Advancing Clean Technologies for Nova Scotia Program Guidelines

2026-2027

NOVA SCOTIA

Program Objective

The Advancing Clean Technology for Nova Scotia Program supports the adoption of clean technologies that support climate change adaptation, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, promote sustainable and clean growth, and increase value-added agricultural production.

Eligible Applicants

- Registered Farms
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaw communities
- Agri-businesses

We are also committed to the development of diverse and inclusive industries. We welcome individuals from all underrepresented and underserved communities including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, Black and African Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaq, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized individuals, to apply to programming.

Program Criteria

Farms must:

- be currently registered under the *Farm Registration Act*.
- be actively farming in the program year and the applicant must be 19 years of age or older.
- generate an annual eligible gross farming income of $30,000 or more. The eligible farming income will be based on the Farm Registration income level.

Agri-businesses must:

- represent identifiable Nova Scotia agriculture and agri-food products (see note below).
- generate an annual eligible gross income of $30,000 or more based on 2025 T2 Corporation Income Tax Return and/or internal Income Statement; 2024 documentation will be accepted if 2025 taxes have not yet been filed.
- use the table below to show proof of purchase of a certain level of local ingredients based on their income level.
    - Example: An eligible applicant has $55,000 in income. Based on the table below they will need to show proof of $10,000 in local inputs.

Proof of local ingredients:

Income level	Minimum annual purchases of raw agricultural ingredients
$30,000 - $49,999	$5,000
$50,000 - $99,999	$10,000
$100,000 +	$25,000

Note: Identifiable agriculture and agri-food products are products supporting economic growth using Nova Scotia primary agricultural ingredients.

Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding as follows:

- Solar installations over $60,000 – $0.30/installed watt
- Battery storage over $60,000 – $300/kwh
- Three phase power installation (no minimum project cost) – 60%
- All other projects over $60,000 – 60%

Projects with eligible expenses of less than $60,000 may be eligible for support through Efficiency Nova Scotia. Please contact Kraig Porter, Agriculture Manager, for more information at agriculture@efficiencyns.ca

Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received funding under the Advancing Clean Technologies for Nova Scotia Program (2023-2028) or the Nova Scotia Clean Technology for Agriculture Program (2021-2023).

Program funding will be based on 3 levels:

Income Level	Maximum Funding
$30,000-$99,999	$50,000
$100,000-$249,999	$100,000
$250,000+	$150,000

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Greenhouse Gas reduction potential** as identified on your energy assessment from Efficiency Nova Scotia. (30 points)
- **Return on Investment** Cost of project per unit of Greenhouse Gas reduction. (25 points)
- **Degree of Potential Impact** to increase competitiveness, sustainability and profitability
- of the applicant's business and/or Nova Scotia agriculture. (25 points)
- **Level of Innovation** e.g. testing technologies or practices entirely novel or new to Nova
- Scotia; technologies that are well adopted in other sectors but new to agriculture; or
- newer versions of existing technology with significant increases in energy efficiency.
- (20 points)

Stacking Provisions:

The maximum level of total government funding (federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal funding, which includes Efficiency Nova Scotia's Agriculture Program) will generally not exceed 75% of eligible costs per project. Stacking with Efficiency Nova Scotia's Beneficial Management Practices Program is not permitted.

Note: This is the final year for the program.

Note 2: Quotes are required and must be provided with application.

Eligible Expenses

The following items are eligible in the program:

High Efficiency Farm Heating, Cooling and Energy Systems
• Farm heating, high efficiency cooling and alternate energy system equipment (solar, • wind, geothermal, ground source heat pumps, air source heat pumps)
Alternative/Efficient Energy Installations
• Low carbon fuel switching technologies (e.g. electrification, replacing oil systems with high efficiency low carbon options) • Energy efficiency opportunities (heat curtains or insulation) identified in an energy assessment • Reverse osmosis systems for maple production, and power installation to systems • Installation of 3-phase power • Battery storage • LED horticulture lighting • Energy monitoring systems
Byproduct Waste Reduction or Adding Value to Byproducts
• Efficient biomass boilers and forced air furnaces • The production of biofuels (anerobic digestion)

Additional Expense Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must identify at time of application if they are purchasing used equipment, and these applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Used equipment must be purchased from a recognized dealer and be in good condition**.**
- Modifications to existing equipment or technology if required for optimization or installation of new equipment may be funded. These applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Program funding will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that do not involve a supplier/service provider that is associated with the Applicant, unless it is proven that an associated supplier/service provider is the only registered company providing that service in the area. In such cases that it is necessary to proceed with an associated supplier/service provider, the Applicant must apply for pre-approval before proceeding or submitting a claim to ensure that the associated costs will be approved for reimbursement.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses are expenses that will not be compensated under this program and include but are not limited to, the following expenses:

- travel expenses
- administrative/general overhead
- buildings/building modifications/sea containers
- in-kind contributions
- purchase of ongoing software licensing costs or fees
- purchase of standard software programs
- operating expenses/existing staff wages/salaries
- small hand tools
- HST

Application Process

To apply for the Advancing Clean Technologies for Nova Scotia Program:

- Submit a complete application by **March 31, 2026**.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
February 6, 2026 – March 31, 2026	April 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027	February 28, 2027

Note: An applicant may only complete one application for this program per year.

Note 2: Applicants new to Programs since 2023 must complete the Program Funding Registration form. Returning applicants must update the form as needed with any changes to business information including contact information, structure, commodities, environmental farm plan and Premise ID.

Approval Process

1. Applications will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture and shared with Efficiency Nova Scotia to conduct an energy efficiency assessment, and with a review committee that will score the applications against the stated evaluation criteria. This process may take up to three months.
2. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement** (**LOA)** that identifies the Program funding offered, and the terms and conditions under which Program funding is approved.
3. The applicant is responsible for reporting any errors in the LOA, including in the program funding amounts provided.
4. The applicant must review, sign and return the LOA to Programs within **30 days** of the
4. date of the LOA or the Program funding will be forfeited.

Note: Approval of applications is subject to availability of Program funding. The total amount of Program funding awarded to each applicant, or to associated applicants, may be limited at the discretion of the Department of Agriculture to ensure opportunities for additional applicants to access Program funding.

Claiming Process

A **Program Claim Form** will be sent to the applicant after the signed LOA is received.

To submit a claim, applicants must:

1. Complete and sign the Program Claim Form**.**
2. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs which they have incurred and paid for.
3. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – e.g. e-transfer confirmation, debit slips, cleared cheques, or credit card/bank statements. (Invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted).
4. Submit the claim with the required supporting documentation to the Programs office by **February 28, 2027**.

Note: No payment will be made for claims under $20.00.

Final Report

Projects approved for Program funding have mandatory reporting requirements. Applicants will receive the reporting template with their claim form.

Applicants will be subject to a **25% holdback** on their submitted claim if the final report is not submitted at the same time. Final Reports may be made available publicly on the Department of Agriculture website and a follow-up review may be conducted after project completion.

Leased Land

Eligible projects must be directly applicable to the registered farm qualifying for Program funding on agricultural land owned or leased. A copy of the long-term lease of at least 10 years or rental agreement must accompany the application for all physical projects applicable to the leased/rented land. It is a condition of approval that the lease be of at least 10 years duration and must last for at least 5 years after the project funding has been received. You must advise us immediately, in writing, if the lease is terminated, if the term of the lease changes or if the identity of the lessor changes in any way (for example, if the lessor assigns the lease or if the lease changes in composition).

Authority

The Department of Agriculture shall have the authority to deny an application if the application does not meet the requirements described in these Program Guidelines or there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information.

Evaluation and Audit

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by the Department of Agriculture, or other parties chosen by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining financial assistance. This review and evaluation process may be conducted prior to project commencement, during work and/or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey related to their final claim.

Contact Information

Submit all documents to Programs at the address or email below. For more information, contact Programs or your regional office.

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
Programs Office
74 Research Drive
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2
Telephone: 902-893-6377
Toll Free: 1-866-844-4276
Email: prm@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Regional Offices		
Western (Covering West Hants, Kings, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, and Lunenburg counties)	Yarmouth	902-223-8085
	Digby	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern (Covering Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants, Halifax - including HRM, Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough, Richmond, Inverness, Cape Breton, and Victoria counties)	Truro	902-893-6575
	Nappan	782-370-2278
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000