

# Nova Scotia's Sustainable Development Goals Act and Climate Change Plan

*PRESENTATION TO NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES*

**JUNE 29, 2021**

# Today's purpose

**Welcome, and thank you for joining us!**

Today's purpose is to:

- ▶ Go over the Sustainable Development Goals Act & Climate Plan engagement and how to submit your input
- ▶ Provide an opportunity to discuss and ask questions

# Housekeeping - Questions

- ▶ At any point during or after the presentation, if you have a question, you can:
  - ▶ Type your question into the zoom chat; or
  - ▶ Type a star \* into the zoom chat so that you can ask your question during the discussion at the end of the presentation

# Sustainable Development Goals Act

In October 2019, the Government of Nova Scotia passed the new *Sustainable Development Goals Act* (SDGA):

- ▶ aims to advance Nova Scotia's economic, social, and environmental wellbeing
- ▶ sets **two new goals to fight climate change**: 53 percent below 2005 greenhouse gas levels by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050
- ▶ more **sustainable development goals** to be set in regulations
- ▶ commits to a new **Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth** this year

# SDGA - Public Engagement Period

The Government of Nova Scotia has launched a public engagement on the SDGA for the period of **May 27 to July 26, 2021**.

- ▶ The public engagement and collection of input is being administered by the Clean Foundation ([www.cleanfuture.ca](http://www.cleanfuture.ca))
- ▶ Purpose of this this engagement:
  - ▶ What should be considered as **new sustainable development goals** for Nova Scotia?
  - ▶ What should be included in the new **Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth**?

# SDGA – Focus Areas

Focus areas under the SDGA are categorized as:

1. Leadership in sustainable prosperity
2. Cleaner energy
3. Climate change
4. Circular economy
5. Inclusive economy
6. Natural assets and biodiversity

## Area 1:

### Leadership in sustainable prosperity

Government can lead by developing policies and programs that consider both the environment and economy.

Some examples might be:

- ▶ requiring all government buildings to use 100% renewable power
- ▶ adding new concepts, like sustainable prosperity, into our school curriculums
- ▶ growing sustainable procurement to ensure its inclusive and better for the environment
- ▶ working to ensure that no one is left behind in the move to a clean and sustainable Nova Scotia

## Area 2:

# Supporting the transition to cleaner energy

Moving to a net-zero Nova Scotia will mean shifts in how we make energy, where we live, and how we travel.

Some examples might be:

- ▶ making electricity without any greenhouse gas emissions, with sources like wind and solar
- ▶ changing the buildings where we live and work to be more energy efficient and heated with heat pumps or other green heat sources
- ▶ using public transit, walking, biking, or driving electric vehicles to get around

## Area 3:

# Climate change mitigation and adaptation

We have the resources and know-how to prepare for the impacts of climate change and thrive in a zero-carbon future.

Preparing for climate change can mean:

- ▶ meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2030 and 2050
- ▶ preparing for climate change, by understanding the risks and opportunities
- ▶ creating new opportunities in the clean economy, such as encouraging innovation and supporting green businesses
- ▶ working together with municipalities, youth, other levels of government

## Area 4:

### Conditions supporting a circular economy

A circular economy means that we use products for as long as possible. The purpose is to eliminate waste and pollution while also reducing the use of our natural resources.

We can all create a circular economy. This can mean:

- ▶ reducing waste, such as repairing a used bicycle instead of buying a new one
- ▶ expanding extended producer responsibility for more products, similar to what we already do for paint, electronics, and used oil
- ▶ Coordinating efforts across the province to reduce environmental impacts, encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, and create more local jobs
- ▶ supporting researchers and students to develop new ideas for a circular economy

## Area 5: Inclusive economy

An inclusive economy is one where all Nova Scotians have a chance to build a good life, no matter what our ability, geography, gender, race, or income is. No one is left behind.

Creating an inclusive economy can mean:

- ▶ having accessible digital services, like internet across all parts of the province
- ▶ supporting worker retraining and the greening of businesses in order to create sustainable job opportunities
- ▶ improving food security to make sure that everyone has access to healthy food

## Area 6: Conservation and sustainable use of natural assets and support for biodiversity

We need clean air for our health, and clean water for our people and ecosystems to thrive. We must protect our natural assets so they can support us now, and for years to come.

This can mean:

- ▶ using our forests and resources in a sustainable way, such as through ecological forestry
- ▶ supporting protected areas which are important for our soil, watersheds, and mental health
- ▶ protecting biodiversity, meaning the number of plants and animals in an ecosystem
- ▶ ensuring that we have clean air and clean water
- ▶ using natural solutions to address our changing climate

# How can you submit your feedback?

Written input can be submitted through:

- ▶ **Clean Foundation** online at [www.cleanfuture.ca](http://www.cleanfuture.ca), by mail to 126 Portland Street, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2H8, or leave a message at 1-877-616-2247 until July 26, 2021.
- ▶ **ECC Policy & Climate Change divisions** at [Policy1@novascotia.ca](mailto:Policy1@novascotia.ca)

Municipalities that are interested in having a discussion with the ECC Policy or Climate Change divisions are encouraged to get in touch. Please contact Brittany White at [Brittany.White@novascotia.ca](mailto:Brittany.White@novascotia.ca).

# Discussion / Questions

- ▶ What priorities and issues are top of mind for your municipality?
- ▶ What sustainable development and/or climate change issues are top of mind for your municipality?
- ▶ What provincial action, support would help your municipality in working towards these priorities?