Extend the Clean Technology for Agriculture Program to allow more farmers to adopt clean technologies that support more sustainable farming.</p>	<p>The Advancing Clean Technology Program helps farmers and food processors improve their operations through the adoption of clean technologies and improved energy efficiency.</p> <p>These upgrades increase value-added agricultural production, extend growing seasons, and improve costs of production.</p> <p>13 projects were funded this year, supporting renewable energy, refrigeration, and heating upgrades—leading to over 480 tonnes of emissions reduced and \$160,000 in energy savings.</p>



SUPPORTING YOUTH

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 24

Support Nova Scotian youth in engaging in the clean economy through sustainability-based youth employment leadership programs.

The Province continues to support the [Clean Leadership Summer Internship Program](#), which offers employment opportunities for young people to develop skills within the clean economy. During the summer 2024 internship season, the program supported 131 interns in working throughout the province, with 68 employers contributing to various projects.

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
45	Support youth-centred climate actions and learn from youth through a new youth climate change advisory committee.	<p>The Youth Climate Council provides input and recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on how to take action that is aligned with youth climate priorities. In its second year, the Youth Climate Council included 15 members between the ages of 14 and 24.</p> <p>Since May 2024, the Council's bursary program has awarded \$20,000 to support eight youth from across Nova Scotia pursuing post-secondary education or training related to climate change.</p> <p>In May 2025, the Creative Climate Showcase was launched—a micro-grant program designed to support youth-led climate action through the arts. This year, it supported 17 young artists in using their talents to contribute to climate conversations.</p> <p>Since September 2024, 10 monthly meetings have been held as a forum for members to provide ideas, advice, and recommendations directly to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on how to take climate action that is aligned with youth priorities.</p> <p>Membership for a new cohort of the third Youth Climate Council will meet with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change in the Fall of 2025.</p>





PREPARING THE WORKFORCE FOR THE CLEAN ECONOMY

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 25

Collaboratively work with businesses, community colleges, and the labour sectors to modernize apprenticeship programs in Nova Scotia, so the province has the tradespeople needed to meet the demands of the clean economy.

The province continues to modernize the apprenticeship and trades training system to meet the needs of a growing population and the demands of a clean economy. [The Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency](#) and the [Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration](#) are working with industry to identify transferable skills and upgrade existing trades.

Highlights include:

- [Nova Scotia Community College Port Hawkesbury's Strait Area Campus announced a new one-year program for wind turbine technicians](#)
- \$10 million investment in the construction industry to make pathways to the trades faster and more accessible, supporting career transitions, and creating the Cape Breton Trades Exhibition Centre.
- expanded programming, including the [Climate Change - Building Performance Technology | Programs | Nova Scotia Community College](#)

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that help prepare the workforce for the clean economy:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
51	Develop new training for engineering and design professionals on advanced building techniques to prepare them for the updated national energy and building codes.	<p>The Nova Scotia Building Officials Association received \$580,000 to develop and deliver training that prepares building officials and supports industry in meeting the new building codes.</p> <p>This includes training on updates to the Building Code and Energy Code, as well as legal requirements, accessibility, fire inspection, and barrier-free standards. A resource hub will also be created to give builders easy access to all required codes.</p> <p>Building to Zero Exchange supported training priorities for the building sector. Five in-person training sessions on Section 9.36 of the Building Code were held for building officials, reaching 74 participants. Curriculum development is underway for new Climate Literacy for the Building Sector sessions.</p>
52	Make sure we have the trade professionals needed and that they are prepared to meet the demands of the clean economy by modernizing the Nova Scotia apprenticeship program.	<p>The Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency is updating curriculum, improving system efficiency, increasing employer participation, and supporting apprentice retention.</p> <p>A Minister's Panel on Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Pre-Apprenticeship and Trades Training was established in December 2022. It provided 18 recommendations to meet employer demand and ensure students receive credit toward apprenticeship pathways. Many of these will be implemented through the Actions to Accelerate the Growth of the Skilled Trades—a three-year plan launched in October 2023.</p> <p>The plan aims to bring more apprentices into and through the system faster, increase diversity in the trades workforce, remove barriers, and modernize the overall qualification system.</p>

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
		<p>These actions will result in 5,000 additional apprentices being added to the system over three years, increase the number of journeypersons by 1,000 per year, and raise the retention rate from 43 per cent to 60 per cent within five years.</p> <p>The Province has changed the ratios from two apprentices per one journeyperson to three apprentices per one journeyperson in most trades. Additionally, final-level apprentices are excluded from the ratios in all trades.</p> <p>The Nova Scotia Apprentice Agency and Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration continue to work with industry to identify transferable skills and upgrade needs from existing trades to support the shift to a clean economy.</p>



ENCOURAGING CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 26

Promote and support climate change education and sustainability through the knowledge and teachings of Netukulimk—and environmental stewardship through ongoing curricula renewal and the development of inclusive and accessible resources and professional learning that incorporates diversity and honours Etuaptmumk.

- this goal is reinforced in action #48 in the Climate Change Action Plan.



The [Department of Education and Early Childhood Development](#) continues to collaborate with partners to support climate change learning.

This includes:

- offering educators professional development on climate change and outdoor learning
- developing a local habitat resource for Grade four
- encouraging student-led citizen science and school-community gardens

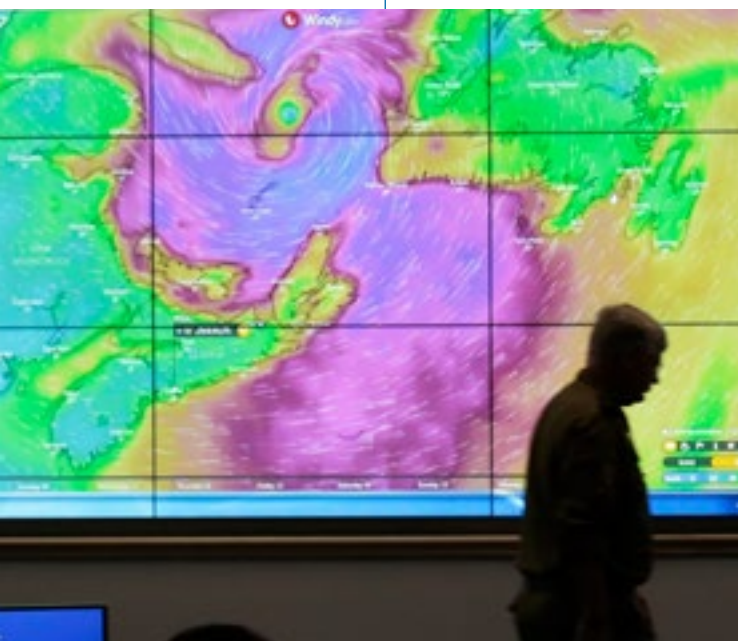
Educators and students have explored climate-related careers and environmental stewardship through programs such as [EcoSchools](#) and [Techsploration](#).

- the [Netukulimk 12](#) course was piloted in 11 schools during the 2024–2025 school year, with 2,541 students enrolled
- climate content is being integrated into grade seven and eight science, including remotely operated vehicle (ROV) technology and student-led citizen science
- participation is being promoted in programs like EcoSchools and Techsploration

Through the [Clean Leadership Program](#), 131 interns were placed with 68 employers across Nova Scotia, including small businesses, government, and community organizations. Another round of internships is underway for summer 2025.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that encourage climate change education and sustainability:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
5	Help homeowners understand and respond to climate risks such as flooding.	<p>The Clean Foundation's Resilient Home Retrofit program is working with two municipalities—the Halifax Regional Municipality and New Glasgow. The program completed retrofits on 21 homes.</p> <p>Lessons learned from this initiative will support government decision-making to further assist homeowners.</p> <p>The retrofits helped reduce flood risk in homes vulnerable to flooding.</p>
11	Raise awareness of climate risks and adaptation priorities in Nova Scotia by sharing results from the provincial climate change risk assessment and other key climate data through public education and engagement.	<p>The 2022 Climate Risk Assessment identified public awareness as foundational to action. To expand and diversify the people reached with climate information, the government funded CLIMAtlantic to build public awareness of climate risks and adaptation options.</p> <p>CLIMAtlantic is building on its work to provide climate data information to communities, industries, and government to enhance public education and awareness, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hosted four webinars on topics including coastal resilience and living shorelines, as well as youth and senior engagement on climate adaptation. • supported the development of coastal adaptation learning materials (video and checklist) for the Nova Scotia Real Estate Sector and their clients, to increase awareness of coastal hazards. • the Nova Scotia Climate Specialist responded to 173 service requests for climate services (e.g., data, technical advice, training, presentations) from municipalities, community organizations, government departments, businesses, and the general public.



EQUITY, CLIMATE ACTION, AND ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND CLIMATE CHANGE REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 27

In 2022, initiate work with racialized and marginalized communities to create a sustained funding opportunity for climate change action, and support community-based solutions and policy engagement.

- this goal is reinforced in action #47 in the Climate Change Action Plan.

The government continues to explore ways to support climate action through partnerships with racialized and marginalized communities.

This includes:

- awarding a minimum of 15 per cent of funds under the [Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund](#) towards projects led by Indigenous and/or African Nova Scotian communities. Round two of the program is on track to meet this target.
- Clean Foundation's [Clean Leadership program](#) placed 131 participants in environmentally-focused internships with 68 employers across Nova Scotia in summer 2024. Of these interns, 21 per cent identified as Indigenous, 12 per cent identified as Black, African Nova Scotian and/or person of African descent, and 13 per cent identified as persons with disabilities.
- in 2024/25, 354 households participated in the [Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Program](#).



ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
REDUCTION ACT

GOAL 28

Create a panel to address environmental racism by the end of 2022 with recommendations for redress coming to the government by the end of 2023.

Racism in all its forms is unacceptable and is an issue in our society that we must address and resolve together. Government's vision for Nova Scotia is one where all people are treated equally, discrimination and hate are left in the past, and every citizen can realize their full potential.

The Province cannot achieve this vision alone. Every Nova Scotian has a role to play in dismantling hate and racism in our province. To this end, the Panel has completed their work, informing new and ongoing work at the [Office of Equity and Anti-Racism](#), which has the mandate to address racism in Nova Scotia.

Progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan that support equity and climate action:

ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
46	Make sure that diverse voices from across Nova Scotia and abroad are advising government on climate adaptation research, planning, outreach, and strategy.	<p>The Department of Environment and Climate Change is bringing diverse voices and expertise to the table to provide perspectives and expertise on climate change impacts and adaptation actions in their communities. This will help ensure that underserved and underrepresented communities can benefit from adaptation initiatives.</p> <p>This year, we welcomed 11 advisors who provided guidance on climate adaptation strategies and implementation, data, and assessment activities—including input to support updates to the province's Climate Change Risk Assessment.</p> <p>These advisors brought technical expertise, as well as perspectives from underserved and underrepresented communities on how to support equity in climate adaptation.</p> <p>In addition, advice on climate adaptation research, planning, outreach, and strategy is received from the diverse voices on the Youth Climate Council, and the Minister's Round Table on Environment and Climate Change.</p>



ACTION #	ACTION	PROGRESS UPDATE
49	Increase the representation of racialized and Indigenous workers in the energy efficiency and clean technologies sector.	<p>The Clean Energy Training program, administered by the Clean Foundation, continues to support racialized and Indigenous participants pursuing careers in energy efficiency and clean technologies.</p> <p>In 2024–25, \$1 million in provincial funding supported workforce development and training across the province.</p> <p>This includes \$608,000 to Potlotek First Nation to deliver two clean energy training programs for the five Cape Breton First Nation communities, and \$392,000 to Efficiency Nova Scotia to expand participation of Indigenous and African Nova Scotians in the green building sector.</p> <p>New funding programs will begin implementation in the 2025-26 fiscal year.</p>




NOVA SCOTIA

