

N O V A S C O T I A ' S 2020 VISION

Nova Scotia aims to have one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world by 2020.

This commitment was adopted in the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, proclaimed in June 2007. The act sets out 21 far-reaching goals for the province, ranging from reduced air emissions and waste, to new energy standards for buildings and increased protection of our land and water. These goals are outlined below.

Ecosystem Protection

Protecting our most valuable assets—our natural environment

- Legally protect 12% of the total land mass of the province by 2015
- Adopt strategies to ensure the sustainability of forestry, mining, parks, and biodiversity by 2010
- Establish a policy to prevent net loss of wetlands by 2009

Air Emissions

Doing our part to fight climate change and improve the air we breathe

- Reduce GHG emissions to at least 10% below 1990 levels by 2020
- Adopt emissions standards for new vehicles by 2010
- Reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 20% (from 2000 levels) by 2009
- Reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 50% (from sources existing in 2001) by 2010
- Reduce mercury emissions by 70% (from 2001 levels) by 2010
- Meet the Canada-wide standard for airborne fine particulate matter by 2010
- Meet the Canada-wide standard for ground-level ozone (which contributes to smog) by 2010

Renewable Energy

Tapping into nature's source of energy

- Obtain 18.5% of Nova Scotia's total electricity needs from renewable sources by 2013

Water Quality

Restoring, preserving, and managing our precious water resources

- Develop a comprehensive water-resource management strategy by 2010
- Provide at least primary treatment to all wastewater treatment facility discharges by 2017
- Meet operating guidelines for all septage treatment facilities by 2011
- All municipal public drinking water supplies will meet the province's treatment standards by 2008

Contaminated Sites

Building our economy by renewing our land

- Develop regulatory tools to stimulate redevelopment of contaminated land by 2010

Solid Waste

Continuing to be an international leader in solid waste management

- Reduce Nova Scotia's solid waste disposal rate to no more than 300 kg/person per year (38% reduction from 2006 levels) by 2015

Sustainable Purchasing

Leading the way in the purchase of environmentally and socially responsible goods and services

- Develop and adopt a sustainable procurement policy for government departments by January 1, 2009

Energy-Efficient Buildings

Saving money and energy in our buildings at work, home, and play

- Require all new residential dwellings in the province to display an EnerGuide rating by 2008 (EnerGuide is a national energy efficiency rating, from 1 to 100. The higher the number, the higher the efficiency.)
- Require an EnerGuide rating of 80 on all new residential dwellings by 2011
- Construct a green-certified government building as a demonstration facility by 2015

Achieving the 2020 Vision

The province will be developing new strategies and policies to advance its 2020 Vision in co-operation with other levels of government, private industry, and the public. The Minister of Environment and Labour will report annually to the House of Assembly on progress made toward the goals.

Achieving the province's vision will require effort and commitment from all Nova Scotians. We are confident that we can live up to the challenge. The future prosperity of our economy and ecosystems depends on it.

This is an overview of the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. It is not intended to be a complete description and is not binding on the Crown. Please refer to the official version of the legislation, which is available online through the Nova Scotia Legislature website.