Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act

Annual Progress Report 2008

NOVA SCOTIA

Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act

Annual Progress Report 2008

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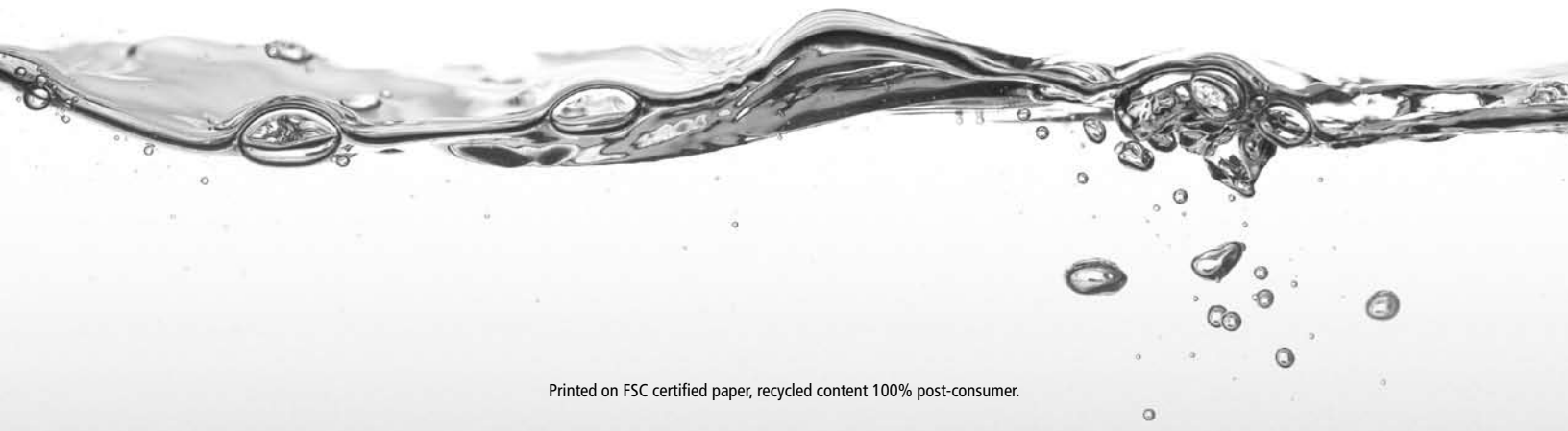

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Message from the Premier

As we approach the first year anniversary of Nova Scotia's sustainable prosperity legislation, I am very proud to present this report on progress to date.

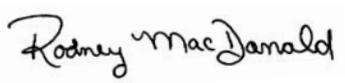
The *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* integrates the health of the environment, the economy, and the people of Nova Scotia. This Act became law with the full support of all political parties. This is a testament to the importance, and broad support for this integrated approach. It moves forward our vision of a New Nova Scotia – a sustainable Nova Scotia.

The Act's objectives are very ambitious – to become a world leader by having one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments by 2020. All this, while achieving economic performance equal to or greater than the national average. I believe Nova Scotians are up for this challenge. Not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because missed opportunities now will lead to future challenges that will be costly to our province in so many ways.

The Act offers clear goals, with measurable targets to keep things on track. A concerted effort from all sectors – governments, businesses, organizations and citizens, is needed to achieve these goals. We are working to nurture partnerships and together, build momentum and continue to make progress.

This report provides a snap-shot – where we are now, and where we plan to go to reach our objectives. Each year we will reassess what is working and, together with our partners, including the Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity, make adjustments to reach our goals.

We are not alone in this challenge. The world is rallying around the need for clear and definitive action on the environment front to sustain our economy and our quality of life. We must be part of the solution – our creativity, resourcefulness and innovation will guide us. We must harness these characteristics and deliver on the challenges ahead.



Rodney MacDonald
Premier of Nova Scotia

Message from the Minister of Environment

Nova Scotia has been known for a long time for its natural beauty and vitality. As Nova Scotians we take pride in this province which we are fortunate enough to call home. We embrace the responsibility to care for it in the midst of the economic, social, and environmental challenges ahead.

That is why, in June 2007, the Nova Scotia government proclaimed a historic piece of legislation, the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*. This act is unique because it sets out, in law, government's belief that the health of the environment, the economy, and people, are interconnected. Our economy needs commodities which we take from the ground, extract from the air, or draw from our waterways. Our people need safe food, healthy water, and clean air. Our quality of life flows directly from the environment.

We have been working across all departments to put plans in place to help us achieve our goals. Our hard work is evident in the many successes we have celebrated over the last year. In 2007, we began consulting with Nova Scotians on the development of a climate change action plan which will be released later this year to help reach our greenhouse gas reduction targets.

We also began work to help develop a comprehensive water resources management strategy to help ensure the protection and sustainability of our water resources. That strategy will be in place by 2010.

The *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* commits the province to legally protecting 12 per cent of Nova Scotia's land base by 2015. With our conservation partners' help, we are making very good progress. In the last year and half, many new protected areas have been announced. By the end of 2008, Nova Scotia will have designated over 26,000 hectares of protected lands.

The next year will hold new challenges as work continues toward meeting our targets. We cannot do it alone. Businesses, community organizations, and individual Nova Scotians play a role in helping us create one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world and a thriving, competitive economy by 2020.

In 2008, we will be working to spread this message across the province in an education campaign aimed at improving awareness about the challenges we face and about the steps we can all take to meet them head on.

This first annual report on our progress toward achieving our vision was prepared with the valuable advice of a group of stakeholders, the Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity. Government will continue to solicit input from the Round Table on our success level in meeting our targets, and on new targets we should be setting.

I encourage you to read the report and think about what you can do to help us achieve our goals.

Mark Parent

Mark Parent
Minister of Environment

Introduction

Nova Scotia is one of only a few provinces in Canada that has established ambitious environmental and sustainability goals directly in law. In the spring of 2007, the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA)* was unanimously passed by all political parties in the Nova Scotia Legislature. The Act clearly recognizes the benefits of integrating environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

EGSPA sets Nova Scotia on a course to be a world leader by having one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments by 2020. It brings together key government objectives to improve air, land and water quality and to address climate change.

The goals outlined in the Act are high-reaching, complete with measurable targets and deadlines to achieve them over the next thirteen years. Strategic decisions now will better position Nova Scotia to meet the challenges that lie ahead, such as securing our energy future, mitigating climate change and growing the economy while protecting environmental and human health.

This document is the first in a series of annual reports on EGSPA. It provides the baseline from which to measure our progress over the next twelve years. The following sections give an overview of each of the goals in the Act – where we are now, where we want to go and how we plan to get there.

The appendix (page 36) **contains a brief snapshot of our goals, progress and plans.**

The Sustainability Context

As we move further into the 21st Century, the only thing that is certain is change. We are living in a global economy with rising economic powers such as China and India competing for market share. Our companies must be flexible and quick to adapt to this changing global marketplace. We also are facing challenges here at home. Our population is aging, families are having fewer children and we are losing some of our skilled workforce to other parts of Canada and the world. As Nova Scotians, we must work together, be productive and build on our strengths and make the appropriate investments if we are to compete and be prosperous.

Over time we have learned that prosperity at the expense of all else is not the answer. The environmental devastation of the Sydney Tar Ponds is a stark reminder of this lesson. The provincial government has a new way of thinking about prosperity and it's a three-fold approach. Rather than just recognizing the importance of economic growth, this new vision sees true prosperity as a combination of the people, the economy, and the environment of our province, all thriving in a way that ensures quality of life for current and future generations.

Our economic growth strategy – *Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity* (OfSP) – and our new framework for social policy called *Weaving the Threads* are both over-arching strategies that lay out a map for the years ahead. They acknowledge that social well being, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability are all dependent on each other.

We plan to grow the economy and at the same time care for our people and protect our environment. We believe that human health and environmental health both contribute to economic wealth. Sustainable prosperity is the goal, and with the help of all sectors of our province, including committed citizens, we are working diligently to achieve it.

The implementation of the economic growth strategy, in coordination with achieving the goals in EGSPA, will help us reach the overall objectives of having a clean and sustainable environment and economic performance equal to or above the Canadian average.

As knowledge about our environment and the complexities and interdependencies of natural systems rise, so do expectations that we will manage and protect them for the long term. EGSPA complements our economic growth strategy by setting the environmental standards needed to become a sustainable province. This is much bigger than the mandate of one department, one government or one sector. By coming together we will make progress towards a sustainable Nova Scotia.

Staying on Track

With the passing of this historic Act, the Nova Scotia government sent a strong signal that sustainable prosperity is the way of our future. We must now demonstrate this commitment with action. The Deputy Ministers Forum on Sustainable Prosperity, and the departments it represents are accountable for progress on each of the 23 goals in the Act. This group of 12 deputy ministers, co-chaired by the deputy ministers of Environment and Economic Development, meets regularly to provide guidance and direction on implementation. The Forum advises Cabinet on specific actions that will help to deliver the commitments outlined in the Act.

In late 2006, amendments to the *Environment Act* established the Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity. This external group of representatives from business, academia and non-government organizations provides advice to the government on broad issues of sustainability. The combined knowledge, experience and perspectives of its members will help us move forward with the implementation of EGSPA. The members of the Round Table will contribute to informed decision-making on environmental policy, priorities and goals that affect both the well-being of Nova Scotians and the future prosperity of the province.

By law, the government must table an EGSPA progress report each year in the Legislature. The Round Table is responsible for coordinating a comprehensive public review of the Act every five years. This review process will help to keep the Act up to date and responsive to changes in priorities and new or emerging issues.

Delivering on the Goals

The following sections provide an overview and an action plan for each of the goals in the Act as we approach 2020. In some instances, there has already been significant progress to report. In others, we are still in the preliminary planning stages. This first report will form the baseline from which to gauge progress. Where possible we have included indicators that will be tracked over time. Future annual reports will provide updates to the material presented here.

In order to bring the Act to life and make this vision a reality, change at every level of society is going to be necessary. Government, industry, small business and citizens will need to work together. We are confident that Nova Scotians care deeply for our environment and our economy and they are up for this challenge.

Government leading by example

Managing the environment and economy for the future prosperity of the province is a shared responsibility. Governments, businesses, organizations and citizens all have a part to play. As the government for Nova Scotia, and one of the largest employers in our province, our daily activities have a huge impact on the environment. We're re-thinking the way we do many things, from the type of paper we use to the type of buildings we erect. We must get our own house in order before we can expect others to do the same. That is why we are taking a leadership role in minimizing our own footprint. Our hope is that this will inspire others.

We recognize that improving energy efficiency and reducing the impact that our activities have on the environment can be expensive in the short term. Over time, however, these investments will save both environmental and economic costs. We're committed to making this a priority and that's why we've allocated $4.15 million of our province's "Eco Trust for Cleaner Air and Climate Change" towards reducing our environmental footprint. This money will be used to fund specific green projects and initiatives over the next few years.

Eco Trust for Cleaner Air and Climate Change

In 2007, the Government of Canada gave Nova Scotia $42.5 million to support projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution in our province. The Eco Trust for Clean Air and Climate Change aims to fund many different initiatives including tidal power, natural gas conversion at Capital Health, and research into carbon sequestration.

For more information visit:
www.gov.ns.ca/ecotrust

The Power of Green

The first Power of Green conference, held in September 2007, advanced thought and discussion on building sustainable prosperity in Nova Scotia. The event brought together 250 policy-makers, business leaders and community members, along with experts from North America and beyond, to discuss policy approaches and best practices. The conference was an opportunity to explore the government's new economic growth strategy that embraces the concept of growing and renewing by eliminating waste and encouraging diversity and creativity. Planning for a second conference in 2008 is underway.

For more information visit:
www.thepowerofgreen.ca

Sustainable Procurement

One of government's largest activities is procurement. Currently, government spends more than $804 million on goods, services and construction each year. This annual consumption represents an opportunity to make more conscious choices around purchases that will lead to greater sustainability and support for our local economy. It's also an opportunity for local businesses and suppliers to step up to the plate and offer government the types of products and services that are consistent with our vision of sustainability.

Pollution Prevention

If you're a small or medium-sized business owner, you should know that waste and pollution not only affect the environment – they also cost you money. By preventing pollution, the environment is better protected and typically business liabilities are reduced, enhancing productivity and competitiveness. Government has designed a Pollution Prevention Workbook for businesses in Nova Scotia. It includes ideas about conserving water and energy, "green" purchasing, efficient use of raw materials, replacing hazardous products and modifying processes to reduce waste and pollution.

For more information visit: **www.gov.ns.ca/nse/pollutionprevention**

One example of progress in the procurement area is the government's new *Green Vehicle Procurement Policy*, brought into effect in September 2007. The transportation sector currently accounts for nearly 30 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in Nova Scotia. With a fleet of over 2,300 vehicles, the province is choosing to reduce its contribution to global warming by purchasing fuel efficient and environmentally responsible vehicles. These considerations will apply to leases and rentals as well. Only vehicles that score in the top 20 per cent of their class for fuel efficiency are eligible for consideration.

Green Vehicle Procurement Policy

For more information on the Green Vehicle Policy:
www.gov.ns.ca/tpb/manuals/PDF/300/30702-03.pdf

This commitment to buy greener vehicles is just the beginning. Government has set a goal in EGSPA that promises:

» ***4(2)(q) a sustainable procurement policy for the Province will be developed and adopted by the year 2009***

Government is committed to purchasing goods, services and construction in a manner that integrates environmental considerations, economic costs and societal implications. With the implementation of this new and improved procurement policy, sustainability will be integrated into the way government does business.

Nova Scotia Economic Development, with support from other departments, is leading the development and implementation of this policy. The policy is currently being drafted by an interdepartmental committee. The committee is also working on supplier and stakeholder outreach and will broaden this consultation to hear from the public in the summer of 2008. It is expected the policy will be finalized by the end of 2008 and implementation will begin in 2009.

Sustainable Buildings

The decisions that are made when a building is designed and constructed have lasting impacts on its energy efficiency and therefore on the environment. In the past, more emphasis was put on minimizing the up-front cost of a building, rather than considering the costs, both financial and environmental, incurred over the life of the building.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) is responsible for both the construction and management of most government buildings. Since the introduction of the *Nova Scotia Energy Strategy* in 2001, TIR has been making investments in the energy efficiency of its new and existing buildings.

More recently, TIR has taken steps to incorporate sustainable environmental design and construction practices into most new construction projects by adopting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. The first LEED design commitment was made in 2004/2005 and since then, 18 of 20 new construction projects have targeted LEED certification as a goal. LEED certification is still pending on these projects.

LEED Rating System

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is an international standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. It is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. LEED provides building owners and operators with the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

For more information visit: **www.cagbc.org**

Older government buildings present a huge challenge. These facilities are often in need of significant repairs due to underfunding, the result of a infrastructure deficit. With these buildings, the need to address failed building systems and immediate problems takes priority over investing in improvements to the overall performance of the building. But progress is being made. Retrofits, natural gas conversions, utilization of alternate energy sources and recycling have been instituted at specific sites. Environmental Management Systems are in place and other programs like BOMA Go Green are under active consideration. Even building demolition is being approached with sustainability in mind. There is an increased emphasis on the recycling and reuse of building materials to divert waste from the landfill.

Public infrastructure should lead the way and demonstrate what is both possible and practical in terms of energy performance and environmental impacts. Fortunately, new infrastructure is built to higher standards than in the past and operating efficiency is a central consideration. In the last eight years, 26 of 30 new TIR building projects met the eligibility requirements of the Commercial Building Incentive Program (CBIP). This program requires the building design to be at least 25 per cent more efficient than a building constructed to meet the Canada-wide minimum requirements for energy efficiency in new buildings (the Model National Energy Code for Buildings).

The government wants to take green buildings one step further by committing to the following in EGSPA:

» ***4(2)(t) a government facility will be constructed as a demonstration facility in accordance with a leading standard for building energy efficiency and sustainability, such as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standard by the year 2015***

The intent of this goal is to design and build a facility that exceeds the sustainability of all existing government buildings in Nova Scotia. Considering current leading standards and recognizing that new standards may evolve, LEED Gold will be the target. This building is currently in the preliminary site selection phase. It is anticipated that this green government facility will be powered in part by renewable energy, will utilize water conservation techniques and will serve as a model for high energy efficiency and sustainability for all subsequent buildings.

Greener Schools

A $123 million capital investment program funded by the Province of Nova Scotia has renewed Nova Scotia Community College infrastructure around the province and funded the environmentally sustainable Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth. The building, which opened its doors in September 2007, was designed using whole-building "green" design practices. Windows and walls are thermally efficient, the lights are motion sensitive, and 98 per cent of construction materials were recycled. This new NSCC campus will be formally recognized for providing environmental leadership in sustainable building design by receiving a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver designation.

Green Market

The Nova Scotia Government is making a commitment to healthy food, healthy living and a healthy building. In June 2007 it was announced that the Province is providing $2.25 million towards an eco-friendly Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market. The new building, next to Pier 21 on the waterfront, will be powered by small wind turbines, heated by solar panels and cooled by the ocean's breezes. It will have a green roof where farmers will be able to grow produce. These environmentally friendly measures are expected to reduce energy consumption by 85 per cent. Once completed, it will house North America's oldest Farmers' Market and will provide year-around opportunities for Nova Scotia producers to sell their products daily, weekly or seasonally, and fill the growing demand for fresh local food.

Water

Water is the life blood of our planet. It is essential for both human health and economic growth and prosperity. A century ago, the average Canadian life expectancy was approximately 50 years. Today it is closer to 80 years, thanks in part to continuous improvements in drinking water and sanitation.

Clean drinking water is critical to making our province a safe and healthy place to live, work and visit. Individuals, small businesses and industry all need access to an abundant and sustainable supply of clean water.

Water is also critical to biodiversity. Aquatic systems are home to a diverse range of plants, fish and insects. By keeping our water clean, we keep the land and the wildlife that depend on it healthy as well.

Water Resource Management

With over 7000 kilometres of coastline, and more than 6000 lakes and rivers, water is a valued part of Nova Scotia's heritage as a basic necessity, as well as for aesthetic and recreational reasons. The public is increasingly aware that the water resources of the world are limited and vulnerable to changes in climate and rising demands for its use. The Nova Scotia Government believes that a comprehensive strategy is needed to manage competing demands for water and to protect the quality and availability of water resources for generations to come.

The government is currently committing to the following in EGSPA:

» ***4(2)(k) a comprehensive water resources management strategy will be developed by the year 2010***

The need for a water resources management strategy was included in the *Environment Act* (1995). One of the first steps taken towards this goal was the *Drinking Water Strategy for Nova Scotia*, released in 2002. All of the deliverables in this action plan, including operator training, public outreach information, and compliance monitoring for public drinking water systems, were achieved by 2005.

The work to develop this new comprehensive water resources management strategy is being led by a cross-governmental committee. Representatives from various departments across government with a stake in water resource management wrapped up meetings with targeted stakeholders in the summer of 2007.

A discussion paper was written to inform the broad public consultations taking place between January and June 2008. Once consultations are complete, government will review its own programs and policies and begin drafting the strategy. A further consultation will be held in 2009 before final approval and strategy implementation.

Drinking Water Quality

Approximately 40 per cent of Nova Scotians obtain their drinking water from a private source while the remaining 60 per cent are serviced by a municipal drinking water supply. There are also approximately 1600 registered public drinking water supplies (mostly wells) that provide water to establishments such as schools, restaurants or campgrounds. Although Canadian drinking water is among the best in the world, it is necessary to ensure its safety by completing regular testing.

Nova Scotia has a long track record of leadership when it comes to protecting drinking water sources. The *Drinking Water Strategy* of 2002 led to various improvements in the quality of our drinking water by strengthening government programs and regulations, upgrading many of the municipal water treatment facilities in the province and increasing the protection of municipal water sources.

The government is currently reinforcing its commitment to improved drinking water quality by setting this EGSPA goal:

» ***4 (2)(j) municipal public drinking-water supplies will meet the Province's treatment standards by the year 2008***

In the last six years, government has been working with municipalities to help build the necessary infrastructure and capacity to meet this goal. By the end of 2008, the majority of municipalities will have drinking water supplies that meet the Province's treatment standards. These new standards have been put in place to ensure the continued safety of our drinking water. Those still needing to address any remaining requirements (approximately twenty-five per cent) will have plans outlining their work towards full compliance.

Wastewater and Septage Treatment

Proper wastewater collection and treatment is an essential part of maintaining human and environmental health. Without it, bacteria and chemical substances can compromise our inland and coastal waters and our drinking water can become contaminated. In Nova Scotia each summer, beaches are closed to recreational activities and shellfish harvesting, mainly due to untreated sewage discharge and malfunctioning septic systems. This situation can have a negative impact on tourism.

Government made two commitments to wastewater and septage management in EGSPA:

» *4 (2)*
(l) ***wastewater treatment facility discharges will be provided at least primary treatment by the year 2017***

Nova Scotia is participating in the development of a Canada-wide strategy for the management of municipal wastewater effluent, requiring that all municipal wastewater facilities meet new treatment standards over the next 10-30 years. It is expected that all facilities in Nova Scotia will have at least primary treatment in place by 2017.

(p) ***septage treatment facilities will be operated in accordance with the Guidelines for the Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Septage by the year 2011***

In 2005, the Department of Environment and Labour established new guidelines for septage management. The *Guidelines for the Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Septage* set out new requirements for all septage facilities in the province. The government also established the Septage Assistance Program which allows facility operators to apply for 50 per cent cost sharing from the government to upgrade their facilities to meet the new requirements.

Environmental Home Assessment Program

Did you know that over 400,000 Nova Scotians depend on private wells and on-site septic systems? The Environmental Home Assessment Program is designed to inform Nova Scotians about the importance of maintaining their on-site water wells and septic system, as well as their home oil tank. The program, which began in February 2006, offers home assessments to hundreds of individual homes served by water wells and on-site septic systems. Homeowners who participate will also receive a rebate on septic tank pumping, a water quality sampling kit, water saving devices and environmentally friendly cleaners. Grants for repair of failed septic systems are also available for qualifying homeowners. To date, 1400 home assessments have been completed and 271 Nova Scotians have received grants to help with septic system repair.

Wetlands Management

Wetlands are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. They provide a diverse natural habitat for wildlife and act as natural filters, removing pollutants from the environment. Wetlands are also very important flood barriers and can help to control erosion.

Wetlands are of particular concern in managing Nova Scotia's land and water resources. It is estimated that 17 per cent of Nova Scotia's fresh water wetlands and 62 per cent of the saltwater wetlands have disappeared since colonization. Government is taking steps to minimize future loss of wetlands in Nova Scotia.

EGSPA's goal concerning wetlands reads:

» *4(2)(n)* ***a policy of preventing net loss of wetlands will be established by the year 2009***

We recognize how important wetlands are to our environment and that's why we've taken this approach. Preventing net loss of wetlands, however, does not mean that development will be completely disallowed. It means that government will strive to prevent the loss of habitat, area and function resulting from development and when it is not possible, will mandate replacement of those items on a project-by-project basis.

In 2006, government established new procedures for assessing projects, such as new construction, forestry and mining that impact wetlands. Amendments to the *Environment Act* that same year clarified various departments' responsibilities.

As development of the new policy begins, broad consultations with government, stakeholders and the public are taking place within the water resources management strategy consultations between January and June 2008. Once this consultation is complete, a cross-governmental committee will guide the development of the policy through 2008. The draft policy will be reviewed publicly in 2009 before final approval later that year.

Coastal Management Framework

In the November 2007 Speech From the Throne, the government recognized the importance of coastal areas to our economy, our environment and our heritage by committing to establish a Coastal Management Framework within two years. This Framework will be the first of its kind in Canada, and will ensure a more coordinated and strategic approach to coastal management in Nova Scotia. Under the Framework, the government will accelerate action on priority coastal issues such as sea-level rise, public access, working waterfronts, and coastal water quality, and will work with the public to ensure sustainable development of our coastal areas and resources.

Natural Resources

Although a relatively small province, Nova Scotia has many diverse landscapes and habitats. In one day, a person can take in the highlands of Cape Breton, paddle an inland lake, hike through some of our 4 million hectares of forest or relax on a sandy beach.

The land is not only there for us to aesthetically enjoy. Our traditional industries, such as forestry, fishing, mining and farming, rely on the renewable and non-renewable natural resources of our province. To ensure a quality of life that supports future generations of Nova Scotians, it is important to recognize the economic benefits provided by our environment and sustainably manage our natural resources.

Environmental Assessments

Environmental Assessment (EA) is a decision-making tool used to evaluate the potential environmental and socio-economic effects of major developments before they proceed. This is accomplished by involving the public, along with various government departments and agencies, during the environmental assessment process. Categories of projects that require environmental assessments include those related to industrial facilities, mining, transportation, energy and waste management, as well as those that threaten to disrupt wetlands.

Natural Resource Strategy

The Nova Scotia Government is working to maintain an appropriate balance between economic and environmental well-being. To this end, we must ensure that our natural resource use is environmentally responsible, in addition to providing a substantial contribution to provincial prosperity, particularly in rural areas.

To address these challenges, we are developing a new strategy to manage the natural resources of our province. EGSPA includes a commitment that:

» *(u)* ***the Province will adopt strategies to ensure the sustainability of the province's natural capital in the areas of forestry, mining, parks and biodiversity by the year 2010.***

The new strategy will provide guidance and direction for the next decade on the management of some of our most important natural assets. The outcome of the strategy will have a noticeable and lasting positive impact on Nova Scotians, with improvements in the economic, environmental, social, heritage and recreational conditions of the province. The strategy will include four key components: forests, minerals, parks and biodiversity.

The first phase of the strategy development, coordinated by Voluntary Planning – Nova Scotia's citizens' policy forum – includes public consultations to determine public values with regard to natural resources. A final report will be provided by December 2008 and will provide the foundation for strategy development.

In phase two (2009), a panel of independent experts will use the report from the public consultations to conduct additional research and analysis, consult further with stakeholders, and prepare a report and recommendations.

The Department of Natural Resources will develop a long-term natural resource strategy in phase three (2010) building on the information gathered in phases one and two.

Legally Protected Land

Government recognizes the importance of protecting ecologically significant portions of our landscape. This requires key investments to enable present and future generations to continue to enjoy the beauty of our province. Nova Scotia has more than eight per cent of our land currently legally protected – a big accomplishment when nearly three-quarters of our land is privately owned. We are leaders in this field with our province having the highest percentage of Crown protected land in Canada.

The government has set an even more ambitious target in EGSPA:

» *4(2)(a)* ***twelve per cent of the total land mass of the Province will be legally protected by the year 2015***

With over 70 per cent of land in Nova Scotia in private ownership, and many competing demands for the use of Crown land, there will be significant challenges in meeting this target. Overcoming these challenges requires the ongoing commitment of government and a range of partners, including large landowners, the resource industry, environmental advocates and conservation organizations. It also means creating a process to select future protected areas that is based on sound science and considers the rights and interests of landowners, stakeholders and the public.

In 2005, Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (now Nova Scotia Environment) and the Department of Natural Resources approved a planning and consultation process for land protection. This process includes providing technical expertise and support to the Colin Stewart Forest Forum, a partnership between the province's major forestry companies and environmental non-government groups, to identify the highest value lands for protection in the province. Once this early work is complete, government will fully consult with affected rights holders, stakeholders and the public in working towards a protected areas plan.

Government has significantly expanded the protected areas network over the last few years. The following new government actions will increase the amount of land protected in Nova Scotia from 8.2 per cent to 8.7 per cent:

- Acquired 10,000 hectares of land from Bowater Mersey in March 2007 and committed to create 30 new protected areas designated as nature reserves, wilderness areas and provincial park reserves by December 2008
- Announced in October 2007 that Crown lands between Kearney Lake and Timberlea (HRM) will be designated as Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area by Fall 2008
- Established Ship Harbour Long Lake candidate wilderness area (HRM) in December 2007, to be designated by December 2008

Government also continues to work with important non-governmental partners such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to acquire ecologically significant lands.

Contaminated Land Redevelopment

Hazardous substances are all around us and take many forms – from industrial chemicals, to the fuels that power our vehicles and heat our homes, to household maintenance products. Spills or releases into the environment can occur over time and contaminate our soil, water and air.

Nova Scotia has some of the most beautiful scenery in the world, but urbanization and industrial activities have often damaged local properties. These "brownfield" sites offer potential opportunities for future growth and redevelopment, once the contamination is addressed. Re-using sites restores reasonable urban density and defers development of our remaining natural assets.

Sydney Tar Ponds

The Sydney Tar Ponds are one of the most notorious contaminated sites in Canada, and a grave reminder of how critical it is that we now consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of decisions before they are made. One hundred years of steel and coke production in Sydney have left more than a million tonnes of contaminated soil and sediment. After millions of dollars in studies, more than 900 public meetings, exhaustive technology reviews, extensive environmental assessment and one failed cleanup attempt, the new environmental cleanup project is finally underway. It is estimated the project will take eight years and $400 million to complete.

A report by the National Roundtable on the Environment and Economy, published in 2003, made specific recommendations with regard to the redevelopment of contaminated land and the regulatory changes needed across Canada. Government has incorporated some of these recommendations into the recent *Environment Act* amendments. We have also made a commitment in EGSPA that:

» ***4(2)(m) regulatory tools that use the framework within the Environment Act to stimulate redevelopment of contaminated land and contribute to economic development while protecting the environment will be developed by the year 2010***

These new regulations will help to minimize the confusion around contaminated site liability. They will provide a process and a sense of certainty for owners and developers of contaminated sites, as well as those who may be affected by them.

The Nova Scotia Law Reform Commission is currently examining the issues associated with contaminated site management with a focus on liability and will provide a report to the Minister of Environment in 2009. There will be significant targeted stakeholder consultation in 2008 followed by general public engagement throughout 2009. The regulatory tools will be developed throughout 2009 and 2010.

Solid Waste-Resource Management

Nova Scotians have been diverting waste from landfills for over a decade. The province's world renowned Solid Waste-Resource Management (SWRM) Strategy of 1995 resulted in the diversion of 50 per cent of our garbage by 2000 - just five short years after its introduction.

SWRM Strategy

The 1995 Solid Waste-Resource Management Strategy is a great example of how going green can boost economic performance. Not only did the strategy result in the creation of 1200 new jobs, but in 2004, GPI Atlantic estimated that our system actually saves Nova Scotians more than $32 million per year.

In the early 1970s, there were more than 100 dumps operating, most of which employed open burning as a means of disposal. These open burning sites used little or no pollution control measures and resulted in emissions of air pollutants. In 1996, one year after the SWRM Strategy came into effect, the Department of the Environment banned open burning as a means of disposal and all existing sites were shut down. Government then went even further and to date has banned 17 materials from disposal including food waste (organics), newsprint, cardboard, beverage containers, most plastic, metal and glass containers, used tires and used paint. In February 2008, TV's, computers and printers were added to the list.

Today, we have just seven landfill sites across the province. These landfill sites feature double-lined cells with plastic and soil liner systems and state-of-the-art management. The government also requires landfills to collect and treat the leachate. These new regulations help to protect our environment and our health from the types of pollution released by landfills in the past.

The government recognizes that although we've had enormous success with waste diversion, it's not time to rest on our laurels. In fact, our solid waste resource analysts have noted that the provincial solid waste diversion rate has actually decreased by a few percentage points in the past few years.

This is attributed to a number of factors. Disposal tonnages have been increasing at one per cent each year in western industrialized nations since the mid-1980s. Combine this with the fact that there are more disposable products available and the emerging culture of buying new, rather than repairing. Another province-specific factor is an increase in construction and demolition waste due to our growing economy.

It's important to note that regardless of the fluctuations in the diversion rate, Nova Scotians are reducing, recycling and composting a substantial amount of solid waste. Over 330,000 tonnes of solid waste is being diverted from disposal every year in Nova Scotia.

The government has decided to use a more accurate method of measuring solid waste diversion and has switched to measuring disposal by kilograms per person per year. We've also set a new and more aggressive target to reaffirm our reputation as world leaders in this area.

According to Statistics Canada's most recent data, the disposal rate in the province is approximately 427 kilograms per person annually. This is nearly 50 per cent lower than the Canadian average. We recognize that Nova Scotians are capable of doing better and to that end, EGSPA commits to the following:

» ***4(2)(o) the solid-waste disposal rate will be no greater than three hundred kilograms per person per year by the year 2015 through measures that include the development of new programs and product stewardship regulations***

This target was originally set in amendments to the *Environment Act* in 2006. A disposal rate of 300 kilograms per person per year represents an approximate 30 per cent decrease from our current rate. Achieving this target will be challenging, but based on our past successes, we are confident that Nova Scotians will succeed.

The Province is working hard to develop a framework to meet the new disposal target outlined in EGSPA. The framework will focus on areas such as product stewardship, research and development, best management practices, education and awareness. The framework will be developed with input from stakeholders and will consider ongoing solid waste-resource management successes and challenges.

Nova Scotia has shown leadership in solid waste management. We were the first, and to date, the only province in Canada to divert 50 per cent of our solid waste. Setting out a clear path forward will ensure that Nova Scotia continues to be a national and international leader in waste-resource management.

Climate Change

The temperature of the earth is rising. Our sea levels are rising. Extreme weather conditions are becoming more common. The debate is over. More than one thousand of the most distinguished international scientists agree: warming of the climate system is unequivocal and human activity is to blame.

Not only is climate change real – it is accelerating. The warmest global temperatures recorded since 1850 occurred in eleven out of the last twelve years. These temperatures are projected to increase. Glaciers and ice caps are melting, droughts are becoming more frequent, storms are stronger and more frequent floods and heat waves are occurring. These and other early warning signs vary by region – and they will affect everyone differently.

Here in Nova Scotia, we are vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge and erosion along the coast. We will experience heavy and erratic rainfall, droughts and flooding. Storms are also expected to increase in severity. Buildings, homes, roads and other landmark infrastructure are at risk of damage or complete deterioration – particularly in low-lying coastal areas. Interruptions in electricity and communications are at risk of increasing, as are health care costs from injuries and deaths relating to severe weather events.

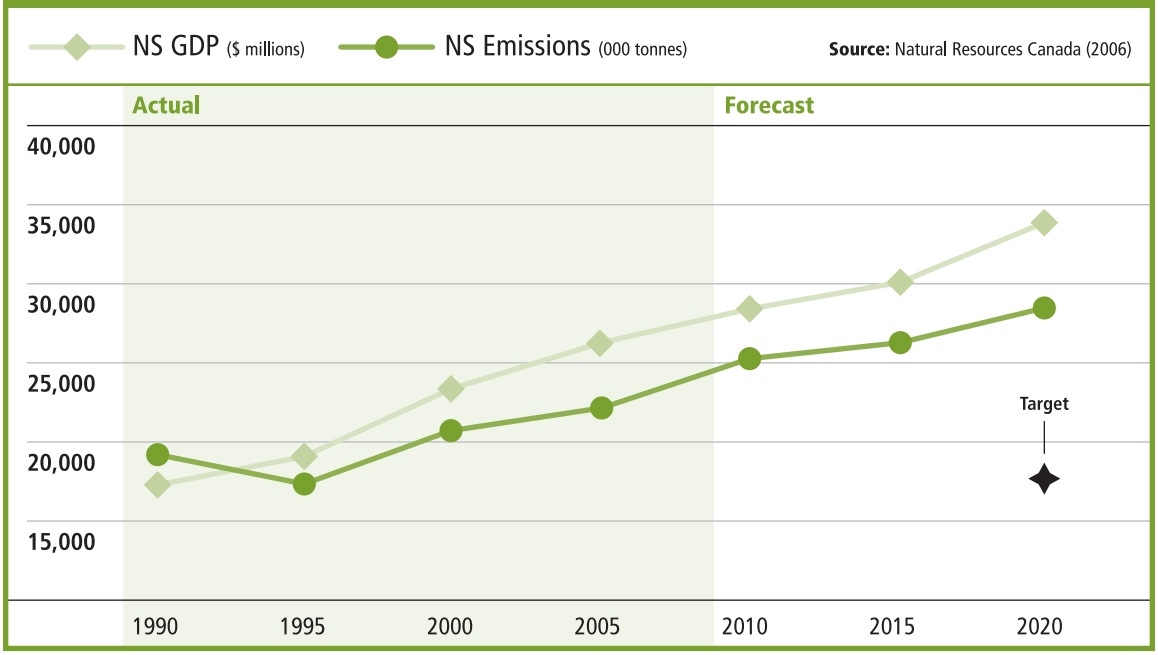
The natural landscape around us will alter and with it, some of the flora and fauna that is unique to our region. Fresh water, food and fish resources could all be at risk, which would inevitably affect not only our own quality of life, but also the tourism sector.

The Nova Scotia Government is taking significant action to adapt to the expected impacts of climate change and to decrease the emissions of greenhouse gases to prevent further temperature rises. With the passage of EGSPA, Nova Scotia became the first province in Canada to enshrine greenhouse gas targets in legislation. Other provinces have since followed our example. The EGSPA commitment is as follows:

» ***4(2)(e) greenhouse gas emissions will be at least ten per cent below the levels that were emitted in the year 1990 by the year 2020, as outlined in the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan of 2001***

This is no small task. In fact, it will take significant investment and coordinated effort from all sectors to achieve this. Figure 1 illustrates the correlation between historic economic growth and greenhouse gas emissions: as economic activity increases, emissions follow. A 16.2 per cent increase between 1990 and 2005 is charted on the left. From 2005 onwards, it projects how green-house gas emissions are likely to rise, if economic activity and energy production and consumption rates remain much the same. This is the largest environmental problem we face as a species. Human beings must work collectively to alter the direct connection between a strong economy and greenhouse gas emissions.

Figure 1 – **Nova Scotia Emissions Compared to Economic Growth** (GDP) *(actual and forecast)*



The government is taking an important step toward reaching this target with the development of a comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). Scheduled for release in 2008, the CCAP will focus on reducing greenhouse gases from all sources. It will give guidance to industries, businesses, government and individuals about what they must do to meet the 2020 target.

Public and stakeholder consultations held in 2007 and early 2008, including over 140 written submissions on the renewed energy strategy and CCAP, will inform the final document. One of the fundamental issues the CCAP will address is the reality of how climate change will affect Nova Scotia and what measures we need to take.

Vehicle Emissions

Greenhouse gases from the transportation sector account for nearly 30 per cent of emissions in Nova Scotia. Passenger vehicles alone contribute 12 per cent. In addition to reducing its own footprint with the adoption of the *Green Vehicle Procurement Policy* (see "Government leading by example" section), the provincial government makes a commitment in EGSPA that:

» *4(2)(b)* ***the Province will adopt emissions standards for greenhouse gases and air pollutants from new motor vehicles, such as the standards adopted by the State of California by the year 2010***

The greenhouse gas component of the California vehicle emission standards takes effect in that state in 2009 and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 23 per cent in 2012 and 30 per cent in 2016. It has been estimated that a similar standard in Nova Scotia would save drivers between $3,500 and $5,000 in fuel costs over the lifetime of a vehicle. California's program, however, is only one of many models that government will consider when deciding how to reduce our emissions.

In addition to increasing greenhouse gases, vehicles also emit air pollutants, such as nitrogen oxide and particulate matter, which are harmful to human and environmental health. Like the California standards, the Nova Scotia government is committing to adopting vehicle standards that limit both greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions.

This movement within North America seems timely considering the statistics on new car production. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average vehicle sold in the United States since 1987 has actually decreased in fuel efficiency, while simultaneously increasing in size and horsepower.

Steer Clean

The Province is not just targeting new vehicles. We also already support programs such as the Ecology Action Centre's Steer Clean program, which works to remove older vehicle from the road. Older, poorly maintained vehicles contribute up to 35 per cent of the emissions that are involved in smog formation and up to 18.5 per cent of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information visit: **www.steerclean.ca**

Currently, the federal government is conducting public consultations on fuel consumption regulations. The intent is to finalize regulations before the end of 2008, taking effect in the 2011 model year. If the federal regulations are not sufficiently aggressive and do not target both greenhouse gases and air pollutants, then provinces that have committed to the proposed California standards may be left to collectively implement tougher standards. The preferred approach to achieve our target would be to have a national standard for both types of emissions that all provinces and territories agree to meet. Most provinces share this perspective. Nova Scotia has also been working with the New England Governors-Eastern Canadian Premiers Association on this issue.

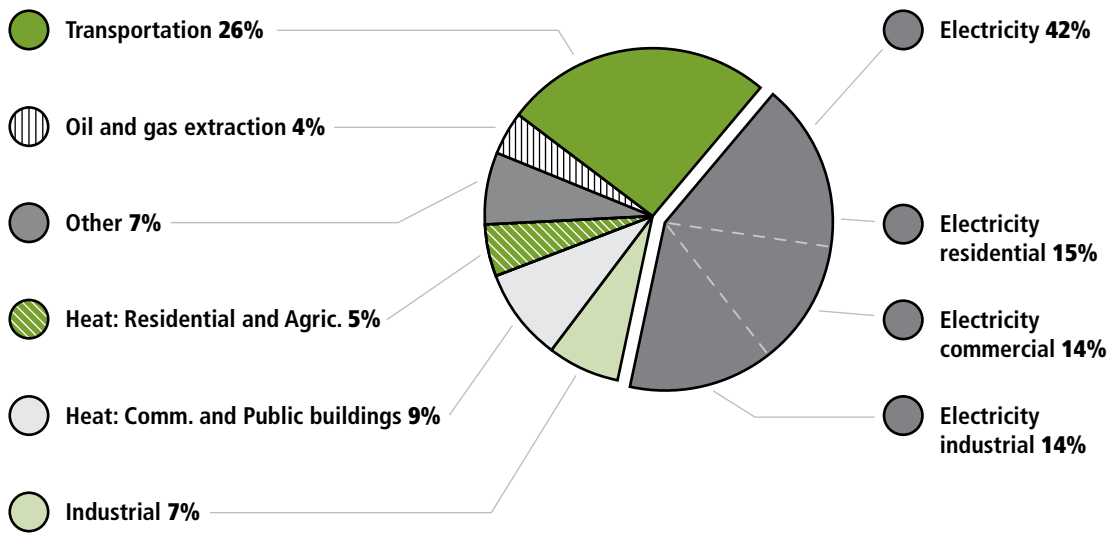
Energy Policy

Renewable Energy

In Nova Scotia, electricity generation contributes nearly half of the province's greenhouse gas emissions (See Figure 2). This means that reducing the province's emissions is heavily dependent on changes to the energy sector, in addition to efficiency and conservation practices by all Nova Scotians.

Figure 2 – **Sources of Greenhouse Gas** (Nova Scotia 2005)

Source: Natural Resources Canada (2006) **Note:** "Heat" is furnace oil. "Industrial" includes refineries.



In 2001, the Nova Scotia Government released the first *Energy Strategy*. The strategy envisioned an energy industry "balancing economic growth, social goals and respect for the environment for generations today and tomorrow." That vision remains true today, but the reality of climate change presents new challenges.

In the fall of 2007, the government released a discussion paper to gain public feedback on the development of a new *Energy Strategy* set for release in 2008. The new *Energy Strategy* will guide energy policy decisions in Nova Scotia and help government meet the energy related goals in EGSPA.

EGSPA commits that:

» *4(2)(g)* ***eighteen and one-half per cent of the total electricity needs of the Province will be obtained from renewable energy sources by the year 2013***

Being dependent on fossil fuels for the majority of our electricity generation means that as we work to decrease our greenhouse gas emissions, we will need to invest in renewable energy sources (wind, solar, bio-mass, bio-fuels, hydro, tidal etc.). Increasing the amount of renewable sources for electricity in Nova Scotia will not only benefit the environment but will also benefit the local economy.

Since the release of the original *Energy Strategy* in 2001, several renewable power projects have either been built or are committed to be built. In 2007, Nova Scotia Power Inc. announced it would add 240 megawatts of wind power by 2010. By 2013, more than 500 megawatts of new renewable energy capacity will be added to the system. That translates into over 100,000 homes powered by renewable energy. The per capita megawatts of wind energy will be one of the highest in Canada when the planned projects are complete.

The new renewable power also reduces our greenhouse gas emissions by up to 750,000 tonnes and creates new business opportunities, expected to generate a $1 billion in direct investment in the province. This is an excellent example of what sustainable prosperity means in practice.

Wind Atlas

In September 2007, researchers from Université de Moncton and the Applied Geomatics Research Group at the Nova Scotia Community College released a wind atlas that illustrates how much wind is available, and where to find it. The creation of the atlas was supported by a $78,000 grant from the province. The atlas is a valuable tool for future wind policy and planning. It will also assist smaller-scale wind developers, without resources for mapping, to assess the viability of potential projects.

To view the atlas visit: **www.nswindatlas.ca**

There is ongoing research into the types and amounts of renewable energy needed to supplement our existing power grid in order to meet this ambitious goal. The Department of Energy has funded a wind integration study to look at how wind energy, which is not a constant, can be integrated into the current system. In addition, the Government has committed $5 million to an in-stream tidal energy project in the Bay of Fundy. Pending the completion of environmental assessments and permits, tidal energy devices could begin generating power by 2009 or 2010.

Alternative energy requires a significant investment from government, businesses and citizens alike. But it is an upfront cost that will be well worth the savings to our environment and our pocketbooks down the road.

Energy Efficiency

As the *Energy Strategy* is being updated, government is also working to promote energy efficiency and conservation among Nova Scotia's citizens, businesses and institutions. In 2006, Conserve Nova Scotia was created to help Nova Scotians reduce energy waste and achieve greater energy efficiency. Their first program was a $1.1 million energy efficient oil appliance rebate for Nova Scotians called Retire Your Furnace. They have also helped Metro Transit purchase hybrid-diesel buses, offered rebates to homeowners who are making both older and new homes more energy efficient, and assisted low-income Nova Scotians in saving money through home energy conservation. Government is helping citizens make the necessary investments required to increase energy efficiency in their homes and offices.

In EGSPA, government takes Conserve Nova Scotia's work even further by committing that:

» ***4** (2)*

(r) ***all new residential dwelling units constructed in the Province that are within the scope of Part 9 of the National Building Code of Canada will be required to display an EnerGuide rating by the year 2008***

(s) ***all new residential dwelling units constructed in the Province will be required to achieve an EnerGuide rating of 80, or meet energy conservation measures adopted in the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations made under the Building Code Act after January 1, 2011***

Government is working with the construction industry to implement EnerGuide labelling by the end of 2008 for new houses. Adherence to the labelling program will be achieved through training, public education and bilateral agreements between the Province and municipalities, builders and subdivision developers.

In 2011, a more stringent requirement will be implemented. All new construction will meet either EnerGuide 80 or comparable prescriptive requirements. Labour and Workforce Development and Conserve Nova Scotia are currently working with the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Council to develop energy efficiency requirements for insertion in the *Building Code Act* for new single-family, multi-unit residential and all commercial buildings. This will be a significant advance over the goal established in the Act, which applies only to residential units. Work on the Building Code changes is on schedule for implementation on January 1, 2011, as required by the Act. Consultations on proposed changes will be held in the fall of this year. The new requirements are expected to be prescribed into law by January 2009, giving the industry two years to prepare for the changes.

Air Quality

It is common knowledge that human health can be affected by the quality of our environment. The air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat provide potential pathways for contaminants to enter our bodies and affect our health.

Exposure to air pollution can cause elevated risks of heart attack, stroke and congestive heart failure. In fact, estimates of the number of preventable premature deaths caused annually by air pollution in Canada range from 5,900 to 16,000. Even more disturbing however is the fact that most Canadians believe their air quality to be good to excellent and only 13 per cent make a link between air pollution and heart health (Heart and Stroke Foundation research).

Air pollutants are generated here in Nova Scotia by the burning of fossil fuels for electricity generation and transportation, in addition to industrial processes and residential wood burning. Air pollutants, which are also transported from other provinces and countries by prevailing winds, can combine to cause acid rain, which harms soil, water bodies, aquatic life, vegetation and buildings. Pollutants can also combine to form smog, which has negative effects on both human and environmental health. Many Nova Scotians have respiratory and cardiovascular problems that are affected by poor air quality.

Nova Scotia is working with partners across the country and in the northeastern United States to help industry reduce emissions. It's up to the industries themselves to reduce their own emissions but our government sets the targets and monitors to ensure industry members meet these targets.

We have made a commitment through EGSPA to decrease emissions of five air pollutants:

» *4 (2)*

(c) ***emissions of nitrogen oxides will be reduced by twenty per cent by the year 2009 relative to emissions in the year 2000;***

(d) ***sulphur dioxide emissions will be reduced by fifty per cent by the year 2010 from sources existing in 2001;***

(f) ***mercury emissions will be reduced by seventy per cent by the year 2010 relative to pre-2001 levels;***

(h) ***the Province will meet the Canada Wide Standard established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment for airborne fine-particulate matter by the year 2010;***

(i) ***the Province will meet the Canada Wide Standard established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment for ground-level ozone by the year 2010;***

Nitrogen Oxide (NOx)

The NOx target was set in amendments to Nova Scotia's Air Quality Regulations in 2005. The target applies to Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI), which will have an annual NOx emissions cap of 21,365 tonnes starting in 2009. NSPI is responsible for obtaining the appropriate technology to meet their NOx target. Government is working with the company to help them reach their goal.

Mercury (Hg)

The amendments to the Air Quality Regulations in 2005 also established an annual mercury emission cap of 168 kg for NSPI, commencing March 1, 2005. This target was met in 2005 and, in fact, mercury emissions for that year were significantly below the target. In 2006, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) set a Canada Wide Standard for mercury that for NSPI resulted in a cap of 65 kilograms by the year 2010. Relative to pre-2001 levels, this represents a more than 70 per cent reduction in NSPI mercury emissions.

Sulphur dioxide (SO_2)

The SO_2 reduction target was also set in amendments to the Air Quality Regulations in 2005. The target applies to NSPI and approximately twenty other facilities whose emissions of SO_2 exceed 90 tonnes per year. NSPI must achieve reductions of 50 per cent by 2010. To date, they have already achieved a 20 per cent reduction. The other organizations submitted emission reduction plans by the end of 2007 that describe how they will reduce their SO_2 emissions by 25 per cent leading to 2010. Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) is now reviewing these plans and will be assisting these companies to reach their goal.

Ozone and particulate matter

The Canada Wide Standards (CWS) for ozone and particulate matter require meeting the ambient (surrounding air) target in centres with a population greater than 100,000. In Nova Scotia this includes Halifax and Sydney. The CWS requires that an implementation plan be submitted by the government that demonstrates how the ozone and particulate matter standards will be achieved. This implementation plan, which is based on the principles of continuous improvement and keeping clean areas clean, is currently being developed, and once approved will be put into operation.

Air Quality Monitoring

To keep track of air pollutant levels in Nova Scotia, NSE continues to maintain, expand and update its network of air quality monitors throughout the province. There are currently 45 monitors, measuring a variety of pollutants, distributed across 13 monitoring sites in Nova Scotia (four of the sites are operated by Environment Canada). The department also undertakes education initiatives about air quality.

Raising The Bar

Each target set in EGSPA is designed to move government one step closer to our 2020 vision of a sustainable Nova Scotia – a place where environmental sustainability and economic prosperity are fully integrated. EGSPA sets two overarching goals to achieve this vision:

1. ***The long-term environmental and economic objective of the Province is to fully integrate environmental sustainability and economic prosperity and to this end to***
   a. ***demonstrate international leadership by having one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world by the year 2020; and***
   b. ***provide certainty to all sectors of the economy through the Government's economic development strategy entitled Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity and establish clear environmental goals while improving the Province's economic performance to a level that is equal to or above the Canadian average by the year 2020.***

These are lofty goals – with many challenges. We have set our sights high. This is important if we are to make significant progress. Looking back to 1995, when Nova Scotia legislated the 50 per cent solid waste reduction target, there were skeptics and critics. We were the only province to take such a bold stand, but in doing so, we mobilized all sectors and became the first province in Canada to reduce our solid waste by 50 per cent.

Today, we continue to be a world leader on the waste-resource front. This creativity and drive for success will help us move forward with EGSPA goals. By achieving the targets in EGSPA and setting new and even more aggressive targets as 2020 approaches, Nova Scotia will become known as one of the cleanest and greenest places in the world.

We have our work cut out for us. There are many countries that have already demonstrated strong environmental leadership on an international scale. In fact, they've been hard at work for years. We need to keep pace with these leaders and continually re-evaluate how we're doing in light of these other examples. The mandatory and comprehensive public review of EGSPA every five years will help in this regard. In addition, the Deputy Ministers Forum will continually be assessing what new targets are necessary to help us reach our overall objectives by 2020.

As well as being a leader on the environmental front, EGSPA acknowledges the importance of strong economic performance. If we are to measure economic performance in the context of sustainability, we will once again need to take a bold stand. The conventional measure of economic growth, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is inadequate for measuring progress in a sustainable, clean and green economy. For example, rapid use and over-depletion of natural resources improves GDP. The state of the environment and its ability to contribute to future social and economic benefits is not even considered.

Government will turn its attention to finding a more appropriate indicator or indicators of sustainable economic progress. This presents the challenge of potentially being unable to compare our economic progress with other jurisdictions. The annual progress report on Nova Scotia's economic growth strategy (OfSP) provides a series of targets and measures in eight focus areas (see **www.gov.ns.ca/econ/ofsp**). The Business Climate Index is also tracked and reported annually. Investigation and research is also underway to explore initiatives such as GPI Atlantic's Genuine Progress Index and others in operation around the world. Work will continue over the next year to develop a made-in-Nova Scotia system that better represents our evolving ideas of progress.

GPI Atlantic

GPI Atlantic is a non-profit research organization, founded in 1997, committed to the development of the Genuine Progress Index (GPI) - a new measure of sustainability, well being and quality of life consisting of 22 social, economic and environmental components.

For more information: **www.gpiatlantic.org.**

One of the most hopeful and inspiring elements of this new vision has been the interest and buy-in of businesses and citizens alike. Progressive companies who recognize their impacts on the environment have come up with innovative ways to reduce waste or use more sustainable products. From grocery stores going "plastic bag free," to restaurants and caterers who focus on local and organic produce, to factories who monitor their own emissions, we are witnessing a new breed of Nova Scotian companies who consider sustainability when making business decisions.

Greening the Bottom Line

Businesses in Nova Scotia have an important role to play in achieving our sustainable prosperity goals. Ascenta Health is a great example of an innovative local business that is already making huge strides toward greening their bottom line. Ascenta is a developer of natural health products based in Dartmouth. Since their inception, they have guaranteed environmentally sound business practices ranging from energy conservation to recyclable packaging. They were also the first natural health products manufacturer to become a member of 1% For the Planet, an alliance of businesses who donate one per cent of their annual sales to environmental causes worldwide. In addition, Ascenta has established employee incentives for making green choices. Employees are awarded annual cash bonuses for choosing alternative modes of transportation to get to and from work, such as cycling, walking, carpooling, and taking public transit. If an employee buys a new car, Ascenta will contribute $500 toward the purchase of a more fuel-efficient hybrid vehicle.

Businesses aren't the only ones taking the initiative to make change. The average citizen of Nova Scotia is more aware of global warming and what they can do to help than ever before. Small and large groups all over the province are banding together to buy locally, or boycott wasteful companies. They're also getting household energy audits, buying energy efficient appliances, and driving less or even giving up their cars. Concerned citizens are receiving helpful tips and support on reducing personal emissions from a number of local and national organizations including the Ecology Action Centre, Clean Nova Scotia, and the David Suzuki Foundation.

This is a good news story. The more we work together, the greater the chance that we can make real and lasting change.

Looking Forward

Thanks to EGSPA, a clear and sustainable path has been laid down for Nova Scotia to follow. It recognizes that we can no longer afford to consider environmental implications as an after-thought. It challenges each and every one of us to think differently and to take action to support a sustainable Nova Scotia. The targets and timelines are ambitious. The Act provides the authority to use policies, regulatory tools and sector specific agreements to achieve these goals and to set others. A concerted effort by governments, businesses and citizens alike is needed.

The provincial government is aware that it plays a pivotal role in public education. To that end, a Sustainable Prosperity communications committee has been formed. This group, which meets bi-weekly, contains communication representatives from each of the departments involved in the Deputy Ministers Forum on Sustainable Prosperity. One of their main goals is a social marketing campaign aimed to fully engage the public in this essential work.

This marketing campaign will involve two elements: raising awareness of the true nature of the problems our environment and our civilization faces and providing the appropriate tools to motivate citizens and businesses to take action and make change in their own lives.

The empowering message we will be sending is one of hope and necessity. We are all part of the problem and therefore must all be part of the solution. For the survival of our planet, each of us must challenge ourselves to make changes and properly invest in the future. Putting money towards being green now will only reap environmental and economic savings down the road. The long term benefits will be a cleaner environment, healthier people, and a more robust economy.

This work will not be easy and there are a number of challenges facing us. From the government's perspective, we must work to avoid the compartmentalization and consequent lack of cooperation that too often plagues government initiatives. Secondly, we must all – government and citizens alike – reject the notion that protecting the environment is bad for business and the economy. And thirdly, the human race as a whole must overcome the pessimism that seems to bog us down. In order to work toward a better environmental future, we have to get over the idea that we're fighting a losing battle, and talk about winning instead.

The provincial government is embracing these challenges before us. The destination is clear and there is an integrated plan to get us there. We are positioning resources across government and leveraging partnerships to deliver on these commitments. The Deputy Ministers Forum on Sustainable Prosperity is guiding implementation.

Each year we will reflect back on progress and realign our priorities to achieve the goals set out in EGSPA. We know it will not be easy. In fact, we expect to hit some bumps along the way. We will make adjustments as needed with the advice of the Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity and others. But this very important work has begun. We are on our way to having one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world by 2020.

Glossary

Biodiversity means the variety, distribution, and abundance of different plants, animals, and microorganisms, the ecological functions they perform, and the genetic diversity they contain at local, regional, and landscape levels of analysis.

BOMA Go Green is a national environmental recognition and certification program for commercial buildings in Canada. The program provides the tools to enable building owners to reduce energy consumption and operating costs, as well as improving waste management.

Effluent is wastewater discharged to surface water from a collection or treatment system by an owner. Wastewater is a mixture of liquid wastes comprised primarily of domestic or sanitary sewage that may also include wastewater from industrial, commercial and institutional sources. It comprises end-of-pipe discharges and overflows, including combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows, but does not include separate storm water discharges. Septic tank discharges to infiltration systems are not included.

Environmental Management System is a program that incorporates environmental considerations into all aspects of decision-making in order to minimized the impact of those decisions on human health and the environment.

Net loss means net loss of wetland area and function, including habitat.

Nova Scotia Building Advisory Council is a committee that provides advice and assistance to the Minister of Labour regarding the Building Code Act and Regulations. It includes representation from a large variety of stakeholder groups including the Disabled Persons Commission, the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Home Builders Association.

Leachate is a liquid that is formed when organics in landfills are exposed to water. Leachate picks up contaminants from the other garbage and can pollute neighbouring water resources if it escapes from the landfill site.

Legally protected means land designated and protected under the Wilderness Areas Protection Act, under the Special Places Protection Act, as a national park under the National Parks Act (Canada), under the Conservation Easements Act or under the Canada Wildlife Act (Canada), primarily dedicated to the protection of biodiversity and natural processes under the Provincial Parks Act or held by non-government charitable land trusts.

Primary [sewage] treatment is a mainly mechanical process that removes up to 70 per cent of solids in wastewater effluent. The remaining water is usually released into the surrounding marine environment.

Product stewardship is a concept whereby environmental protection centers on the product itself, and everyone involved in the lifespan of the product is called upon to take up responsibility to reduce its environmental impact. In Nova Scotia, most product stewardship takes the form of extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs in which the manufacturer of the product are responsible for the product's life cycle, especially the take-back, recovery and final disposal of the product.

Septage means the combined untreated human waste, liquid and solid or semi-solid materials, removed from septic tanks, chemical toilets, portable toilets, holding tanks, vault privies, pit privies, pump chambers, siphon chambers and any other container which holds untreated human waste

Sustainable prosperity means seizing today's opportunities without compromising tomorrow, while working together for a strong, competitive economy, a healthy environment, and vibrant, thriving communities.

Wetlands are land commonly referred to as a marsh, swamp, fen or bog that either periodically or permanently has a water table at, near or above the land's surface or that is saturated with water, and sustains aquatic processes as indicated by the presence of poorly drained soils, hydrophytic vegetation and biological activities adapted to wet conditions.

Appendix 1: 2008 Report Card on Progress

EGSPA's two overarching objectives:

4(1) The long-term environmental and economic objective of the Province is to fully integrate environmental sustainability and economic prosperity and to this end to:

What are we trying to achieve? How will we track progress?	Where are we now?	How will we reach our target?
4(1)(a) demonstrate international leadership by having one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world by the year 2020; and **Measure:** annual status of each of the EGSPA goals **Target:** to achieve each of the EGSPA goals on time **Measure:** level of implementation of progressive sustainability legislation, policies and practices in Nova Scotia **Target:** to keep Nova Scotia on the leading edge through implementation of EGSPA and review and update on a five year cycle	The *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* was proclaimed in June 2007. This report summarizes progress in its first year of implementation. A Deputy Ministers' Forum on Sustainable Prosperity meets regularly to guide the implementation of the act. The Roundtable on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity is in place to advise the Minister of Environment on sustainability issues, including EGSPA.	• report annually on EGSPA progress • research progress in other jurisdictions • shape government policies and practices to reflect the principles and goals contained in EGSPA • implement programs, policies, legislation and regulations designed to achieve EGSPA goals • review and update EGSPA on a five year cycle
4(1)(b) provide certainty to all sectors of the economy through the Government's economic development strategy entitled Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity and establish clear environmental goals while improving the Province's economic performance to a level that is equal to or above the Canadian average by the year 2020. **Measure:** annual progress, as reported in *Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity* reports **Target:** to achieve the goals set out in eight strategic focus areas **Measure:** holistic assessment of Nova Scotia's prosperity, integrating economic, social and environmental indicators (methodology under development) **Target:** to achieve sustainable economic performance at or above the Canadian average by 2020	*Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity* (2006) introduces a new economic development approach that integrates economic, social and environmental systems. Today, economic performance is commonly measured by calculating real GDP per capita. The most recent data (2006) places Nova Scotia at 78 per cent of the Canadian average. The Business Climate Index, with 53 indicators, is also used to measure economic performance from a broader perspective (go to **www.gov.ns.ca/econ/businessclimate**). Government is currently investigating an integrated approach to this assessment, using a more sustainable view of prosperity rather than only GDP per capita.	• report annually on OfSP progress • revisit and update the economic growth strategy on a regular basis • develop a sustainable prosperity index or set of indicators to help measure economic performance • track economic performance of Nova Scotia compared to the Canadian average using this new approach

EGSPA's 21 specific goals with and targets and timelines:

4(2) To achieve the long-term objectives set forth in subsection (1), the Province's environmental and economic goals are to ensure:

What are we trying to achieve? How will we track progress?	Where are we now?	How will we reach our target?
4 (2)(a) twelve per cent of the total land mass of the Province will be legally protected by the year 2015; **Measure:** per cent of the total land mass of the province that is legally protected* **Target:** 12 per cent land legally protected or 663,360 hectares by 2015 ** based on EGSPA definition*	At the end of 2007, a total of 8.2 per cent of the province is legally protected. This means that 451,016 hectares of the province are included in nature reserves, wilderness areas, special places, land trusts, conservation easements and national and provincial parks. In 2007, the province has committed to protect new areas and upon designation will increase the amount of land protected to 8.7 per cent. The Colin Stewart Forest Forum is working to identify high value conservation lands for protection. Government is contributing technical expertise to the work of the Forum. Once this work is complete, government will review and consider this information.	• research candidate areas • conduct socio-economic evaluations • conduct stakeholder consultations • develop and implement protected areas plan • partner with land trusts and landowners • acquire land • designate Crown lands
(b) the Province will adopt emissions standards for greenhouse gases and air pollutants from new motor vehicles, such as the standards adopted by the State of California by the year 2010; **Measure:** status of new motor vehicle emission standards for greenhouse gases (GHGs) **Target:** GHG emission standards for new motor vehicles adopted by 2010 **Measure:** status of new motor vehicle emission standards for air pollutants **Target:** air pollutant emission standards for new motor vehicles adopted by 2010	Work is on-going with other Atlantic provinces and northeastern United States on a regional approach to new vehicle emission standards. To date, four provinces, including Nova Scotia, have made commitments to emissions/fuel efficiency standards. The federal government is consulting with the public on new regulations for the fuel consumption of light-duty vehicles. They plan to have the regulations finalized by the end of 2008, to become effective for the 2011 model year.	• consult with stakeholders • work with federal/provincial/territorial counterparts on a national standard or standards • work with the New England Governors-Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP) on a regional approach

What are we trying to achieve? How will we track progress?	Where are we now?	How will we reach our target?
(c) emissions of nitrogen oxides will be reduced by twenty per cent by the year 2009 relative to emissions in the year 2000; **Measure:** annual total nitrogen oxide (NOx) air emissions (tonnes) emitted by Nova Scotia Power Inc. in the province **Target:** a 20 per cent reduction of NOx air emissions from NSPI by 2009 (to 21,365 tonnes)	The Air Quality Regulations under the Environment Act establish a NOx emission cap of 21,365 tonnes per year for Nova Scotia Power Inc., starting January, 2009. NSPI NOx air emissions per year: **2000:** 26,706 tonnes base year **2001:** 26,513 tonnes 0.7 per cent reduction **2002:** 30,168 tonnes 13.0 per cent increase **2003:** 31,882 tonnes 19.4 per cent increase **2004:** 33,442 tonnes 25.2 per cent increase **2005:** 32,300 tonnes 20.9 per cent increase **2006:** 28,037 tonnes 5.0 per cent increase **2007:** 25,862 tonnes 3.2 per cent reduction	✔ require Nova Scotia Power Inc. to make the changes necessary through regulations • work with Nova Scotia Power Inc. to develop a NOx air emission reduction plan
(d) sulphur dioxide emissions will be reduced by fifty per cent by the year 2010 from sources existing in 2001; **Measure:** annual total sulphur dioxide (SO_2) air emissions* (tonnes) in the province **Target:** a 50 per cent reduction in SO_2 air emissions (total) by 2010 ** by emitters with greater than 90 tonnes SO_2 per year, including NSPI*	Total sulphur dioxide emissions have been dropping over the last seven years (see data below). In 2005, the Air Quality Regulations under the *Environment Act* were amended to establish specific SO_2 emission caps for Nova Scotia Power Inc. including 108,750 tonnes in 2005 and 72,500 tonnes in 2010. Through these regulations, other facilities that emit more than 90 tonnes of SO_2 are required to reduce their emissions by at least 25 per cent by 2010. Nova Scotia SO_2 air emissions (total) per year: **2001:** 164,000 tonnes base year **2005:** 126,431 tonnes 22 per cent reduction **2006:** 126,281 tonnes (est.) 23 per cent reduction	✔ establish SO_2 air emission caps for Nova Scotia Power Inc. and other large emitters ✔ require all facilities that emit more than 90 tonnes of SO_2 to develop and implement a SO_2 air emission reduction plan • work with industry to reduce SO_2 air emissions
(e) greenhouse gas emissions will be at least ten per cent below the levels that were emitted in the year 1990 by the year 2020, as outlined in the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan of 2001; **Measure:** annual provincial greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), as measured by the national inventory, compared with 1990 emission levels **Target:** 17.55 M tonnes or less greenhouse gas emissions by 2020	In 2005, Nova Scotia's greenhouse gas emissions were approximately 16 per cent above 1990 levels. Significant change is required by all sectors of society to reach GHG emission levels 10 per cent below those emitted in 1990. Nova Scotia greenhouse gas emissions: **1990:** 19.5 M tonnes base year **2005:** 22.7 M tonnes 16 per cent increase	✔ consult with the public on energy and climate change • develop and implement: – climate change action plan (due in 2008) – renewed energy strategy (due in 2008) • invest in energy conservation through Conserve Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Power Inc. • invest in renewable and cleaner energy sources

What are we trying to achieve? How will we track progress?	Where are we now?	How will we reach our target?
(f) mercury emissions will be reduced by seventy per cent by the year 2010 relative to pre-2001 levels; **Measure:** annual total mercury (Hg) air emissions (kg) from electrical power generation (NSPI) in the province **Target:** 65 kg mercury air emissions from electrical power generation (NSPI) by 2010	The Air Quality Regulations under the *Environment Act* were amended in 2007 to lower the Nova Scotia Power Inc. mercury emissions cap to 65 kg by 2010. This represents at least a 70 per cent reduction from pre-2001 levels. This new mercury emissions cap is consistent with the Canada-Wide Standard established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Nova Scotia Power Inc Hg emissions per year: pre **2001** ~ 216 kg base year **2006:** 160 kg 26 per cent reduction	✔ establish Hg air emission cap for Nova Scotia Power Inc. • work with NSPI to reduce Hg air emissions
(g) eighteen and one-half per cent of the total electricity needs of the Province will be obtained from renewable energy sources by the year 2013; **Measure:** annual electrical generation from renewable energy sources as a per cent of all electricity sales in the province **Target:** 18.5 per cent renewable energy sources by 2013	In 2007, the Renewable Energy Standard Regulations under the Electricity Act were enacted, establishing the requirement by 2013 for 10 per cent of the electricity supply to come from renewable sources built after 2001. This includes hydro, wind, solar, tidal, and biomass sources. Nova Scotia's renewable energy sources: **2001:** 8.5 per cent renewable energy **2006:** 10.0 per cent renewable energy **2007:** 11.3 per cent renewable energy	✔ enact Renewable Energy Standard Regulations under the Electricity Act with specific renewable energy target ✔ issue a Request for Proposals (by NSPI) for renewable energy supplies • conduct a wind integration study to determine the amount of renewable wind supply that can be added to the current energy mix • conduct a tidal energy demonstration project on the Bay of Fundy • continue to research and invest in renewable energy alternatives
(h) the Province will meet the Canada Wide Standard established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment for airborne fine-particulate matter by the year 2010; **Measure:** 98th percentile ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5 = less than 2.5 microns), measured annually and averaged over three consecutive years **Target:** 30 µg/m^3 PM2.5 or less within a 24 hour averaging time by 2010	Significant improvements have been made to the provincial air monitoring network. New PM2.5 measurement instrumentation has been installed at various stations across the province. The CWS for particulate matter is currently being met within the Halifax Regional Municipality, which is one of the two census metropolitan areas in Nova Scotia for which reporting is required. The CWS for Sydney cannot be officially calculated because of insufficient data.	✔ upgrade provincial air monitoring network to include PM2.5 instrumentation • develop and implement a PM2.5 reduction plan • continue to work with national committees to improve PM2.5 monitoring methodologies
(i) the Province will meet the Canada Wide Standard established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment for ground-level ozone by the year 2010; **Measure:** 4th highest measurement annually of ambient levels of ground ozone, averaged over 3 years **Target:** 65 ppb ground ozone or less, with 8 hour averaging, by 2010	Significant improvements have been made to the provincial air monitoring network. New ground-level ozone monitoring instrumentation has been installed at various stations across the province. The CWS for ozone is currently being met at the two census metropolitan areas in Nova Scotia (Halifax and Sydney) for which reporting is required.	✔ upgrade provincial air monitoring network to include ground-level ozone instrumentation • develop and implement a ground-level ozone reduction plan

What are we trying to achieve? How will we track progress?	Where are we now?	How will we reach our target?
(j) municipal public drinking-water supplies will meet the Province's treatment standards by the year 2008; **Measure:** per cent of municipalities that are in compliance with the province's water treatment standards, as outlined in their operational approvals **Target:** at least 95 per cent of municipal public drinking water supplies meet the provincial treatment standards by 2008	Currently there are 83 municipal drinking water supplies that are required to meet the drinking water treatment standards. In addition to water quality, these standards include such things as operator training, monitoring and reporting requirements. The first set of annual data will be available in 2009.	• assist municipalities obtain the necessary funding for infrastructure upgrades • work with municipalities to develop drinking water treatment compliance strategies • conduct regular audits of public drinking water supplies to assess compliance with standards • issue Ministerial Orders when necessary
(k) a comprehensive water-resource management strategy will be developed by the year 2010; **Measure:** status of water-resource management strategy development **Target:** water-resource management strategy developed by 2010	The *Drinking Water Strategy* (2002) three year action plan was successfully implemented, resulting in significant improvements in drinking water supply and management in Nova Scotia. An Interdepartmental Water Management Committee (10 departments) was established in 2007 to guide the development of the broader scope water-resource management strategy. Towards a water resource management strategy for Nova Scotia was released in January 2008. This public discussion paper outlines a number of water issues in Nova Scotia and poses key questions about how we can best manage water resources. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2008.	• conduct formal public consultation on water issues and water resource management • review water resource programs and policies across government • work with all levels of government on a path forward • develop a draft strategy based on research and public input • consult with the public and specific stakeholders on the draft strategy
(l) wastewater treatment facility discharges will be provided at least primary treatment by the year 2017; **Measure:** per cent of wastewater treatment facilities that provide at least primary treatment **Target:** 100 per cent of wastewater treatment facilities provide at least primary treatment by 2017	The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) is currently developing a Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE) Strategy which will set the standard for wastewater treatment across Canada. A national public consultation was held from October 2007 to January 2008. The strategy is expected to be released in the Fall of 2008. In the mean time, government is working with municipalities on ways to meet the primary wastewater treatment requirement contained within EGSPA. Any additional standard introduced as part of the national process will be rolled out as part of the MWWE strategy.	• consult with municipalities on policy issues • develop and implement the Canada-wide MWWE Strategy • assist municipalities obtain the necessary infrastructure upgrades

What are we trying to achieve? How will we track progress?	Where are we now?	How will we reach our target?
(m) regulatory tools that use the framework within the Environment Act to stimulate redevelopment of contaminated land and contribute to economic development while protecting the environment will be developed by the year 2010; **Measure:** status of regulatory approach and tools to stimulate redevelopment of contaminated lands **Target:** regulatory approach and tools to stimulate redevelopment of contaminated lands developed by 2010	Contaminated sites in the province are currently dealt with using Environment and Labour guidelines. Amendments to the *Environment Act* in 2006 included the authority to develop a new regulatory approach to deal with contaminated sites. The Nova Scotia Law Reform Commission is currently working on an assessment of liability issues related to contaminated sites. Their report is expected in 2009.	• research options and alternatives • consult with stakeholders as changes are considered • develop draft regulations and supporting tools and procedures • consult with public on draft regulations
(n) a policy of preventing net loss of wetlands will be established by the year 2009; **Measure:** status of policy preventing net loss of wetlands **Target:** policy preventing the net loss of wetlands in place by 2009	Amendments to the *Environment Act* in 2006 clarified Environment and Labour's mandate regarding wetlands. A Wetland Working Group, with staff from Environment and Labour and Natural Resources, is addressing wetland operational issues. Public consultation on the water resource management strategy is soliciting input on wetlands, in addition to other water resource issues. This information will be integrated with any public comments on wetlands obtained during the natural resource strategy consultation.	• research other jurisdictions respecting "no-net loss" of wetlands • consult with the public on wetlands • work across departments to identify and manage wetland issues • develop a draft wetlands policy • consult with public on draft policy
(o) the solid-waste disposal rate will be no greater than three hundred kilograms per person per year by the year 2015 through measures that include the development of new programs and product stewardship regulations; **Measure:** annual solid-waste disposal rate (kg) per person per year **Target:** 300 Kg or less solid waste disposed per person per year by 2015	Amendments to the *Environment Act* in 2006 established a new solid waste disposal target of 300 kg per person per year by 2015. Currently there are 17 materials banned from disposal in Nova Scotia and 8 product stewardship agreements. Most recently, the Electronic Product Stewardship Regulations established a disposal ban on electronic waste (February 2008). The goal of the regulations is to divert electronic products from landfills through the creation of a province-wide collection and recycling system. Phase 1 (February 2008) includes computers, printers, monitors and televisions, while Phase 2 (February 2009) will add equipment such as telephones, scanners, fax machines, VCRs and DVDs. Solid waste disposal rates (from Statistics Canada) **2002:** Nova Scotia 416 kg/person Canada 760 kg/person **2004:** Nova Scotia 427 kg/person Canada 772 kg/person **2006:** data pending	• research options and alternatives to minimize waste disposal and increase product stewardship • consult with key stakeholders including municipalities and the Resource Recovery Fund Board • consult with public • develop and implement a work plan to reduce disposal to 300 kg/person/year • develop and implement an enhanced Solid-Waste-Resource Management Framework

What are we trying to achieve? How will we track progress?	Where are we now?	How will we reach our target?
(p) septage treatment facilities will be operated in accordance with the Guidelines for the Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Septage by the year 2011; **Measure:** per cent of septage treatment facilities that are operating in compliance with the guidelines **Target:** at least 95 per cent of septage treatment facilities are operating in compliance with the guidelines by 2011	Under the Guidelines for the Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Septage (2005), each septage treatment facility in the province is required to prepare and implement a plan to meet the new requirements outlined in the guidelines. The Septage Assistance Program was established in 2006 to assist with compliance of these guidelines and to help keep facilities operating in rural areas. To date, more than half of the facilities in the province have participated in this funding program. Environment and Labour is investigating alternative technologies for managing septage, such as Norwegian dewatering equipment.	• research alternative technologies • require facility action plans for achieving compliance with the guidelines • provide financial assistance for upgrades to septage treatment facilities through the Septage Assistance Program
(q) a sustainable procurement policy for the Province will be developed and adopted by the year 2009; **Measure:** status of development of a sustainable procurement policy **Target:** a provincial sustainable procurement policy approved and in place by 2009	An interdepartmental Sustainable Procurement Policy Development Working Group has been established to lead the development of the policy. A Green Fleet Procurement Policy was approved in 2007 that facilitates the purchase, lease or rental of fuel efficient and environmentally responsible vehicles. Government is also working on an initiative to green Information Technology purchases.	• conduct research and analysis of options • develop a policy analysis document • consult with stakeholders • develop draft policy • solicit stakeholder feed-back on draft policy
(r) all new residential dwelling units constructed in the Province that are within the scope of Part 9 of the National Building Code of Canada will be required to display an EnerGuide rating by the year 2008; **Measure:** status of the requirement to display EnerGuide rating, as noted above **Target:** all newly constructed residential dwelling units display an EnerGuide rating label by 2008	Conserve Nova Scotia's voluntary EnerGuide Program for New Homes has been in place since January 2006. This program results in the posting of an EnerGuide rating in new homes that participate. Work is underway to move from a voluntary process to a mandatory one.	• build capacity to conduct energy audits/ assessments • train builders • work with the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Council, municipalities, builders and subdivision developers • consult with stakeholders • develop energy efficiency requirements for addition to the Building Code

What are we trying to achieve? How will we track progress?	Where are we now?	How will we reach our target?
(s) all new residential dwelling units constructed in the Province will be required to achieve an EnerGuide rating of 80, or meet energy conservation measures adopted in the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations made under the Building Code Act after January 1, 2011; **Measure:** status of requirement for all new residential dwelling units to achieve an EnerGuide rating of 80, or meet energy conservation measures adopted **Target:** a requirement in place for all new residential dwelling units to achieve an EnerGuide rating of 80, or meet comparable energy efficiency measures by 2011	Government is currently working with the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Council to develop energy efficiency requirements for insertion in the Building Code Act for new single family residential and multi-unit residential/ commercial buildings.	• build capacity to conduct energy audits/ assessments • train builders • work with the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Council, municipalities, builders and subdivision developers • consult with stakeholders • develop energy efficiency requirements for addition to the Building Code
(t) a government facility will be constructed as a demonstration facility in accordance with a leading standard for building energy efficiency and sustainability, such as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standard by the year 2015; **Measure:** phase of construction of a demonstration facility for energy efficiency and sustainability **Target:** a new government facility that showcases leading edge energy efficiency and sustainable design principles by 2015	Since 2004-05, government has incorporated LEED standards into most new building construction projects. LEED certification is pending on 18 new projects to date. In 2007-08, government is in the site selection phase for a demonstration facility that exceeds the sustainability of all existing government buildings.	• identify a site and acquire land • develop a budget and acquire funding • design the building to showcase environmental excellence • construct the building
(u) the Province will adopt strategies to ensure the sustainability of the Province's natural capital in the areas of forestry, mining, parks and biodiversity by the year 2010. **Measure:** status of natural resource strategy development for forestry, mining, parks and biodiversity **Target:** a provincial natural resource strategy in place by 2010	Natural Resources is currently in Phase 1 of a 3 Phase process. Voluntary Planning's Natural Resources Project Committee has been appointed and will engage citizens in discussions focusing on what is most valued about the four components of the province's natural resources. The societal values expressed in these conversations will lay the foundation for later work in developing the strategy.	✔ develop a detailed project management framework (Phases 1, 2, 3) • promote the development of the Natural Resource Strategy and opportunities for citizen and stakeholder engagement • In Phase I, Voluntary Planning's Natural Resources Planning Committee will: – hold community workshops across the province – identify public values – prepare a report that synthesizes public values identified in the citizen engagement process • establish panel of independent experts who will use the Phase 1 report combined with more in-depth research and consultation to develop recommendations for the strategy (Phase 2) • prepare the Natural Resources Strategy using information gathered in Phases 1 and 2 (Phase 3)

NOVA SCOTIA