

# Annual Green Fund Report, 2022-23

## 1. Introduction

The Green Fund was established in 2019 through amendments to the *Environment Act* as the mechanism to receive and disburse proceeds generated from the cap-and-trade system in Nova Scotia.

In 2022, Government announced that it was replacing the Green Fund with a new fund called the Nova Scotia Climate Change Fund. Cap-and-trade is also being replaced with a new carbon pricing system for large industry and the electricity sector called the Output-Based Pricing System. This new system will hold these large emitters accountable for reducing their emissions. The cap-and-trade system developed in Nova Scotia in 2019 is no longer compliant with the new federal regulations on pricing carbon. The Output-Based Pricing System will better reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide more benefits to Nova Scotians.

The *Environment Act* requires the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to table a report on the use of the Green Fund no later than July 31 of each year. This report fulfills this obligation. By legislation, the Green Fund is expected to be closed in March 2024. Following this 2022-23 report, one more annual report on Green Fund spending is expected.

Appendix A of this report directly addresses Recommendation 1.3 of the Nova Scotia Office of the Auditor General's 2023 Report on the Green Fund: Effectiveness Over First Two Years. The report recommended that the Department of Environment and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change) clearly report results against performance targets in its public annual report.

## 2. Green Fund Revenues, 2022-23

In 2022-23, total revenue in the Green Fund was \$53,219,657 with \$52,625,871 allocated as of March 31, 2023. At the end of the fiscal year 2022-23, \$593,786 remained in the Green Fund.

## 3. Green Fund Expenses, 2022-23

In 2022-23, Nova Scotia used the Green Fund to invest in operational funding, salaries and benefits, and program grants.

### 3.1 Operational Expenses (\$536,609)

Environment and Climate Change delivers programs that received funding in 2022-23 for operational expenses. Operational expenses include, but are not limited to, communications, and professional services. The funded programs include CLIMAtlantic, the Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Climate Adaptation Leadership Program, and the Cap-and-trade program.

### 3.2. Salaries and Benefits (\$1,519,151)

Funding is provided for staff resources within the Climate Change Division of Environment and Climate Change that deliver the Climate Adaptation Leadership Program, the Climate Change Plan, the cap-and-trade program (finalizing and wind-down), the Output-Based Performance Standards System, the Green Fund, and the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund.

### 3.3 Program Grants (\$50,570,111)

In 2022-23, the Green Fund spending included \$50.57 million for the following grants:

<b>Funded initiative title</b>	<b>Funding recipient</b>	<b>Funding amount</b>
Advanced Homes	EfficiencyOne	\$12,000,000
Agri-Commodity Management Association	Agri-Commodity Management Association	\$400,000
Cape Sable Historical Society	Cape Sable Historical Society	\$400,000
Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia	Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia	\$400,000
Commercial Benchmarking Project	EfficiencyOne	\$450,000
Community Climate Change Coordinators	Clean Foundation	\$5,000,000
Electric Vehicle Incentive Service Agreement	Clean Foundation	\$15,000,000
Expanded Energy Management Services Program	EfficiencyOne	\$329,723
Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation and Impact Fund	EfficiencyOne	\$7,500,000
Horticulture Nova Scotia	Horticulture Nova Scotia	\$400,000
Lunenburg County Wheels	Lunenburg County Wheels	\$290,400
Making Room for Wetlands: Coastal Carbon	Saint Mary's University	\$1,938,000
Net-Zero Atlantic	Net-Zero Atlantic	\$2,882,000
Next Ride – Electric Vehicle Engagement Campaign	Clean Foundation	\$1,000,000
Perennia	Perennia Food and Agriculture Corporation	\$1,200,000
Pictou County Transit	Pictou County Transit	\$103,863
Resilient Homes Retrofit Pilot Program	Clean Foundation	\$331,000
Transit Association of Guysborough	Transit Association of Guysborough	\$95,000
Youth Climate Council	Clean Foundation	\$800,000
Other small grants <sup>1</sup>		\$50,125
<b>Total Allocation</b>		<b>\$50,570,111</b>

#### 4. Updates and Results from 2020-22 Program Grants

Appendix A provides a detailed overview of the program grants from previous years, including performance targets and results.

<sup>1</sup> Other small grants include, but are not limited to, research and engagement grants provided through the Climate Adaptation Leadership Program and the Atlantic Climate Services Hub.

**Appendix A – Performance targets and progress by program**

Column 1: Program	Column 2: Delivery agent	Column 3: Term supported through Green Fund	Column 4: Fiscal year(s) the project received Green Funds	Column 5: Total Green Funds allocated	Column 6: Performance targets and/or deliverables	Column 7: Results for 2022-23 fiscal year (April 1 - March 31)	Column 8: Cumulative results (from program inception to March 31, 2023)	Column 9: Supplementary information
<a href="#">Affordable Housing Retrofits</a>	Clean Foundation for the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing	March 22, 2022 - March 31, 2023*  *to be extended, pending approval	2021-22	\$2,000,000	By March 31, 2023: 1. 57 units will receive deep energy retrofits.  2. Report on the location of the units that received deep energy retrofits.  3. Report on the energy, financial, and GHG savings resulting from the deep energy retrofits completed; meeting target of reducing energy consumption by 50% or more from baseline.	1. 3 units complete  2. All units are in Cape Breton Regional Municipality  3. Modeled energy saving: 50% Modeled GHG saving: 64%	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	Additional metrics reported for 2022-23:  Fiona impacts and delays in availability of labour impacted timelines; however, 54 units are on track to being retrofitted by October 31, 2023 with all units in Cape Breton (Sydney, North Sydney, Sydney Mines, Reserve Mines, Florence, Port Morien, Glace Bay, New Waterford, and Dominion).  To report on actual energy/financial/GHG savings, at least one year of energy consumption records are required. The required data will be reported by October 31, 2024.
<a href="#">Affordable Multi-Family Housing</a>	EfficiencyOne for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 29, 2021 - March 31, 2026	2021-22	\$11,450,000	By March 31, 2026:  1. Have a combined first year energy savings <sup>i</sup> of 22,000 GJ.  2. Have a combined first year GHG savings of 1,206 tonnes.	1. 3,414 GJ of first year energy savings achieved (16% of target)  2. 193 tonnes of first year GHG savings achieved (16% of target)	2021-22 and 2022-23 results combined:  1. 4,136 of first year energy savings achieved (19% of target)  2. 231 tonnes of first year GHG savings achieved (19% of target)	Additional metrics reported for 2021-22 and 2022-23 (combined):  70 housing unit participants
<a href="#">Clean Energy Training</a>	Clean Foundation for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 28, 2022 - March 31, 2025	2021-22	\$2,000,000	By March 31, 2025: 1. Design and deliver an Energy Advisor Training program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a 6-month energy advisor training program.</li> <li>Deliver energy advisor training to a cohort of 10 racialized and Indigenous workers.</li> <li>Deliver training to cohorts of 10 people in the first two years of the program and deliver a third if there is still a market for new energy advisors.</li> </ul> 2. Design and deliver a Custom Employment Support Training program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support participants to access existing training programs that will help them break into the green energy economy.</li> </ul> 3. Design and deliver a Wage Subsidy program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean will provide trade partners with wage subsidies to hire training participants.</li> </ul> 4. Identify barriers related to efficiency trades sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>research and trade partner engagement to identify barriers to entering the efficiency trades workforce</li> <li>a report identifying these barriers will be provided to the province</li> </ul>	1. Clean designed and delivered the first 10-person cohort of a 6-month Energy Advisor Training program. 5 African Nova Scotians and 5 Indigenous persons received training in the 1st cohort of the Energy Advisor Training program.  2. The Custom Employment Support Training program was designed and will start being delivered in FY 2023/2024.  3. The Wage Subsidy program was designed and will start being delivered in FY 2023/2024.  4. Clean completed research and engaged trade partners in guided interviews. Full report submitted May 9, 2023.	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	

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<a href="#">Clean Leadership Program</a>	Clean Foundation for Environment and Climate Change	March 31, 2021 - March 31, 2026	2020-21	\$2,000,000	Annual deliverables:  1. Hire Clean Leadership interns  2. Hire Climate Change specific internships  3. Hire Indigenous youth and African Nova Scotian youth	1. 124 Clean Leadership interns hired  2. 30 Climate Change specific internships were hired  3. 33 interns self-identified as Indigenous 12 interns self-identified as Black, African Nova Scotian, or a person of African descent. 13 interns self-identified as living with a disability	2021-22 and 2022-23 results combined:  1. 228 Clean Leadership interns hired  2. 84 Climate Change specific internships were hired  3. 54 interns self-identified as Indigenous 22 interns self-identified as Black, African Nova Scotian, or a person of African descent. 13 interns self-identified as living with a disability	
Climate Adaptation Leadership Program	Environment and Climate Change	April 1, 2020 - September 20, 2022	2020-21 2021-22 2022-23	Included in Environment and Climate Change's operational Green Fund budget	Deliverable and program goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build capacity in Nova Scotia to proactively anticipate and respond to climate change</li> <li>Provide a consistent structure and approach for delivering public and private sector engagement, learning, and action towards long term climate adaptation</li> </ul>	2022-23 Project outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 department and 7 sector scan reports completed</li> <li>3 department and 7 sector adaptation strategies developed</li> <li>A 13-module learning curriculum was delivered to 124 participants</li> <li>Mid-term assessment was undertaken</li> <li>Final (phase 1) evaluation was completed</li> </ul>	2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 results combined:  -In 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, the Climate Change Division worked with four provincial government departments (Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources and Renewables [formerly departments of Energy and Mines and Lands and Forests], Communities Culture, Tourism and Heritage, and Agriculture), and seven sectors (Coastal parks, Electricity, Archeology, Freshwater, Christmas Trees and Greenery, Cattle and Sheep, and Horticulture). These departments and private sector partners formed and/or engaged governance, scan, or implementation teams, drawn from across their sector or departments. Scan teams participated in workshops about climate risks, designed and delivered surveys to assess system level risks and priorities, and analysed and interpreted survey findings. Governance teams helped guide the work, endorsing key steps. Implementation teams led strategy implementation for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's climate adaptation strategy that was developed earlier in the program. -Over 100 workshops were held with departments and community stakeholders to support assessing unique climate risks and opportunities and developing context-specific strategies. By 2022, each partner produced a data analysis report presenting the priority climate vulnerabilities for their department or sector and developed a specific adaptation strategy to minimize risks and leverage opportunities.  2022-23 Project outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 department and 7 sector scan reports completed</li> <li>3 department and 7 sector adaptation strategies developed</li> <li>A 13-module learning curriculum was delivered to 124 participants</li> <li>Mid-term assessment was undertaken</li> <li>Final (phase 1) evaluation was completed</li> </ul>	

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<a href="#">Climate Change Risk Assessment</a>	Environment and Climate Change	April 2020 – December 2022	2020-21 2021-22 2022-23	Included in Environment and Climate Change's operational Green Fund budget	In 2017, the Office of the Auditor General recommended that Environment and Climate Change regularly review its rating of climate change risks to determine if risks have changed and identify any new actions required to address the changes.  This recommendation aimed to provide reliable climate change risk information to Nova Scotians, support planning prioritization, and lay the foundation for ongoing assessments.	<a href="#">"Weathering What's Ahead: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Risks and Nova Scotia's Well-being"</a> was released December 5, 2022, fulfilling the actions committed to by Environment and Climate Change in response to the 2017 OAG report, as well as the commitment made under the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act to complete and release a climate change risk assessment by the end of 2022 and update it regularly (by end of 2025 and every five years thereafter).	2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 results combined:  The primary research phase of the risk assessment was completed in 2020-2022 and results were synthesized to share with Nova Scotians in 2022. This work included completing a technical report with background research, updating climate projections, and conducting new quantitative analysis at the census division and provincial level on climate risks and opportunities. It also included exploring emerging priority areas to guide future action.  <a href="#">"Weathering What's Ahead: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Risks and Nova Scotia's Well-being"</a> was released December 5, 2022, fulfilling the actions committed to by Environment and Climate Change in response to the 2017 OAG report, as well as the commitment made under the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act to complete and release a climate change risk assessment by the end of 2022 and update it regularly (by end of 2025 and every five years thereafter).	
<a href="#">Electric Vehicle Chargers for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs)</a>	EfficiencyOne for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 28, 2022 - March 31, 2025	2021-22	\$1,000,000	By March 31, 2025, provide the following rebates to eligible entities: 1. \$175,000 in standalone EV charger rebates for retrofitted MURB 2. \$63,000 in EV ready plan rebates for retrofitted MURBs 3. \$108,000 in EV ready charger rebates for retrofitted MURB 4. \$25,000 in EV ready plan rebates for newly constructed MURBs 5. \$36,000 in EV ready charger rebates for newly constructed MURBs 6. \$407,000 rebates in total	1-6: no completed projects in 2022/23.	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	Additional 2022-23 activities include: - Developing, implementing and launching the EV Charger for MURBs program - Engaging with key stakeholders including the Province of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Power, BC Hydro, Clean Foundation, Ecology Action Centre, members of the consulting and contractor communities, and other members of the EV and MURB communities - Training support for electrical contractors has been implemented, providing free access to the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) certification course. - EfficiencyOne anticipates that participants will begin to complete projects in 2023/24.
<a href="#">Flood Line Mapping Program</a>	GeoNova for Municipal Affairs and Housing and Environment and Climate Change	January 2, 2022 - May 30, 2023	2021-22	\$998,528	By May 30, 2023, complete the following deliverables: 1. A watershed hydraulic structure survey and precipitation and water level study. 2. Flood line mapping studies for five watersheds	1. Both surveys completed  2. Completed for the following five watersheds: Meteghan, Sissiboo-Bear, South-West, Gaspereau and Guysborough County.	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	

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<a href="#">Home Energy Assessment</a>	EfficiencyOne for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 29, 2021 - March 31, 2026	2021-22	\$8,000,000	By March 31, 2026:  1. Have a combined first year energy savings of 126,766 GJ  2. Have a combined first year GHG savings of 5,413 tonnes	1. 86,518 GJ of first year energy savings achieved (68% of target)  2. 5,294 tonnes of first year GHG savings achieved (98% of target)	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	Additional metrics reported for 2022-23:  2,281 participants 1,790,085 GJ Lifetime Energy Savings
<a href="#">Home Warming</a>	EfficiencyOne for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 29, 2021 - March 31, 2026	2020-21	\$4,750,000	By March 31, 2026:  1. Have a combined first year energy savings of 20,500 GJ.  2. Have a combined first year GHG savings of 1,256 tonnes.	Not applicable (project completed in 2021-22)	2021-22 results:  1. 20,327 GJ of first year energy savings achieved (99% of target)  2. 1,256 tonnes of first year GHG savings achieved (100% of target)	Additional metrics reported for 2021-22:  503 housing unit participants
Industrial Energy Managers (IEM)	EfficiencyOne for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 28, 2022 - March 31, 2026	2021-22	\$1,500,000	By March 31, 2026, establish five IEM pilot participants that are committed to undertaking program goals.	Four IEM participants (80% of target) have been engaged in a service agreement to date and are located in Pictou County, East Hants, Lunenburg County and Cumberland County.	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	.
<a href="#">Next Ride - Electric Vehicle (EV) Engagement Campaign</a>	Clean Foundation for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 15, 2022 - June 30, 2027	2021-22 2022-23	\$2,500,000	By June 30, 2027, meet the following deliverables:  1. EV messaging campaign which will use social media channels, media interview, and other non-traditional platforms.  2. EV campaign and resource website  3. EV showcase that provides Nova Scotians with the opportunity to see and test drive an EV, and to ask questions about them in a no pressure environment (not a dealership showroom)	1. EV Messaging campaign: - Promoted SaltWire articles - Three CTV Morning interviews (including a test drive) - A campaign with ViewPoint (an ad for Next Ride on the viewpoint map was served over 863,000 times, leading to over 4,300 clicks). - Utilized social networks to promote the Electric Avenue event, reaching over 7,000 with a variety of ages seeing the post. - Fielded over a dozen interviews about EVs and related programs.  2. EV Campaign and resource Website - Website, EVassist, had over 75,000 unique page views and 95,000 page views in total. - EVassist also hosts the Electrify Rebate Program information. - Next Ride's website saw an increase of 70% for unique pageviews from the previous year. Meaning over 11,600 unique page views and almost 15,000 page views in total. - The digital platforms have a combined total of over 86,000 unique visitors to two websites: EVassist.ca and NextRideNS.com.  3. - Held an Electric Avenue event which was joined by many dealership partners as well as Nova Scotia Power, CAA Atlantic, the Electric Vehicle Association of Atlantic Canada and ZEN e-bikes.	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	

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					<p>4. Annual report detailing the achievements of the campaign, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) number of events</li> <li>b) "Bums in seats"</li> <li>c) in person engagements</li> <li>d) media engagements</li> <li>e) website views</li> </ul> <p>5. Annual report to include summary of the "focus initiatives" for rural and underserved communities, charging infrastructure, national engagement activities, fundraising opportunities, and successes.</p>	<p>4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Held or attended 129 events in total</li> <li>b) 1,808 Nova Scotians got in the seat of an electric vehicle</li> <li>c) engaged with 5,379 Nova Scotians</li> <li>d) The campaign conducted 17 news and television media interviews.</li> <li>e) EVassist had over 75,000 unique page views and 95,000 page views in total. Next Ride's website saw 11,600 unique page views and almost 15,000 page views in total. The digital platforms have a combined total of over 86,000 unique visitors to two websites: EVassist.ca and NextRideNS.com.</li> </ul> <p>5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reached 38 communities outside of HRM and hosted events in over 30 at distinct locations within HRM.</li> <li>-Delivered engagement sessions in French</li> <li>-Team continues to develop their knowledge regarding charging infrastructure working closely with EV Boost, and external relationships with contractors, electricians, and communities to understand the barriers and questions both individuals and workplaces may have.</li> <li>-12 per cent of respondents have purchased and EV and another 10 per cent are actively shopping 6 months following their test drive.</li> </ul>		
<p>Off Oil Pilot/Heating Research Pilot*</p> <p>*re-marketed as the Heating Research Pilot to avoid confusion with other off-oil programs</p>	EfficiencyOne for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 28, 2022 - March 31, 2025	2021-22	\$1,500,000	There will be an estimated 90 participants by the end of March 31, 2025	no completed projects in 2022/23	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	<p>Additional 2022-23 activities reported include: 2022-23 activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- program/pilot design and operational details</li> <li>- development of a program manual</li> <li>- designing an application process and terms and conditions</li> <li>- research regarding gaps and barriers with current technologies</li> <li>- consultation with contractors to obtain feedback on the contractor process and terms and conditions.</li> </ul>
<p>Small Business and Not-for-Profit Energy Solutions</p>	EfficiencyOne for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 29, 2021 - March 31, 2026	2020-21	\$3,521,254	<p>By March 31, 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have a combined first year energy savings of 27,160 GJ</li> <li>2. Have a combined first year GHG savings of 698 tonnes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 17,676 GJ of first year energy savings achieved (65% of target)</li> <li>2. 607 tonnes of first year GHG savings achieved (87% of target)</li> </ul>	<p>2021-22 and 2022-23 results combined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 27,636 GJ of first year energy savings achieved (102% of target)</li> <li>2. 903 tonnes of first year GHG savings achieved (129% of target)</li> </ul>	<p>Additional metrics reported for 2021-22 and 2022-23 (combined):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 245 participants</li> </ul>



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<a href="#">SolarHomes</a>	EfficiencyOne for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 29, 2021 - March 31, 2026	2020-21 2021-22	\$13,500,000	By March 31, 2026:  1. Have a combined first year energy savings of 114,520 GJ  2. Have a combined first year GHG savings of 18,667 tonnes	1. 50,424 GJ of first year energy savings achieved (44% of target)  2. 7,830 tonnes of first year GHG savings achieved (42% of target)	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	Additional metrics reported for 2022-23:  - 1,107 participants - 1,260,596 GJ of lifetime gross energy savings
<a href="#">Solar for Non-Profit Organizations</a>	EfficiencyOne for Natural Resources and Renewables	March 28, 2022 - March 31, 2024	2021-22	\$1,500,000	By March 31, 2024:  1. Have a combined first year energy savings of 8,316 GJ  2. Have a combined first year GHG savings of 1,409 tonnes	1. 970 GJ of first year energy savings achieved (12% of target)  2. 151 tonnes of first year GHG savings achieved (11% of target)	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	Additional metrics reported for 2022-23:  - \$45,870 in first-year bill savings - 8 participants  Additional 2022-23 activities reported include: - Program uptake has been minimal to date, in large part due to an open matter on commercial net metering with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB). Renewable Electricity Regulations were amended in October 2022 by the Province of Nova Scotia, and Nova Scotia Power submitted its proposed Commercial Net Metering program details to NSUARB on November 25, 2022. Nova Scotia Power's proposed program is an open matter with the NSUARB and is expected to be resolved in April 2023. This new net metering program is anticipated to be launched by August 2023. As a result, most enrollments and project completions in the Solar PV for Non-Profits pilot program are expected to be delayed until then.
<a href="#">Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund</a>	Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities for Environment and Climate Change	April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2025	2021-22	\$15,000,000	1. Complete start-up activities to establish fund (fiscal 2022-23) a. Development of a Strategic Plan within six months from the signature of the agreement. b. Fund financial organization and management within six months from the signature of the agreement. c. Development and implementation of a Communications and Engagement Plan within six months of the signature of the agreement. d. Development and Finalization of Fund Materials within six months of the signature of the agreement. e. Announce and Launch the Fund publicly within nine months of the signature of the agreement.  2. Administer the Fund (fiscal 2022-23 and onward) a. Ongoing fund administration over the duration of the agreement. b. Monitoring over the duration of the agreement.	1. Start-up activities – Submitted and approved by the Minister October 2022. a. Developed a three-year strategic plan for delivering the fund. b. Fund financial organization and management, which included onboarding staff, establishing policies and practices for supporting effective governance of the fund and resources. c. Development and implementation of a Communications and Engagement plan which detailed approaches for building relationships, engaging, communicating, and supporting applicants and affected communities. d. Development and finalization of fund materials which included a fund evaluation framework, a project in-take process and application forms, recipient reporting requirements, and establishing a website and application platform. e. Announced and launched the fund publicly on November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2022.  2. Administer the Fund activities: a. The fund launched on November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2022. The fund was promoted broadly through	See column 7 (results in 2022-23 only, to-date)	Successful project applicants for round one funding will be announced in 2023/24.



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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Reporting quarterly and annually over the duration of the agreement</li> <li>d. Evaluation at the end of the agreement.</li> </ul>	<p>use of new releases, social media posts, and direct email engagement with over 900 stakeholders.</p> <p>NSFM facilitated and recorded 4 webinars for communities interested in applying. Staff held approximately 67 meetings with interested applicants to support their efforts in applying.</p> <p>The application in-take process included a pre-screening form to verify project alignment with the fund. A total of 142 project ideas were received, of which 131 projects were screened in and invited to complete an application form.</p> <p>A total of 102 applications were submitted to the fund, with a total funding request of \$37,414,575.</p> <p>An external review committee made up of subject matter experts was established to support the review, evaluation, and recommendation of projects. Each application was reviewed by two subject matter experts, followed by a multi-day review by the entire committee.</p> <p>Following the recommendations of the review committee, NSFM prepared a package for the Minister's review and approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. NSFM and ECC staff met bi-weekly to monitor the development and implementation of the fund.</li> <li>c. NSFM and ECC staff met quarterly to review quarterly progress and financial reports.</li> </ul>		

<sup>i</sup>First-year savings means the first full year of energy or peak demand savings generated by an energy efficiency measure.