

Background: Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure

THE CHALLENGE

- Roughly 25 per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions are produced by driving. In addition to vehicles owned by individuals and businesses, more than 2,500 vehicles are owned and leased by the provincial government.
- About 15 per cent of our emissions come from heating buildings. The province owns and operates more than 3,000 buildings, owns 12,000 rental units, and holds approximately 230 leases—comprising about 1.5 million sq. ft.—throughout the province.

THE PATH

As a large consumer and asset holder, the province can lead the way in reducing impacts on the environment and charting a course for more sustainable transportation.

The Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act has already started us on this path, requiring us to introduce regulations by 2010 setting fuel consumption and emissions standards for new vehicles and to construct a building that demonstrates a leading standard for energy efficiency and sustainability by 2015.

To reduce emissions from driving,

- We will produce a Sustainable Transportation Strategy by 2010. Led by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, a task force with members from Conserve Nova Scotia, Municipal Relations, Environment and municipal governments will consult the public and interested groups. The task force will examine all aspects of transportation, including public transit, active transportation, funding and land use planning.
- We will review the province's park-and-ride system to increase the number and size of lots.

- We will introduce pilot projects to provide incentives to improve the energy efficiency of heavy truck fleets and encourage the use of fuel-efficient taxis.
- Over the next five years we will expand the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's weigh-in-motion program at scale houses throughout the province.

To improve the energy efficiency of our buildings,

- We will require that all new government-owned buildings achieve LEED* Silver certification after 2008; achieve LEED Gold certification after 2010; and be carbon and energy-neutral after 2020. This builds on a similar requirement we already have for organizations seeking government funds for building projects: that is, they must adopt the LEED Silver standard, or an acceptable equivalent, for energy efficiency and water consumption.
- We will achieve an overall 30 per cent reduction by 2020 in energy consumption for all government-owned building constructed before 2001.
- We will begin a program to achieve BOMA BEST** certification, or equivalent, by 2015 for all of the major buildings owned and operated by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

* *The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is a widely used set of standards for sustainable construction.*

** *Building Owners and Managers Association of Canada's Building Environmental Standards*