

# **Urgent Times, URGENT ACTION**

## APPENDIX B






# Appendix B: Work to Create Sustainable Prosperity




Across the province, Nova Scotians and communities are leading the change we need to build a stronger, cleaner economy and to strengthen our resilience in the face of climate impacts. Together, we can reach our goal of sustainable prosperity. In Nova Scotia, making progress on sustainable prosperity means making progress on Netukulimk, equity, sustainable development, circular economy, shared responsibility and climate action.

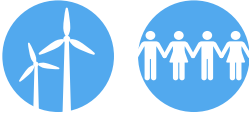
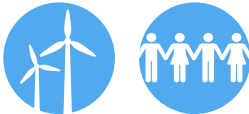
Individuals, communities, and businesses are acting. These are some of their stories.




**Legend:**


	Netukulimk
	Sustainable Development
	Shared Responsibility
	Equity
	Circular Economy
	Climate Action


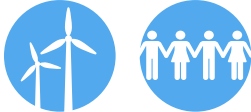
Initiative	Story
Youth Challenge International Climate Futures Lab 	<p>Kai Retter, a grade 11 student at Citadel High School in Halifax, participated in the <a href="#">Youth Challenge International's Climate Futures Lab</a> and created a website linking local resources, opportunities, and information on how to get involved in climate action in Nova Scotia. The website connects young people from across the province to local resources, opportunities, and information with the goal of supporting them in getting involved in climate action. Climate Futures Lab allows youth to collaborate, network, and design local climate solutions for their communities.</p>
Green Choice Program Launch 	<p>The <a href="#">Green Choice Program</a>, first of its kind in Canada, allows participating customers to purchase up to 100% of their electricity from local renewable energy sources. The program was open for application from December 2023 to March 2024 to Nova Scotia Power customers who have an average energy load of 10,000 MWh per year over the past three years. Easier access to renewable energy will help to create jobs and ensure that Nova Scotia continues to lead in the fight against climate change. The Green Choice Program is a key component of <a href="#">Nova Scotia's Clean Power Plan</a> and aligns with the goals in the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act by supporting Nova Scotia's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and promoting the adoption of renewable energy sources.</p>
Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Rebate Program Launch  	<p>In April 2024, the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, in partnership with the Clean Foundation, launched the <a href="#">Electrify rebate program for medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles</a>. Nova Scotia is the third province to introduce rebates for these classes of vehicles, designed to complement the federal government's Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle (MHZEV) rebate program. These rebates are available to non-profit organizations, municipalities, First Nations communities, and businesses. They support the electrification of vehicle fleets, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and operational costs over time.</p>
Community Solar Project 	<p>Nova Scotia's <a href="#">Community Solar Program</a> supports community groups and businesses to set up solar gardens. This initiative enables the sale of renewable electricity to individuals who are unable to install their own solar panels.</p> <p><i>Continued</i></p>

Initiative	Story
<p>Community Solar Project</p> <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<p>Non-profits, co-operatives, First Nations communities, municipalities, businesses, universities and colleges are eligible to apply for funding to build and own solar gardens. Expected to be operational by spring 2026, these new solar gardens will allow people to subscribe at a slightly reduced power rate. Each community solar garden can produce up to 10 megawatts of power.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Province is investing \$5.2 million in 2024-25 to help with the capital costs of building community solar gardens</li> <li>• One megawatt of solar power can power about 131 homes for a year</li> <li>• Eligible groups can work together to build and own a solar garden</li> <li>• People who use the gardens will get a solar energy credit of \$0.02 per kilowatt hour on their power bill for energy generated by their subscription</li> </ul>
<p>Farm Weather Station Network Expansion Project</p> 	<p>Perennia and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture are increasing the number of weather stations across the province to address important weather data gaps. These weather stations will be installed on farms and provide public access to key weather information such as rainfall, temperatures, wind speeds, and humidity. Farmers and others in the agricultural sector rely on this information to make key decisions about the best times to plant, harvest, and transport crops. Additionally, the information helps in predicting potential insect infestations or diseases. The expanded weather station network will also help improve long-term climate models, leading to better agricultural planning.</p>
<p>More Local Food for Patients and Staff at the IWK</p>  	<p>Patients and staff at the IWK Health in Halifax can expect more local healthy vegetables, fruit, meat and fish on the menu as the hospital joins a provincial pilot program to increase long-term access to local foods. The Department of Agriculture will work with the IWK over the course of the three-month project to identify and remove barriers that make it challenging to source local food.</p> <p><i>Continued</i></p>

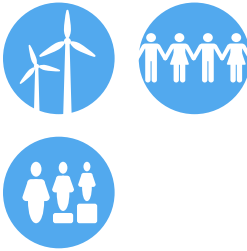
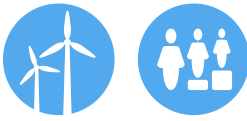
Initiative	Story
<p>More Local Food for Patients and Staff at the IWK</p> <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<p>The goal of the provincial pilot is to better understand how to encourage and support institutions, such as hospitals, to serve more local food products after the pilot ends. A similar local food pilot project was announced in December 2022 at Northwood, Atlantic Canada’s largest seniors’ long-term care facility.</p> <p>“IWK Health is pleased to partner with the Department of Agriculture on such an important project for Nova Scotia. The IWK prides itself on using local products throughout our menus as part of our patient and retail food services. This partnership will not only strengthen the IWK’s environmental sustainability strategy, but also supports our patients and families through food and nutrition. Simply put: Food is medicine.”</p> <p>— Mary Lynn VanTassel, acting Chief Operating Officer, IWK Health</p>
<p>Nova Scotia Climate Smart Farming Forum</p> 	<p>In February 2024, over 130 people, including farmers and industry professionals, attended the first Nova Scotia Climate Smart Farming Forum. This event, organized by the Department of Agriculture and Perennia, featured presentations on regenerative agriculture practices, climate projections, and programs that support climate-smart farming. A producer panel highlighted how Nova Scotian farmers are actively responding to climate change through innovative farming practices.</p>
<p>Nova Scotia Climate Smart Website</p> 	<p>The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with Perennia, is launching a website to support the agriculture sector in developing and implementing climate adaptation strategies. The new Climate Smart website will feature videos, webinars, and other resources to help those in agriculture understand how climate change hazards – such as warmer days, more intense precipitation, and longer growing seasons – can impact production, processing, and sales. It will also offer insights from other farmers and experts on how to plan for, prepare, and adapt to these changes. Hosted by the Department of Agriculture, the website will cater to all agricultural commodities and provide links to sector-specific climate information sites hosted by the Agri-Commodity Management Association, Horticulture Nova Scotia, and the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia.</p>


Initiative	Story
<p>Energy Efficiency Upgrades at Provincially Owned Fish Hatcheries</p> 	<p>The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture runs three fish hatcheries in Nova Scotia to help grow and sustain sport fishery. Because of climate change, these hatcheries face operational challenges and issues in maintaining fish health due to issues like warmer temperatures. They have received funding from the climate change action plan to enhance the Fraser’s Mills, McGowan Lake, and Margaree hatchery sites to better cope with climate change impacts.</p> <p>In the past year, improvements have included upgrading to efficient heat pumps for heating and cooling, installing energy-saving light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, and improved water pumping technology to reduce energy use. These efforts are set to expand over the next three years with further adaptation upgrades, ensuring the hatcheries are equipped to manage the effects of climate change effectively.</p>
<p>Launch of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Energy Efficiency Innovation Fund</p> 	<p>In June 2024, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, and EfficiencyOne, launched a new funding program, the <u>Fisheries and Aquaculture Energy Efficiency Innovation Fund</u>. This program is designed to help the seafood and aquaculture sectors adopt innovative and energy-efficient technology and practices. It provides \$6.5 million over three years to support eligible applicants. Additionally, the Loan Board is offering a dedicated low-interest lending program to further assist with these projects.</p>
<p>Grants Support Work to Create Carbon-Neutral Future</p> 	<p>In 2021, Nova Scotia committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and to move to clean, renewable energy. To support these goals, the Province announced \$3 million in funding last year for Net Zero Atlantic to administer the <u>Emerging Concepts and Technologies Research Program</u>, which funds research and development projects to reduce carbon emissions. On April 30, 2024, Government announced that \$255,846 of that funding will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acuity Inc., Halifax, to pilot software that helps to decarbonize agricultural supply chains</li> </ul> <p><i>Continued</i></p>


Initiative	Story
<p>Grants Support Work to Create Carbon-Neutral Future</p> <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geniece Hallet-Tapley, St. Francis Xavier University, for sustainable hydrogen generation research</li> <li>• Mason MacDonald, Faculty of Agriculture at Dalhousie University, Truro, to sequester carbon produced by balsam fir Christmas tree farms</li> <li>• Michael Pegg, Dalhousie University, to develop a new heating and electricity system for homes powered by both hydrogen and natural gas</li> <li>• Mita Dasog, Dalhousie University, to research how sunlight can break down plastic and produce hydrogen as an alternative fuel source</li> <li>• SailTimer Inc., Halifax, to use crowdsourced weather information for research to measure emissions reductions from ships</li> <li>• Suresh Raja, Dalhousie University, to develop an artificial intelligence benchmarking tool to reduce emissions from dairy farms</li> <li>• Alison Thompson, Dalhousie University, to do research to detect hydrogen leaks in pipes and storage areas</li> <li>• Zen Energy, Dartmouth, to develop net-zero marine technologies</li> </ul>
<p>Clean Technology Research in the Agri-food Sector</p> 	<p>Net Zero Atlantic's <u>Emerging Concepts and Technologies Research Program</u> supported Acuicy in helping agri-food sector companies reduce carbon emissions. Acuicy is testing its software with several companies in Nova Scotia, covering the entire agriculture value chain from farm to retail. Feedback is helping to refine the software so businesses can easily see the financial benefits of reducing carbon in their operations. The program advances actions 13 and 63 of the climate change action plan, specifically research on new processes that can improve natural carbon sinks – like soil and forests, which absorb carbon dioxide – and new clean technologies and practices.</p> <p>“The support from Net Zero Atlantic’s ECT program has been critical for us to understand the potential for Acuicy to help companies in the agri-food sector to reduce carbon emissions. We’ve been able to test our software with several companies in Nova Scotia along the agriculture value chain from farm to retail. Hearing their feedback is helping us design our software so businesses can easily see the financial ROI that goes hand-in-hand with cutting carbon from their operations.”</p> <p>— Allison Murray, co-founder and CEO, Acuicy Inc. (funding recipient)</p>


Initiative	Story
<p>Clean Technology Research in Commercial Fisheries</p> 	<p>Net Zero Atlantic <u>Emerging Concepts and Technologies Research Program</u>, funded Marecomms Inc.'s eco-friendly fisheries project, aiming to transform commercial fisheries practices. Based on insights from harvesters and gear manufacturers, Marecomms Inc. will provide real-time information on the status and contents of fishing nets directly to the vessel's bridge. This technology will substantially save fuel, reduce bycatch, and protect the sensitive ocean ecosystem.</p>
<p>Youth-run Solar Panel Project</p> 	<p>Hope Blooms, a youth-run social enterprise in Halifax's North End, is in the process of installing solar panels to power their greenhouse and gardens. Hope Blooms empowers youth to be actively engaged in building environments that impact their communities. By installing solar, Hope Blooms, will reduce their emissions and serve as an educational model for how young people can get involved in caring for our environment. The project was awarded \$130,000 as part of the first round of funding from the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund in 2023.</p> <p>“We hope to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change, while educating children and youth about it. There is no better way of learning about renewable energy than having direct contact with it, and there is also no better way of teaching than leading by example. Our environment can only be healed if we re-evaluate the way we live our lives in a holistic way. Switching to cleaner energy is one more step towards the future we want to see now and for the next generations to come. We want children and youth from Uniacke Square who are, as racialized people, disproportionately affected by climate change, to be the future leaders in climate resiliency and green jobs.”</p> <p>– Veronica Guitierrez, Manager of Growth and Sustainability, Hope Blooms</p>







Initiative	Story
<p data-bbox="212 281 457 485">Deep Energy Retrofit Training and Capacity Building for African Nova Scotians</p> <div data-bbox="212 510 457 758">  </div>	<p data-bbox="505 281 1403 485">One North End, a Halifax-based non-profit organization addressing social disparities faced by African Nova Scotians, is undertaking a deep energy retrofit of a community building to create affordable housing units. This project also provides training opportunities for African Nova Scotian youth, encouraging them to explore careers in the clean building sector.</p> <p data-bbox="505 506 1419 583">The project was awarded \$159,000 as part of the first round of funding from the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund in 2023.</p>
<p data-bbox="212 823 380 1026">Climate Preparedness for African Nova Scotian Communities</p> <div data-bbox="212 1058 457 1178">  </div>	<p data-bbox="505 823 1438 1115">The Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequities and Community Health Project (the ENRICH Project), received funding from the Province to empower community-led action in response to climate change. The ENRICH Project's mission is to examine and address the social, environmental, political and health effects of environmental racism and climate change in Indigenous, Black and other marginalized communities across Canada. ENRICH will use the funding to:</p> <ul data-bbox="505 1136 1438 1556" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create and run a new African Nova Scotian Climate Justice Ambassadors Program to build skills and knowledge to address climate change impacts in communities</li> <li>• hold climate change preparedness workshops for African Nova Scotian communities</li> <li>• develop climate resilience community plans</li> <li>• hire a project co-ordinator and project assistant</li> <li>• partner with local organizations to support building climate change resilience in African Nova Scotian communities</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="505 1577 1438 1780">The Province is providing \$1.8 million to ENRICH through the Climate Change Action Plan for this work. In 2023, ENRICH was awarded \$250,000 as part of the first round of funding from the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund to prepare climate change preparedness plans for 12 African Nova Scotian communities.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1835 646 1871"><i>Continued</i></p>


<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Story</b>
Climate Preparedness for African Nova Scotian Communities  <i>Continued</i>	<p>“The ENRICH Project is a collaborative community-based advocacy, engagement and research organization that is addressing the social, political and health effects of environmental racism and climate change in Black, Indigenous and other racialized communities in Canada,” said Ingrid Waldron, founder and Executive Director of ENRICH.</p>
Town of Amherst Flood Risk Mitigation Upgrades  	<p>The Town of Amherst is enhancing municipal infrastructure to help protect against climate-related flooding. The Town of Amherst will complete a stormwater management study and improve stormwater infrastructure. The upgrades will help reduce the risk of flooding in the area surrounding Dickey Brook, protecting the community from damage during heavy rainfall or storms. These types of upgrades are vital as communities adapt to more frequent and intense weather events.</p> <p>The project was awarded \$349,300 as part of the first round of funding from the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund in 2023.</p> <p>“In the new reality of increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, the Town of Amherst must respond accordingly and plan to mitigate the potential for damage to the town’s infrastructure and private property. The task at hand is challenging and requires prioritizing and implementing flood risk mitigation upgrades in an urban setting while considering climate change and future capacity needs. The funding provided by the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund will help the town address immediate infrastructure capacity issues and create the framework for the town to continue to work towards a long-term plan to address system capacity issues related to climate change.”</p> <p>David Kogon, Mayor, Town of Amherst</p>



Initiative	Story
<p data-bbox="212 281 456 401">Marine Container Examination Facility (MCEF)</p> <div data-bbox="212 438 464 688">  </div>	<p data-bbox="505 281 1422 485">The Halifax Port Authority is building a new Marine Container Examination Facility at the Port of Halifax to improve efficiency, safety, and operations for the Canada Border Services Agency container inspections. Initiated in July 2022, construction on the new facility is expected to be completed later this year.</p> <p data-bbox="505 506 1446 793">The Halifax Port Authority has embarked on this project because of the need to alleviate port congestion and accommodate future increases in container processing. The project aims to accelerate turnaround times, improve security at the port, and provide environmental and community benefits. These include reducing downtown Halifax and A. Murray Mackay Bridge traffic, which in turn lowers greenhouse gas and particulate emissions. The facility will also create new jobs and improve the quality of life for Halifax residents.</p> <p data-bbox="505 814 1370 892">In developing the Marine Container Examination Facility, the Halifax Port Authority implemented several sustainability strategies:</p> <ul data-bbox="505 913 1446 1234" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of a solar photovoltaic system to supply 23 per cent of the facility's annual energy needs</li> <li>• A rainwater harvesting system</li> <li>• A Construction Sustainability Checklist, required for all contractors' tender submissions</li> <li>• A Contractor Tracking Tool to monitor earthworks, materials, energy use, and water use</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="505 1255 1435 1415">The Halifax Port Authority also engaged with the Africville Heritage Trust and Africville community members who led discussions to name the new Marine Container Examination Facility, ensuring the chosen name reflects the Africville community's history.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1436 1442 1682">In August 2023, the <u>Marine Container Examination Facility</u> earned an Envision Award score that was 26 per cent above industry standards, achieving a "Verified" classification under the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) Envision framework. This framework evaluates infrastructure projects against extensive qualitative and quantitative indicators across five categories: quality of life, leadership, resource allocation, natural world, and climate &amp; resilience.</p>

Initiative	Story
<p data-bbox="212 283 459 443">Data Helps to Reduce Emissions in Cargo and Marine Transport</p> <div data-bbox="212 478 464 724">  </div>	<p data-bbox="505 283 1446 527">The Halifax Port Authority partnered with BlueNode Inc., PSA Global, Port Saint John, Canada’s Ocean Supercluster, and Sentient Hubs to launch an artificial intelligence platform for monitoring emissions in near real-time. This project integrates data from cargo handling and transport, operations, and other factors to accurately assess the carbon emissions per container and per metric ton.</p> <p data-bbox="505 548 1414 707">This system uses machine learning to recommend when to replace equipment, focusing on reducing emissions as older equipment tends to be less efficient and more polluting. The approach developed by BlueNode and the Halifax Port Authority is a promising tool for cutting carbon emissions.</p> <p data-bbox="505 728 1013 762">The main objectives of the project include:</p> <ul data-bbox="505 783 1419 1360" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch a software platform that analyzes carbon emissions as they happen.</li> <li>• Track changes in operations and seasons to help reduce carbon emissions.</li> <li>• Set a standard for measuring carbon emissions in important trading routes.</li> <li>• Regularly report on carbon emissions to help with decision-making through easy-to-use dashboards and analyses.</li> <li>• Establish a shared system for data management, regulatory compliance and reporting.</li> <li>• Develop decision-making models to reduce carbon emissions while keeping supply chains strong and effective.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="505 1381 1398 1541">In 2023, Halifax Port Authority and project partners were recognized at the International Association of Ports and Harbour’s World Port Sustainability Program Awards in the “Digitalization” category for their innovative Data Enhancement Framework 2 project.</p>







Initiative	Story
<p data-bbox="212 281 456 443">Dalhousie University Students Win the Green Pathways Challenge</p> 	<p data-bbox="505 281 1458 485">The <a href="#">Green Pathways Challenge</a> launched in September 2023 and invited post-secondary students to improve the accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists between the Seaport district and Point Pleasant Park in Halifax. The open call searched for creative ideas on how to develop an active transportation pathway that was safe, environmentally sustainable, inclusive, and accessible.</p> <p data-bbox="505 506 1458 625">Carter DeYoung and Emily Veilleux, two Dalhousie University engineering students took home first place for their active transportation solution – you can learn more about their winning idea <a href="#">at the PIER</a>.</p> <p data-bbox="505 646 1458 892">The Green Pathways Challenge was a part of a Work Integrated Learning program designed by the Workforce Development team at The PIER, the innovation living-lab at the Halifax Port Authority. The Work Integrated Learning program is made possible through partnership with the Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BEHR), with support from the Government of Canada.</p>
<p data-bbox="212 938 456 1100">Tallest Wood Building East of Montreal Coming to Membertou</p> 	<p data-bbox="505 938 1458 1268">The Department of Public Works awarded a new lease project to Membertou Properties to construct a new 91,875 square foot office out of mass timber. This will be a complete energy efficient complex and will be close to carbon neutral and net zero. The structure will be five levels and the tallest wood building east of Montreal. The new five-story building will provide affordable, greener office space for local organizations and businesses in the area. Construction is in progress on the cutting-edge, multi-story office building for Membertou Development Corporation in Cape Breton.</p>

Initiative	Story
<p data-bbox="212 281 431 527">Reducing Costs to Serve People Experiencing Mental Illness and Homelessness in Sydney</p> <div data-bbox="212 562 461 674">  </div>	<p data-bbox="505 281 1459 737">The Cape Breton Community Housing Association, which provides housing for people experiencing mental illness and homelessness in the Sydney area, has successfully converted nine homes from oil-fired heating to electric heat pumps. The association estimates that these upgrades, combined with a future solar project, will save about \$137,000 annually and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by up to 95 per cent. This project not only reduces carbon emissions and energy consumption but also improves the living conditions for residents by improving air quality and thermal comfort. This funding supports the organization’s mandate to offer improved housing and address urgent environmental challenges demonstrating a commitment to ecological responsibility and social welfare.</p> <p data-bbox="505 758 1459 835">The project received \$207,729 as part of the first round of funding from the Sustainable Communities Challenge in 2023.</p>
<p data-bbox="212 884 456 1045">CarbonCure Lands More Funds for Innovative Concrete Technology</p> <div data-bbox="212 1087 326 1199">  </div>	<p data-bbox="505 884 1459 1234">CarbonCure is a local clean technology success story. They have landed over \$100 million in equity round funding that will increase the reach of their concrete industry carbon capture technology. The new funding also includes strong and substantial support from existing shareholders, including Breakthrough Energy Ventures, Taronga Ventures, Amazon’s Climate Pledge Fund, and Microsoft Climate Innovation Fund. In addition to their financial backing, these firms are force multipliers of sustainability and innovation, with direct involvement in new product development and acting as market demand catalysts.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1255 1459 1528">The investment will enable CarbonCure to accelerate toward its mission to reduce and remove millions of metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere each year. Already operating in 30 countries, this funding will support CarbonCure in achieving its growth plans and accelerating its product roadmap, allowing its hardware and software platform to deliver commercial value and sustainability benefits to concrete producers while meeting global climate goals.</p>





Initiative	Story
<p data-bbox="212 283 407 359">Electric Lobster Boat Starts Up</p> <div data-bbox="212 394 459 506">  </div>	<p data-bbox="505 283 1437 611">Membertou First Nation and Oceans North have teamed up to create an electric lobster boat which will bring environmental, economic, and social benefits to Indigenous fishers and boatbuilders. The project builds on Membertou’s efforts over three decades to improve its community. The electric lobster boat is a crucial move towards using renewable energy and will make the lobster fishery more sustainable, benefiting future generations. By eliminating diesel pollution and reducing noise, it will also improve working conditions for fishers.</p> <p data-bbox="505 632 1437 959">This project follows a report highlighting the opportunity to electrify over 2,000 boats in Nova Scotia’s fishing fleet for a net-zero economy. Oceans North, along with Indigenous and coastal communities, is bringing together partners to design, build, and demonstrate an electric boat. This project emphasizes the importance of innovative solutions and partnerships in addressing the climate crisis. Brent Dancey, Director of Marine Climate Action at Oceans North, adds that Membertou’s goal is to lead in sustainability and zero-emission boatbuilding.</p> <p data-bbox="505 980 1437 1098">The project demonstrates that electric vessels are viable in Atlantic Canada. While battery-electric technology is not new to boats globally, understanding local fishers’ needs is crucial.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1119 1437 1404">The project also includes a feature where the boat can not only take electricity from the shore to charge its batteries but also give electricity back to the shore when it is not being used. This is called bi-directional charging and helps improve the local electricity system and can earn money for the boat owners when they are not using the boat. Boatbuilding is set to begin in mid-2024, with the first boat expected to be built and tested in 2025 for Membertou’s fishing operations.</p>




Initiative	Story
<p data-bbox="212 281 443 485">Mi'kmaw and Nova Scotia Power Partnership on 150 MW Battery Technology</p> 	<p data-bbox="505 281 1451 527">Nova Scotia Power and Wskijnu'k Mtmó'taqnuow Agency which represents all 13 Mi'kmaw communities in the province recently received approval from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to pursue battery projects in Nova Scotia. The use of battery technology helps communities have access to more reliable power sources and helps bring renewable energy sources into the energy system.</p> <p data-bbox="505 548 1442 709">Nova Scotia Power is planning to build three battery storage facilities in Bridgewater, White Rock, and Waverley, each capable of storing 50 megawatts of energy. Nova Scotia Power will start building on these sites later this year and complete by 2026.</p> <p data-bbox="505 730 1442 934">These sites were chosen because of their close proximity to electrical distribution centers, making it easy to connect to transmission systems. This means the batteries can use renewable energy sources from anywhere on the electrical system, like Nova Scotia Power's solar garden in Amherst, wind farm on Digby Neck, or the hydroelectric plant in Wreck Cove, Cape Breton.</p> <p data-bbox="505 955 1425 1031">This project was supported by the Government of Nova Scotia in partnership with the federal government.</p>
<p data-bbox="212 1079 427 1199">Mount Saint Vincent's Electric Bike Program</p> 	<p data-bbox="505 1079 1446 1451"><u>Mount Saint Vincent University</u> and <u>Zen Electric Bikes</u> have teamed up to provide electric bikes to students, faculty and staff on their campus. Since Fall 2023, Mount Saint Vincent University offers a fleet of 15 electric bikes for students, faculty, and staff to use on and off campus, such as for commuting to work. This trial run also includes a new solar-powered station for storing and charging the e-bikes on campus. Mount Saint Vincent University's campus is known for its steep hills, and the electric bikes make it easier for riders to tackle them, while also reducing traffic and parking issues and improving air quality on campus.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1472 1446 1591">This partnership aims to introduce a new transportation option powered by clean energy to the campus. It's the first initiative of its kind in Atlantic Canadian universities.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1612 1414 1774">The project received \$50,000 funding from HCl3's Accelerating to Zero Grant Program which provides funding for projects that directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions or enable the conditions for equitable and meaningful climate solutions to support the region's journey to net zero.</p>



Initiative	Story
<p>Inverness Active Transportation Infrastructure</p> 	<p>Inverness is becoming more walkable and connected through the construction of a network of trails and reconstructed sidewalks. Over the next year, 2.97 kilometers of new multi-use pathways and trails, and 3.7 kilometers of sidewalks along Central Avenue and Veteran’s Memorial Court in Inverness will be built. The trails and sidewalks will enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians, make Inverness more walkable and connected for people who visit and live there and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The federal and provincial governments and the Municipality of the County of Inverness invested \$14 million in this project.</p>
<p>Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc.</p> 	<p>Maritime Gourmet Mushrooms Inc., located in Great Village, Nova Scotia is a specialized producer in growing a variety of fresh gourmet mushrooms, and mushroom substrate - the nutrition which mushrooms require to grow and fruit.</p> <p>The company is building a new solar-powered building which will help them grow more of this nutritional powerhouse food. The new building will help the company produce about 10,000 pounds more of mushrooms each week, and about 60,000 more pounds of mushroom substrate. The new solar system facility will reduce the company’s power demand by 327,000 kilowatt-hours each year.</p> <p>The company received an innovation rebate from Invest Nova Scotia for this project, which will help the business grow. Investing in local food helps improve nutrition and health outcomes within our communities, enhance food security and promotes economic growth.</p>
<p>Cycling Nova Scotia is Connecting More Communities by Bike</p>    	<p>Cycling Nova Scotia is working with communities across Nova Scotia to create plans for networks of safe cycling infrastructure that allows locals and visitors to travel to the places they most want to visit by bike. The project aims to link residents to the places they want to go by walking, rolling, or cycling, and to connect the provincial Blue Route cycling network to community centers across the province. As a result, communities are more connected and have access to more equitable, safer, sustainable, and healthier options for transportation.</p> <p><i>Continued.</i></p>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Story</b>
<p>Cycling Nova Scotia is Connecting More Communities by Bike</p> <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<p>In 2023, Cycling Nova Scotia opened a new section of the Blue Route from Wallace to Pugwash along Gulf Shore and Ferry Roads in partnership with Nova Scotia Department of Public Works, and the Municipality of Cumberland. This section joins the existing open portion of Blue Route through Wentworth Valley.</p> <p>This past year, Cycle Nova Scotia has been working with six communities across the province to create core active transportation network plans to help ensure they are ready to access future infrastructure funding. The communities are Baddeck, Wagmatcook First Nation, Windsor, Westville, Berwick, and Queens County.</p> <p>Antigonish is an example of a community in Nova Scotia that has benefitted from having a core active transportation plan as they now have newly built active transportation infrastructure. Antigonish’s active transportation network incorporates a five kilometer stretch of the Trunk 4 highway. The new corridor provides pedestrians and cyclists a safe active transportation option that links with the new active transportation spine through the Town of Antigonish and to St. FX University.</p> <p>The Core Active Transportation Networks Project is a Cycling Nova Scotia initiative funded and supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The Core Active Transportation Networks project directly contributes to Goal 9(b) of the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act, to complete core active transportation networks that are accessible for all ages and all abilities in 65 per cent of the province’s communities by 2030.</p> <p>For more information on Core AT Networks Projects: <a href="https://blueroute.ca/core-at-networks-project/">https://blueroute.ca/core-at-networks-project/</a></p> <p>For more information on the Blue Route: <a href="https://blueroute.ca/">https://blueroute.ca/</a></p> <p>Follow updates from the Blue Route on <a href="#">Facebook</a>, and <a href="#">Instagram</a></p>

Initiative	Story
<p>Partnerships for Hydrogen-enriched Natural Gas</p>  	<p>Eastward Energy, Davis Pier and Dalhousie University researcher Dr. Michael Pegg and his team in the Department of Process Engineering and Applied Science, are working together to explore low-carbon solutions for industries beyond just the energy sector.</p> <p>Together, they are exploring the safety parameters needed to use hydrogen-enriched natural gas to reduce carbon emissions across different types of activities. Hydrogen-enriched natural gas blending made using green hydrogen, is being studied as a lower carbon energy source. They are testing the limits of blending hydrogen into Eastward Energy’s natural gas system and the use of hydrogen-enriched natural gas in household appliances. The Nova Scotia-based lab will also provide hands-on research experience and collaboration with industry partners, ensuring Dalhousie students will be better equipped to help find clean solutions and technologies that drive economic growth.</p> <p>This project received \$189,250 from the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables through the Clean Fuels Fund.</p>
<p>More Provincial Support for Community Climate Priorities</p>  	<p>Local leadership and action are our best defense to make sure communities are prepared and proactively responding to protect homes, businesses, infrastructure, our coastline and coastal communities, and natural areas. This is why the Community Climate Capacity Program, delivered through the Clean Foundation, is supporting 12 projects involving 16 communities, one Mi’kmaw and two community organizations to be more resilient to climate change. This program also provides benefits for all communities through knowledge sharing activities such as the Municipal Climate Learning Group and an annual summit.</p> <p>For more information and for the full list of participating communities: <a href="https://cleanfoundation.ca/ccc">https://cleanfoundation.ca/ccc</a></p> <p>“In our beautiful culture, we honour the past, present and future by thinking of the seven generations ahead. We are making choices today that benefit them all and improve the quality of life. We are striving for a greener future, remembering the wisdom of our ancestors and thinking of the seven generations yet to come.</p> <p><i>Continued</i></p>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Story</b>
<p>More Provincial Support for Community Climate Priorities</p> <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<p>Our actions today shape the world for the next seven generations, and by considering them, we embrace the true essence of sustainability. We're working together with the Community Climate Capacity team to be strong stewards of the Earth in We'koqma'q First Nation for all future generations, creating a legacy of care and a better quality of life."</p> <p>— Carrie Michael, Green Initiative Co-ordinator, We'koqma'q First Nation</p>
<p>Municipal Leaders in Coastal Protection</p> 	<p>The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is leading the way in coastal protection. In June 2024, Council passed a new Municipal-Wide Land Use By-law that includes coastal protection regulation that impacts how development occurs along the coast. The regulations keep human activity away from the risks posed by coastal erosion and flooding and protect sensitive ecosystems from the impacts of human activity and development. These regulations are now in effect.</p> <p>For more information on this initiative: <a href="#">Coastal Protection   Engage MODL</a></p>
<p>Building Community Coastal Resilience with Green Shores for Homes</p>  	<p>Saint Mary's University – TransCoastal adaptations is expanding its Green Shores for Homes program, bringing it to the coastal communities of West Hants, Barrington, and Pictou County. This expansion includes providing free shoreline assessments to waterfront homeowners in these areas, helping them use nature-based strategies to protect their shorelines against climate change and coastal hazards. This project is focused on providing communities with the expertise and resources necessary for green shoreline projects.</p> <p>The project was awarded \$238,098 as part of the first round of funding from the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund in 2023.</p> <p>For more information on the <a href="#">Green Shores for Homes program: Green Shores for Homes in the Maritimes — TransCoastal Adaptations</a></p> <p>"We are thrilled to help increase our local communities' coastal resilience through the Green Shores for Homes program, thanks to this funding which will ensure that Green Shores helps more vulnerable communities and trains homeowners with nature-based strategies to protect their shorelines in the face of climate change and sea level rise."</p> <p>— Kelly Umlah, Education and Outreach Co-ordinator, TransCoastal Adaptations, Saint Mary's</p>