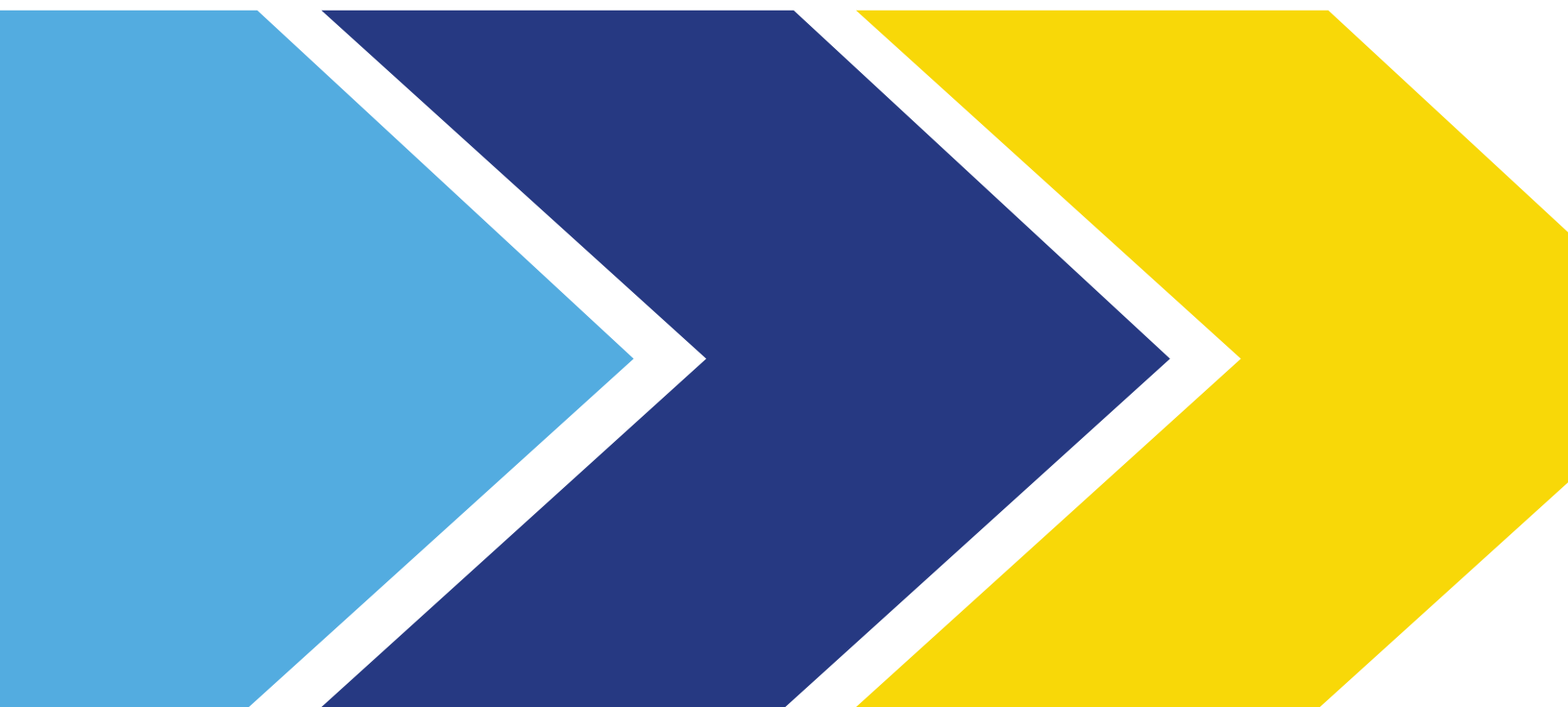


**BUSINESS  
PLAN**  
2022-23



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**Department of Environment and Climate Change  
2022-2023 Annual Plan**

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## Minister's Message

It's my pleasure to present the 2022-2023 Business Plan. As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am committed to delivering on our commitment of a healthier, cleaner, more sustainable Nova Scotia. Our goals are ambitious, and we are laying the foundation for that work in the year ahead while delivering on the core mandate of the department.

This year, the department will work with all government departments to begin implementing the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act. This Act legislates bold, yet attainable goals, and will serve as a road map to ensure that Nova Scotians have equitable access to a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment and sustainable prosperity. The department will lead a coordinated approach to planning and publicly reporting on our progress annually. Our cross-departmental work will include a new climate plan that will show how we can meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets and help the province prepare for climate change impacts.

We are researching and planning to modernize the environmental assessment process in 2024, to include consideration of cumulative impacts, diversity, equity and inclusion, independent review, Netukulimk, and climate change. We are also supporting the Government in the creation of a panel to address environmental racism.

The department's important work around land, water and coastal protection continues with the implementation of the Coastal Protection Act and our goal to protect 20 per cent of the province's total land and water mass.

We have significant work ahead and a committed, passionate team working together to deliver the 2022-2023 business plan and the actions required to meet our legislated environmental goals and targets.

I want to acknowledge the importance of the advice of the Minister's Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity in guiding our work. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration with the round table members and our partners and other departments on the issues important to Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,

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The Honourable Timothy Halman

(Original Signed by Minister)

## Department of Environment and Climate Change's Mandate

The Department of Environment and Climate Change has a mandate to protect the environment, human health, and the welfare of farm animals, and mitigate and adapt to climate change. Through legislation, regulation and enforcement, the department works to support a clean and healthy environment in Nova Scotia, advance a clean economy, addressing the climate crisis and guide the province towards a sustainable and clean future where all Nova Scotians can thrive.

### 2022-2023 Initiatives and Work

In 2022-2023, the Department of Environment and Climate Change will work on the following initiatives which contribute to its mandate.

#### Implementation of the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act*

The Department of Environment and Climate Change is responsible for working with all departments to establish implementation plans and demonstrate progress on the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act*.

In 2022-2023, this will include key deliverables on the following goals that the Department of Environment and Climate Change is directly responsible for:

- Complete and release the Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth
- Complete and release a Province-wide climate change risk assessment
- Support government's efforts to create a panel to address environmental racism
- Support progress toward protection of 20% of Nova Scotia's land and water through:
  - Increase the amount of protection for Nova Scotia's land and water by continuing to implement the 2013 *Parks and Protected Areas Plan* and initiating planning towards the new 20 percent protection goal
- Focus on waste reduction provincially, through efforts on:
  - Expanding extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper products, batteries, lighting and other electronics

In addition, the department will begin preliminary work on the other goals it is directly responsible for:

- Build climate change adaptive capacity and resilience within government departments
- Begin the research and planning to modernize the environmental assessment process, including consideration of cumulative impacts, diversity, equity and inclusion, independent review, Netukulimk, and climate change

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- Develop enhanced measures to protect water quality in communities, by developing provincial water quality objectives

### Advance Legislative and Regulatory Initiatives to Protect the Environment

The Department of Environment and Climate Change will continue to develop and advance legislative and regulatory initiatives including:

- Finalizing the regulations and proclaiming the Coastal Protection Act
- Development of tools (e.g., maps, training) to help with the implementation of the Coastal Protection Act
- Development of proposed Litterbug legislation
- Begin the research and planning to modernize the environmental assessment process, including consideration of cumulative impacts, diversity, equity and inclusion, independent review, Netukulimk, and climate change

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Financial Summary

<b>Environment and Climate Change Departmental Expenses Summary (\$ thousands)</b>			
<b><u>Programs and Services</u></b>	<b><u>2021-2022 Estimate</u></b>	<b><u>2021-2022 Forecast</u></b>	<b><u>2022-2023 Estimate</u></b>
Administration	1,039	1,022	984
Policy	6,145	5,952	6,215
Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement	23,418	24,944	16,398
Sustainability and Applied Science	11,605	12,433	12,446
Climate Change	2,172	1,774	1,858
<b>Total - Departmental Expenses</b>	<b><u>44,379</u></b>	<b><u>46,125</u></b>	<b><u>37,901</u></b>
<b>Ordinary Recoveries</b>	3,676	4,143	3,870
<b><u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u></b>			
<b>Department Funded Staff</b>	382.2	383.9	318.8