

Advancing Clean Technologies for Nova Scotia Guidelines

2024-2025

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Advancing Clean Technologies 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,
- Agri-businesses,
- Agri-food processors

Individuals from all equity-deserving communities including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, Black and African Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaq, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized individuals, are welcome to apply to all programming.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

- Currently registered in the correct income category under the Farm Registration Act.
- Applicant must be 19 years of age or older and actively farming in the program year.
- Farms generating an annual eligible gross commodity income of \$10,000 or more. The eligible commodity income will be based on the Farm Registration annual income.
- Agri-businesses who represent identifiable Nova Scotia agriculture and agri-food products.
- Agri-business generating an annual eligible gross income of \$10,000 or more based on 2023 or 2024 T2 Corporation Income Tax Return and/or internal Income Statement.

Note 1: Identifiable agriculture and agri-food products are products supporting economic growth using Nova Scotia primary agricultural ingredients. The level of Nova Scotian grown ingredients will be weighed under the “Degree of Potential Impact and Industry Reach” section of assessment.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Applicants can apply for 60% funding assistance, to a maximum of \$150,000 or 10% of their most recent gross farm, agri-business or agri-food processor income (2023 or 2024). The lesser of the two will determine participant support.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Energy Assessment from Efficiency NS** (Current within 12 months)* (10 points)
- **Green House Gas reduction potential** as identified on your energy assessment from Efficiency NS (30 points)
- **Return on Investment** as identified on your assessment from Efficiency NS (15 points)
- **Degree of Potential Impact** (25 points) - to increase competitiveness, sustainability and profitability
- **Level of Innovation** (20 points) – e.g. testing technologies or practices entirely novel or new to Nova Scotia; project addresses a need identified by industry for which there is currently no adequate solution.

*A current assessment must have been completed in the last 12 months. If you are submitting an assessment that was previously completed, the equipment details must be the same as when the assessment was completed. If the cost or specifications of the equipment have changed from your original assessment, a new assessment is needed.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2024-2025

Note 1: This program is anticipated to be offered again in 2025-26, 2026-27. However, programs may be modified or discontinued based on budget availability, industry feedback, and government priorities.

Note 2: Applicants who have received funding under the Nova Scotia Clean Technology for Agriculture Program or any other Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture programing cannot apply for the same project under this program.

Note 3: Applicants approved under Horticulture NS Season Extension program are not eligible for the same projects under this program.

Note 4: Quotes are required and must be provided with the application.

	Funding Assistance	Maximum Funding
Category 1: High Efficiency Farm Heating, Cooling and Energy Systems	60%	Up to \$150,000* *based on 10% gross farm income (2023 or 2024)
Category 2: Alternative / Efficient Energy Installations		
Category 3: Byproduct Waste Reduction or Adding Value to Byproducts		

AGRICULTURE CLEAN TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

All projects require an energy assessment by Kraig Porter, the Agriculture Energy Manager at Efficiency Nova Scotia.

- Please contact Kraig Porter at (902) 470-3590, cell no. (902) 872-1191 or by email at agriculture@efficiencyns.ca to arrange your appointment.

Category 1 – 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)

Category 2 – 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
- Installation of 3-Phase power
- Battery Storage
- Reverse osmosis systems for maple production, and power installation to systems
- LED Horticulture Lighting
- High Efficiency Irrigation (production and frost protection)
- Energy Monitoring Systems

Category 3 – Byproduct Waste Reduction or Adding Value to Byproducts

- Efficient biomass boilers
- The production of biofuels (anaerobic digestion)

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- direct project costs
- commercial grade equipment (including used equipment*)
- contracted labour / consultants / professional fees / training
- materials / supplies / rentals
- modifications to existing equipment or technology for optimization or to enable installation of automation and labour-saving equipment
- one-time purchase of specialized software systems related to upgrading and acquiring new equipment / technology
- specialized equipment and shipping
- transfer of knowledge / sharing of information activities by approval

***Used equipment must be purchased from a recognized dealer and be in good condition. Clients must identify at time of application if they are purchasing used equipment, and these applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.**

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES:

These include but are not limited to:

- administrative / general overhead
- buildings / building modifications / sea containers
- in-kind contributions
- multiple pieces of equipment per applicant with the same function
- purchase of ongoing software licensing costs or fees
- purchase of standard software programs
- operating expenses / existing staff wages /salaries
- small hand tools
- travel
- HST

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
June 6, 2024 – July 15, 2024	April 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025	February 28, 2025

To apply for the Advancing Clean Technologies for Nova Scotia Program, complete and submit the application and supporting documents. Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the Activity Period stated above, however, expenses incurred prior to the date of project approval are at the Applicant’s risk.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Note: Clients new to Programs since 2023 must complete the Program Funding Registration form (PFR). Returning clients 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. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement (LOA)** which identifies the eligible project activities, financial assistance offered, and the terms and conditions under which assistance is approved.
2. Review, sign and return the Letter of Agreement to Programs within 30 days of the date of the letter or your funding will be forfeited.

CLAIMING PROCESS

1. After Programs receives your signed Letter of Agreement, a **Program Claim Form** will be sent to you.
2. Complete and sign the Program Claim Form by **February 28, 2025**
3. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs incurred and paid for by the applicant.
4. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – e-transfer confirmation, debit slips, cleared cheques, or credit card/bank statements. (Invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted).
5. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation (Final Reports if required) to the Programs office by the claim deadline.

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

ARM’S LENGTH TRANSACTIONS

Financial assistance will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that involve a supplier/service provider with an arm’s-length relationship to the applicant for approved projects. For the purposes of Programs, arm’s length is defined as individuals who are NOT connected by blood relationship, marriage, common-law partnership, or adoption.

AUTHORITY

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information, or if NSDA believes that an application does not conform to the intent of the program.

EVALUATION AND AUDIT

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by NSDA, Government of Canada or other parties chosen by NSDA 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 or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey related to their final claim.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the program. This specific information is deemed to be public information, to be actively disseminated by NSDA. NSDA may provide any information from an applicant to another public body or a law-enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation, undertaken with a view to a law-enforcement proceeding or from which a law-enforcement proceeding is likely to result. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit all documents to Programs at the address, email or fax number below. For more information, please 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
Fax: 902-893-75797
Email: prm@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture <u>Regional Offices</u>		
Western Region Offices	Yarmouth	902-223-8085
	Digby	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern Region Offices	Truro	902-893-6575
	Nappan	782-370-2278
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000