

Background: 2020 Greenhouse Gas Target

Nova Scotia's Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (2007) contains a commitment to cut greenhouse gases (GHG) to 10 per cent below 1990 levels by the year 2020. The 2020 GHG target was fundamental to the creation of both the Climate Change Action Plan and the 2009 Energy Strategy.

This target will mean a GHG reduction of at least 5 000 000 tonnes (5 MT) by 2020, which is roughly equivalent to

- one million cars being removed from the road or
- every home in Nova Scotia being emission free

THE CHALLENGE

The challenge is to reduce our emissions while allowing our economy to grow. Emissions come from three main areas:

- electricity (50 per cent of province's total greenhouse gas emissions)
- transportation (25 per cent)
- heating (15 per cent)

THE PATH

Nova Scotia's largest emitter of greenhouse gas is also our biggest opportunity. Emission caps on Nova Scotia Power become effective in 2010, 2015 and 2020. The most cost-effective method for meeting those caps is simple: reducing electricity demand. In addition, new renewable sources will reduce our dependence on imported coal and its volatile pricing on the world market.

GETTING TO 2020: A Shared Goal

ACTION

ENERGY EFFICIENCY/CONSERVATION

- improvements to existing houses and buildings
- natural gas conversions
- new building standards
- transportation efficiencies

RENEWABLES AND AIR QUALITY

- 2013 Renewable Energy Standard regulation
- expanded net metering
- air quality regulations

FUTURE CLEANER ENERGY ACTIONS

- post-2013 renewable energy
- clean energy imports
- cleaner energy options (e.g., natural gas, co-generation)
- NSPI GHG emissions caps and enhanced air quality regulations

TOTAL 2020

Estimated GHG Reduction

1.7–3.0 MT

0.8–1.1 MT

2.5–3.4 MT

5–7.5 MT


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Energy


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