



BUSINESS PLAN

2024-25

**Environment and
Climate Change**

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Budget 2024-25: Business Plan
February 2024
ISBN 978-1-77448-569-9

Department of Environment and Climate Change

2024-25 Priority Actions in Support of Government's Business Plan

Through legislation, regulation, enforcement, and programs, the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) has a mandate to support a clean and healthy environment, protect land, advance a clean economy, address the climate crisis, and guide the province towards a sustainable and clean future where all Nova Scotians can thrive.

In 2024-25, ECC will support the Government's business plan by continuing work in the areas of:

- Climate action,
- Supporting a healthy environment and healthy communities, and
- Supporting sustainable prosperity.

This will be accomplished through the work outlined below, as well as the work highlighted in the [annual progress report on the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act* and the climate change plan](#). The Department's work will continue to enhance focus on client service and regulatory excellence and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Climate Action

The Government's action on climate change is guided by [Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth](#). Making progress on the 68 actions in the plan helps to grow the clean economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support coastal protection, help Nova Scotians save on their energy bills and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

In 2024-25, ECC will continue collaborating with other departments to implement the plan and will report on progress. In addition, the Department will continue:

- Making funding available, through the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund, for valuable community action to address the impacts of climate change,
- Implementing the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Climate Adaptation Plan, and
- Supporting the work of Nova Scotia's Youth Climate Council.

The Department will also fully Operationalize Nova Scotia's Output-Based Pricing System to drive large industry to reduce emissions, while helping them stay competitive.

Supporting a Healthy Environment and Healthy Communities

The [Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act](#) legislates 28 goals that support a healthy environment and healthy, resilient communities in Nova Scotia. For example, goals include protecting more of Nova Scotia's land, wetlands and water, improving the health and sustainability of Nova Scotia's environment, reducing waste and growing the green and circular economies.

In 2024-25, ECC will continue making progress on its legislated goals that support a healthy environment, a circular economy and healthy communities. This includes:

- Collaborating with the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables to implement the new [Collaborative Protected Areas Strategy](#) and make progress towards protecting 20% of land and water in Nova Scotia.

The Department will also:

- Implement the Nature Agreement, with the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NS) and Environment and Climate Change Canada and
- Support equity in the Sustainable Community Challenge Fund through the involvement of the Department's Equity and Engagement Coordinator.

Supporting Sustainable Prosperity

The *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act* is a guide for sustainable prosperity that will move us to clean and renewable energy and build a clean economy from which every Nova Scotian can benefit. This requires an all-hands-on-deck approach, which government is leading through demonstrated action.

In 2024 the Department will continue this work by:

- Completing modernization of the environmental assessment process, including consideration of cumulative impacts, diversity, equity and inclusion, independent review, Netukulimk, and climate change, and
- Co-leading with the Office of Equity and Anti Racism, initiatives that address environmental racism.

The Department's Funding Navigator, will also be engaging with community to optimize funding opportunities and support for communities.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change is committed to providing leadership and support as we transition to a clean economy and a healthier, cleaner, more sustainable Nova Scotia. The work planned for this coming year will contribute to this shared commitment.

Financial Summary

Departmental Expenses Summary (\$ thousands)

<u>Programs and Services</u>	<u>2023-2024 Estimate</u>	<u>2023-2024 Forecast</u>	<u>2024-2025 Estimate</u>
Administration	1,075	1,072	1,116
Policy	5,925	5,743	6,126
Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement	15,743	16,082	16,728
Sustainability and Applied Science	8,844	14,167	9,943
Climate Change	8,858	13,956	39,963
Total - Departmental Expenses	40,445	51,020	73,876
Ordinary Recoveries	185	5,277	1,201
<u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u>			
Department Funded Staff	305.5	290.4	302.8

Note:

For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2

For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1