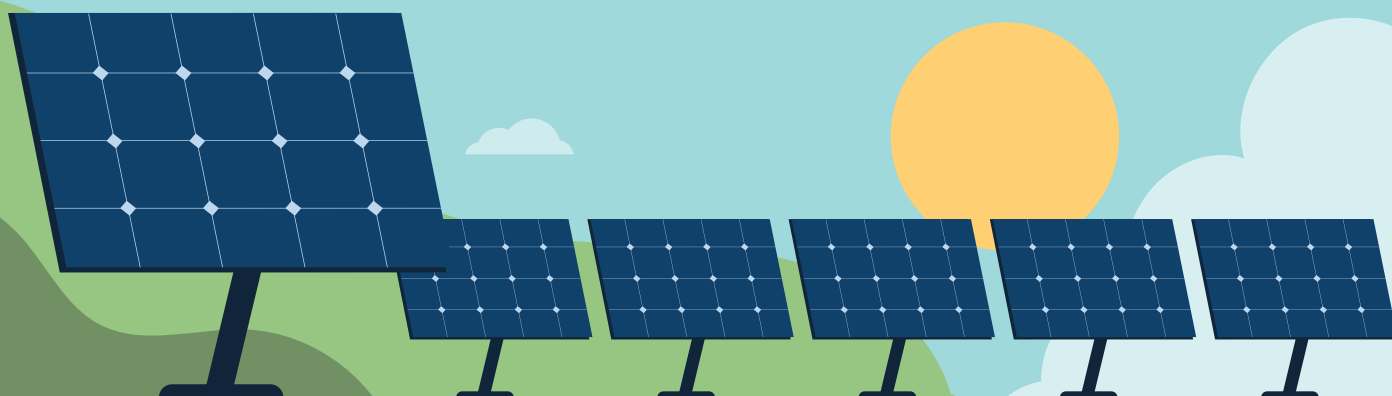


Department of Environment and Climate Change

Role in Solar Farm Developments



The Department of Environment and Climate Change does not regulate or approve solar farm developments. However, some activities that take place during construction, operation, and decommissioning must follow the Environment Act and regulations, guidelines, and standards to help protect and minimize the impact on the environment.

Activities that may require an approval from the Department:

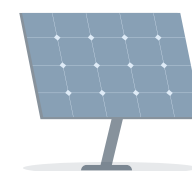
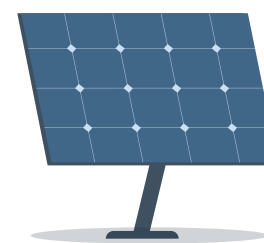
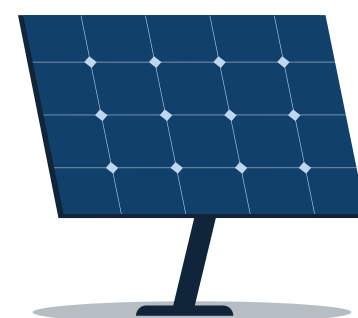
- ✓ Work that alters the bed or bank of a watercourse, such as installing a culvert or a bridge. Installations must be overseen by a certified individual.
novascotia.ca/nse/watercourse-alteration/
- ✓ Impacts to a wetland, such as infilling or excavating. An assessment by an experienced wetland evaluator is required, unless it meets exemption conditions:
novascotia.ca/nse/wetland/docs/Short_Guide_Wetland_Alteration_Application_Approval_Process_1.0.pdf
- ✓ Withdrawing or diverting water in a volume greater than 23 000 L per day from a source of surface or groundwater.
novascotia.ca/nse/water/withdrawalApproval.asp
- ✓ Storm drainage works such as collection systems, pumping stations, storage, and outfalls.
novascotia.ca/nse/dept/docs.policy/Policy-Storm.Drainage.Works.Approval.pdf

Environmental Assessments are required for alteration of two hectares or more of wetland and for a power transmission line corridor with a cumulative voltage rating of 345 kVA or greater.

novascotia.ca/nse/dept/docs/EA-Timelines-FULL-Presentation.pdf

Activities that do not require an approval, but must adhere to the Environment Act and regulations:

- ✓ Protection of watercourses and wetlands from siltation. Erosion and sedimentation are managed by designing systems and contingency plans that ensure soil does not travel off site and into a waterbody (including via stormwater systems).
- ✓ If a site is contaminated, the owner must follow the Department's rules to clean it up: novascotia.ca/nse/contaminatedsites/protocols.asp



Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning Nova Scotia toward cleaner, renewable, and more efficient forms of energy. To learn more about what Nova Scotia is doing you can find Nova Scotia's climate change action plan, Our Climate, Our Future here:

climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/ns-climate-change-plan.pdf

For more information contact the Climate Change Unit: climatechange@novascotia.ca

For information or questions on solar project development in Nova Scotia, contact the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables: Sharesolar@novascotia.ca

Any questions?

Visit novascotia.ca/nse/resources/
or contact us at 1-800-936-8476 (1-800-9ENVIRO)