

POWERING THE TRANSITION:

NOVA SCOTIA 2025 CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT







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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF NOVA SCOTIA ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



I am pleased to present the 2025 climate change risk assessment for Nova Scotia.

We are all experiencing its effects. Here in Nova Scotia, it is showing up as more blue-green algae in lakes, wildfires, stronger storms, drought, flooding events and so on.

Climate change demands action from each of us. This updated risk assessment is the first step to guide mitigation and adaptation action. It provides a clear picture of how climate change will continue to impact Nova Scotia. Grounded in science, its purpose is to help inform the action we must continue to take to make our homes, communities, businesses, economy, infrastructure and critical services, like healthcare and technology, resilient in a rapidly changing world.

Our Government is leading the way on mitigation. Nova Scotia has what it takes to be a leader in the global transition to clean energy, and we are pursuing this vision with urgency. Not only will this reduce carbon emissions – the leading cause of climate change- but energy projects also create good paying jobs, boost GDP, and generate new tax revenue to support the services Nova Scotians rely on, such as health care, schools, and safe, modern highways.

The transition to a clean economy is not just necessary to combat climate change – it's an opportunity to drive innovation, create jobs, secure our economic future, make Nova Scotia energy-independent, and create a path to a prosperous, sustainable, and clean future. A future where we are strong and competitive in the global economy.

Our journey to net-zero requires innovation, transformation, unprecedented collaboration and an openness to remove barriers and be open to possibility. Wind West exemplifies this approach. Nova Scotia has the offshore wind potential to power about a quarter of Canada's electricity needs. Wind

West will develop Nova Scotia's clean offshore energy, make our province an energy superpower, and create prosperity for generations. Together, we can build the infrastructure, industries and workforce needed to succeed in the global low-carbon economy.

In addition to our mitigation work, adaptation remains a priority. Across Nova Scotia, our Government is supporting community-led projects through programs like the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund, the Community Climate Capacity Program, our Coastal Protection Action Plan: *The Future of Nova Scotia's Coastline: The plan to protect people, homes and nature from climate change along our coast*, and our *Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth: Our Climate, Our Future*.

Adaptation pays off. According to the Canadian Climate Institute, every dollar invested in adaptation can see up to \$15 in benefits, in things like avoided disaster costs and lost productivity. These savings matter for families, employers and communities across our province.

I invite all Nova Scotians to view this risk assessment as a call-to-action and with a lens to innovation and opportunity.

Together, we can face climate change head-on, and in an informed way -- driven by the conviction that a sustainable and prosperous future is within our reach. The choices we make today will shape the province we pass onto future generations. Let us act boldly and lead with optimism.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Timothy Halman

Minister of Environment and Climate Change



1: Introduction

Human activities over the past 150 years have caused the climate to change, globally. The impacts are being experienced here in Nova Scotia. The good news is that we have reliable scientific information to guide our response to current changes and help us prepare for those yet to come.

Nova Scotia published its last climate change risk assessment in 2022 to help Nova Scotians understand how the climate is changing, what the impacts are, and what can be done about it. The Province updated this risk assessment to incorporate the latest scientific information.

Leading Climate Action: Building a Cleaner, Safer Future

Preparing for and responding to the effects of climate change means doing things differently. Taking steps to adapt to climate change can bring many benefits, for example:

- making Nova Scotia's economy more resilient
- seizing new economic opportunities
- keeping people safe and healthy, and safeguarding livelihoods
- building stronger communities
- protecting the infrastructure and services people rely on
- saving money by avoiding or reducing costs

Nova Scotia is taking strong action in response to climate change that will help make communities, the environment and economy resilient to its impacts. Nova Scotia has a climate plan, [Our Climate, Our Future - Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth](#) that has 68 actions to address climate change by:

- **REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS** – Nova Scotia has legislated greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets – to be 53 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050
- **RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS** – by helping and empowering community-led action to prepare for gradual changes that alter landscapes and extreme weather events like floods and wildfires.
- **DEVELOP A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY** – that will create good-paying jobs for Nova Scotians, position Nova Scotia as a global leader in the production and export of clean energy, make the province energy independent and help make the economy stronger and more resilient

Through Nova Scotia's *Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth*, the Province is investing in climate research, partnerships, projects, community leadership and training which will set Nova Scotia up for success in preparing for, and responding to, the effects of global climate change.





2: Approach

The Purpose and Benefits of Climate Change Risk Assessments

Climate change risk assessments are globally recognized science-based tools which provide information about the risks and opportunities that climate change brings.

This information helps inform evidence-based decision-making and planning by people, governments, businesses, economic sectors, communities, emergency service providers, healthcare providers and more. For example, risk assessments can reveal that droughts are increasing or that flooding is likely to persist, helping guide actions to reduce risks and seize opportunities.

That is why it is important to regularly review the climate risks and opportunities facing Nova Scotians.

The 2022 risk assessment, “[Weathering What’s Ahead: Climate Change Risk and Nova Scotia’s Well-being](#),” showed the risks Nova Scotia will face from climate change now and in the future. It used “well-being” as the lens through which it assessed climate risk. That means it looked at the resources we need to have a good quality of life for everyone now and in the future. It also looked at how climate change may affect these resources.

The 2022 risk assessment identified top climate risks across the province for the 2030s, 2050s, and 2080s. These risks included extreme weather events like flooding, wildfires, and heat waves, as well as more gradual changes like shifting ecoregions and vector-borne diseases. The risk assessment also looked at how climate change will affect Nova Scotia’s 18 counties differently.

The 2022 climate change risk assessment has already been widely used by provincial departments, communities, businesses, and Nova Scotians to respond and prepare for our changing climate.

Visit [Climate Risk in Nova Scotia | Climate Change Nova Scotia](#) for the 2022 Weathering What’s Ahead report and appendices, and the technical synthesis report and appendices for more information on how the 2022 risk assessment was completed, definitions, and results.

Well-being at Risk Index

This updated climate change risk assessment used the same approach as in 2022. Experts in climate change science, risk, and adaptation analyzed the risks and opportunities as they relate to the well-being of Nova Scotians.

A **well-being at risk index** was developed to assess climate risk. This index includes social, economic, infrastructure, and environmental data. These data are used to represent the different resources that contribute to well-being.¹ The index combines these data with climate data to help understand the different components of risk (shown next page) and where action can be taken. For example: How can exposure or sensitivity to the effects of climate change be reduced? How can capacity to cope and adapt be improved?

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Some human activities that release greenhouse gases and contribute to climate change are:

- using oil, coal and natural gas to heat homes, generate electricity, and fuel vehicles
- manufacturing and other industrial activities
- changing how our land is used, such as building new homes or roads

It is not known exactly to what degree countries around the world will reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions to slow climate change. That is why it is important to look at possible future scenarios.

The updated risk assessment uses the latest climate data to look at climate risks for the 2050s and 2080s. Like the 2022 assessment, it focuses on the high greenhouse gas emissions scenario. In this scenario, global greenhouse gas emissions will continue to rise.

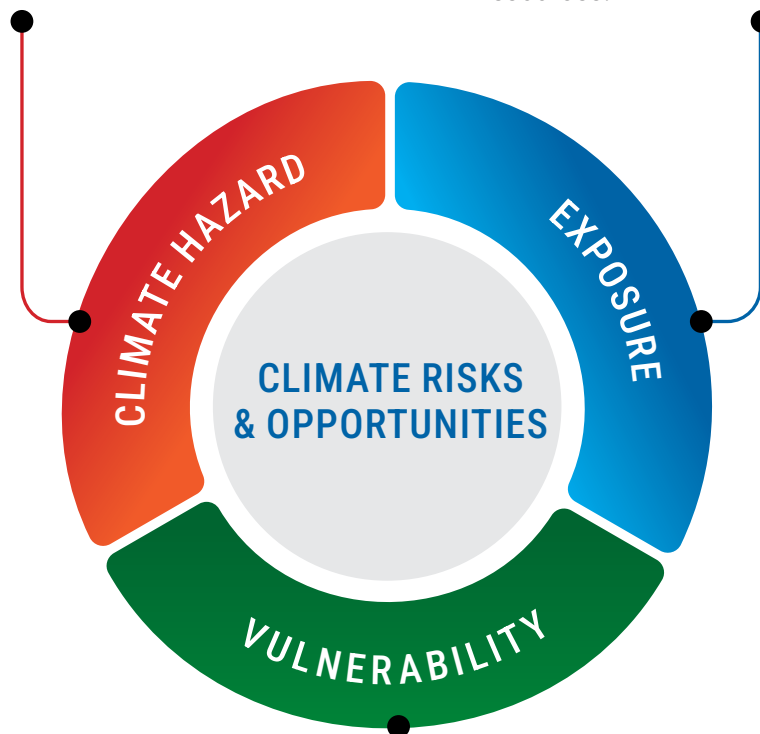
This report focuses on this scenario because it reflects the path the world has largely followed to date and errs on the side of caution when making long-term plans. These risks were compared to the risks under a moderate greenhouse gas emissions scenario. In this scenario, global emissions peak around 2050 and then level off. Looking at different greenhouse gas emission scenarios and time periods can support decision-making across a range of possible futures.

¹ Visit the [2022 Weathering What's Ahead Appendices](#) for more information.

WELL-BEING AT RISK

CLIMATE HAZARD is a climate-related event or trend that can cause harmful impacts (risks) or offer benefits (opportunities).

EXPOSURE is anything that a climate hazard could affect. This includes people, homes and other buildings, roads, sites of cultural importance, beaches and freshwater resources.



COPING CAPACITY is how well we deal with changing climate conditions now and in the near future using the skills, information, and money we have. For example, someone without air conditioning at home could cope with a heat wave by going to a nearby community centre to cool off.

SENSITIVITY is how much climate change affects someone or something. For example, high temperatures and heat waves will affect some individuals more than others. These people would be considered more sensitive to climate change.

COMPONENTS OF RISK DIAGRAM

Vulnerability = sensitivity + coping capacity.

The risk assessment update also uses the latest and improved social, economic, infrastructure and environmental data, and more local level analysis.

Twenty different climate hazards were considered in the risk assessment. Some of these were climate changes that present risks, such as drought and wildfire. Others present opportunities, like a lower demand for heat in homes and other buildings. Climate hazards were ranked and compared against each other. Hazards that have greater potential risks or greater potential opportunities could then be identified.



Climate Risks Considered in the Risk Assessment


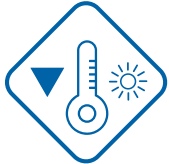



	INCREASED COOLING DEMAND	Rising temperatures will mean more demand to cool buildings, which may increase energy needs.
	DROUGHT	More drought may mean more serious water shortages for people and ecosystems.
	HEAT EXTREMES (ECOSYSTEMS)	More very hot days can cause more harm to our natural environment. These include negative impacts on natural areas and animals that live there.
	HEAT EXTREMES (FOOD AND OTHER HARVESTABLE GOODS)	More very hot days may cause greater harm to the food that is grown, such as fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy, and fish. It can also harm harvested resources, such as wood.
	HEAT EXTREMES (PEOPLE)	More very hot days can lead to serious health effects for people.
	HEAT EXTREMES (TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE)	More very hot days may result in more damage to roads, bridges and other infrastructure. This means it may become more difficult to transport people and goods.
	HIGH WIND*	Stronger winds may result in more damage to infrastructure like power transmission lines and cell phone towers. Objects blown by the wind can be a threat to public safety.

* New climate hazards considered in 2025 risk assessment update.

	INLAND FLOODING	Heavier rains and longer rainstorms may cause more inland flooding. This can damage or destroy buildings, roads and other infrastructure. Flooding can also be a threat to public safety.
	PESTS AND DISEASES	Rising temperatures and changes to rain and snowfall may lead to more pests and diseases. These changes could harm food production and other harvested resources.
	SHIFTING ECOREGIONS³	Rising temperatures and changes to rain and snowfall patterns may cause shifts in where plants and animals live and what thrives here.
	SEA-LEVEL RISE AND COASTAL FLOODING	Sea-level rise and more coastal flooding may mean more damage to buildings, roads, and other infrastructure. They are also a threat to public safety and can harm well water and ecosystems in coastal areas.
	VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES	Rising temperatures and changes to rain and snowfall patterns may mean more insects that spread diseases to people. For example, more people may get Lyme disease from tick bites, or West Nile virus from mosquito bites.
	LOWER WATER QUALITY*	Heavier rainfall and warmer temperatures may lower the quality of surface water, making it less safe and healthy. For example, more blue-green algae may be seen growing in lakes.
	WILDFIRE POTENTIAL	Dryer, hotter conditions may mean more wildfires. Wildfires can damage or destroy our homes, businesses, and industries. Wildfires are a threat to public safety and can harm ecosystems.
	LESS WINTER TOURISM AND RECREATION	Shorter, milder winters with less snowfall may impact people and businesses that rely on winter tourism and recreation.

* New climate impacts considered in 2025 risk assessment update.

Climate Opportunities Considered in the Risk Assessment

 LESS FREEZE-THAW CYCLES	<p>When water freezes and thaws, it can damage roads and buildings. Warmer temperatures may mean that there is less of this kind of damage.</p>
 REDUCED HEATING DEMAND	<p>Warmer winter temperatures will mean less demand to heat buildings, which may decrease energy needs and costs associated with heating.</p>
 LESS HEAVY SNOWFALL	<p>Less heavy snowfall means that trees and infrastructure are less likely to get damaged. It may also mean that people are less likely to get hurt from slipping on snow and ice.</p>
 LONGER GROWING SEASON	<p>Warmer temperatures mean that new crop varieties can be explored.</p>
 MORE SUMMER TOURISM AND RECREATION	<p>Longer, warmer summers may mean more opportunities for people and businesses that benefit from summer tourism and recreation.</p>



3: What Was Learned

How is Nova Scotia's Climate Changing?

Nova Scotia's current climate is different from the climate of the past. More changes will be seen in the future.

- **RISING TEMPERATURES:** Higher temperatures are expected throughout the year. Summers will be hotter, and winters will be milder
- **CHANGING PATTERNS OF SNOW AND RAINFALL:** More rain is expected to fall in shorter periods of time. Warmer temperatures in the winter will mean less snow and more rain, with a slight increase in precipitation over the course of the year
- **STRONGER STORMS:** When tropical storms hit Nova Scotia, they are expected to bring more intense rainfall, higher peak wind speeds, and more powerful storm surges
- **RISING SEA LEVELS:** Higher sea levels can cause coastal flooding and erosion
- **CHANGING OCEAN CONDITIONS:** Ocean waters are warming, becoming more acidic, and will contain less oxygen. Ocean currents could weaken and cause sea levels to rise further

WEATHER refers to conditions over short periods of time. It is what is seen when looking out the window or deciding what coat to wear.

CLIMATE reflects long-term weather patterns and trends that describe what a typical winter or summer is like, rather than whether it will rain today.

NOVA SCOTIA'S ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES have evolved under past climatic conditions. Those past conditions are also what was used to plan and design infrastructure and communities.

Provincial Overview

Over the past few years, Nova Scotia has experienced more wildfires, floods, longer droughts, higher temperatures, and changes when seasons start and end. It is expected that these types of impacts will continue.

If greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise toward the end of the century (see page 10), climate impacts will increasingly influence Nova Scotia's natural landscapes. Understanding these potential changes creates an opportunity to strengthen the foundations that support health and livelihoods, while enabling proactive planning for how communities adapt to and experience the places they call home.

The top climate risks of concern for the province for the 2050s include:

- heat extremes (ecosystems)
- diseases spread by mosquitoes, ticks, and other animals
- lower water quality



While these emerged as the top three risks, climate risks were ranked relatively closely together. Most had moderately high to high levels of risk. Climate risks that follow the top three closely include:

- inland flooding
- wildfire potential
- heat extremes (transport infrastructure)
- heat extremes (people)
- high winds
- shifting ecoregions³
- pests and diseases

Read more about these risks in the table on pages 13-15 along with an explanation of exposure, sensitivity and capacity to cope on page 11.






The top ranked risks in the 2080s are about the same as those in the 2050s. However, all climate impacts are expected to get worse towards the end of the century. If greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, larger changes in temperature are expected. This increases the likelihood of impacts from drought, heat extremes affecting transport infrastructure, and other climate risks influenced by temperature.

This research shows that the best way to reduce risks is to increase capacity to adapt to them. Strengthening adaptive capacity supports more effective responses to a changing climate. The risk assessment results show that taking action on greenhouse gas emissions matters. When looking at the changes in climate between the two greenhouse gas scenarios (see page 10), it is clear that global cooperation and action to slow climate change will help reduce climate impacts.

³ An ecoregion is an area having distinct landscape, climate, plants, soil, water, and human activity characteristics.

Understanding Climate Risks by Theme

The climate risks on pages 13-14 were grouped into five themes. This helps identify what drives risk and where action can be taken to support adaptation. This includes measures to reduce exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards and to strengthen the capacity to cope with climate change. The table below shows the climate risks for each of the five themes. Find descriptions of the risks listed in this table on pages 13-14.

Theme	Risks
 DISASTER RESILIENCE	Wildfire potential High winds Flooding Sea level rise
 HUMAN HEALTH	Vector-borne diseases Lower water quality Drought Heat extremes impact (people)
 ENVIRONMENT	Heat extremes impact (nature and ecosystems) Shifting ecoregions ³ Pests and diseases Drought
 INFRASTRUCTURE	Heat extremes impact (transport infrastructure) Increased cooling demand
 ECONOMY AND WORKERS	Pests and diseases Heat extremes (food and other harvestable goods) Less winter tourism and recreation

REDUCING EXPOSURE: Each theme focuses on different elements that are exposed to climate hazards and offer different options for adaptation. For example:




- Buildings, roads, and other essential services are exposed to climate hazards under the **INFRASTRUCTURE** theme. Reducing exposure can mean things like building new infrastructure where flooding is less likely.
- People are exposed to climate hazards in the **HUMAN HEALTH** theme. Reducing exposure can include actions such as planting trees to help keep communities cooler during heat waves.
- **REDUCING SENSITIVITY:** All five themes are sensitive to climate change in different ways, but some adaptation options to reduce sensitivity may have a greater effect on reducing climate risk. For example, the risk assessment results showed that keeping our environment healthy can help reduce sensitivity to climate change by:
 - developing new economic opportunities
 - protecting jobs and industries that rely on the natural environment
 - maintaining the health of Nova Scotians
 - protecting cultural traditions
 - preserving outdoor experiences

The results also showed that daily travel patterns – how people move between home and other destinations- are highly sensitive to climate change. Sensitivity could be reduced by changing how people get around and by designing transportation routes that are efficient and more climate resilient.

IMPROVING COPING CAPACITY: When looking across all climate hazards, there are some common ways we can improve our capacity to cope. Some support individuals and households, while others focus on collective action. Common strategies include creating more economic opportunities and strengthening the ability to respond to emergencies.

Understanding Climate Opportunities by Theme

Some climate changes can also improve the well-being of Nova Scotians. These are grouped into three themes in the table below:

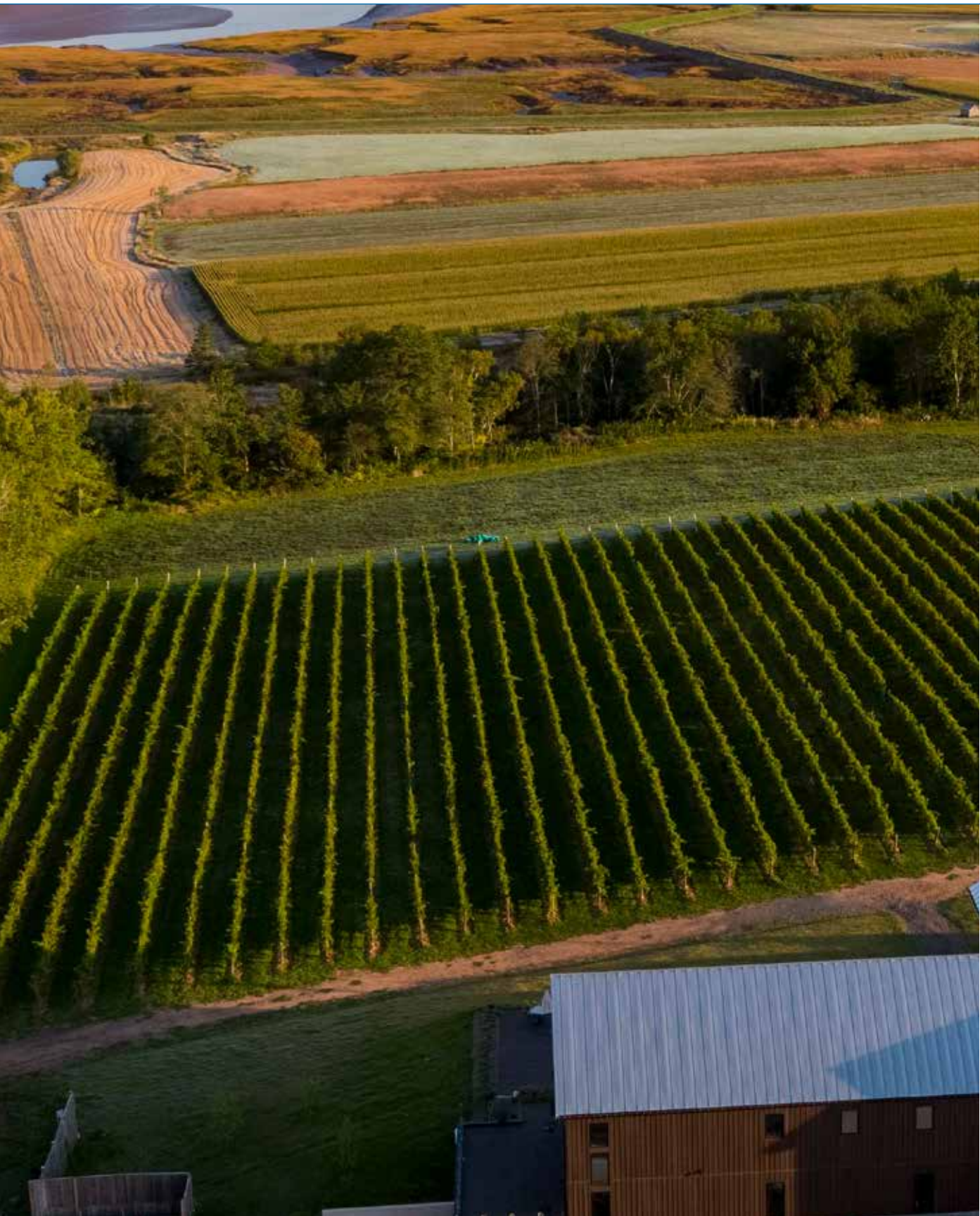
Theme	Opportunities
 HUMAN HEALTH	More summer tourism and recreation Less heavy snowfall
 INFRASTRUCTURE	Reduced heating demand Less heavy snowfall Less freeze-thaw cycles
 ECONOMY AND WORKERS	Longer summer tourism season Longer growing season for farmers

Descriptions of the climate opportunities listed in this table are on page 15.

Most opportunities from climate change are related to the economy and workforce. For example, a longer growing season can open up new market development opportunities for farmers. It can also mean longer seasons for summer tourism and recreation jobs and businesses. Nova Scotians can enjoy outdoor activities like walking, cycling, and hiking for more months of the year, promoting physical and mental health. Milder winters may mean a reduced need for people to shovel, which can lead to fewer heart attacks from strenuous snow shoveling and may reduce falls from people walking through snow and on slippery areas. This can lead to fewer visits to the emergency room and reduced burden on the healthcare system. Fewer freeze-thaw cycles can mean less damage to roads, buildings, and other infrastructure.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES: To get the most out of these opportunities, continued action is needed. Financial well-being and the use of knowledge and skills are important ingredients for taking advantage of climate opportunities.

These opportunities will need to be managed alongside emerging risks. While a longer growing season may allow more food to be grown, climate risks such as drought may also bring challenges.



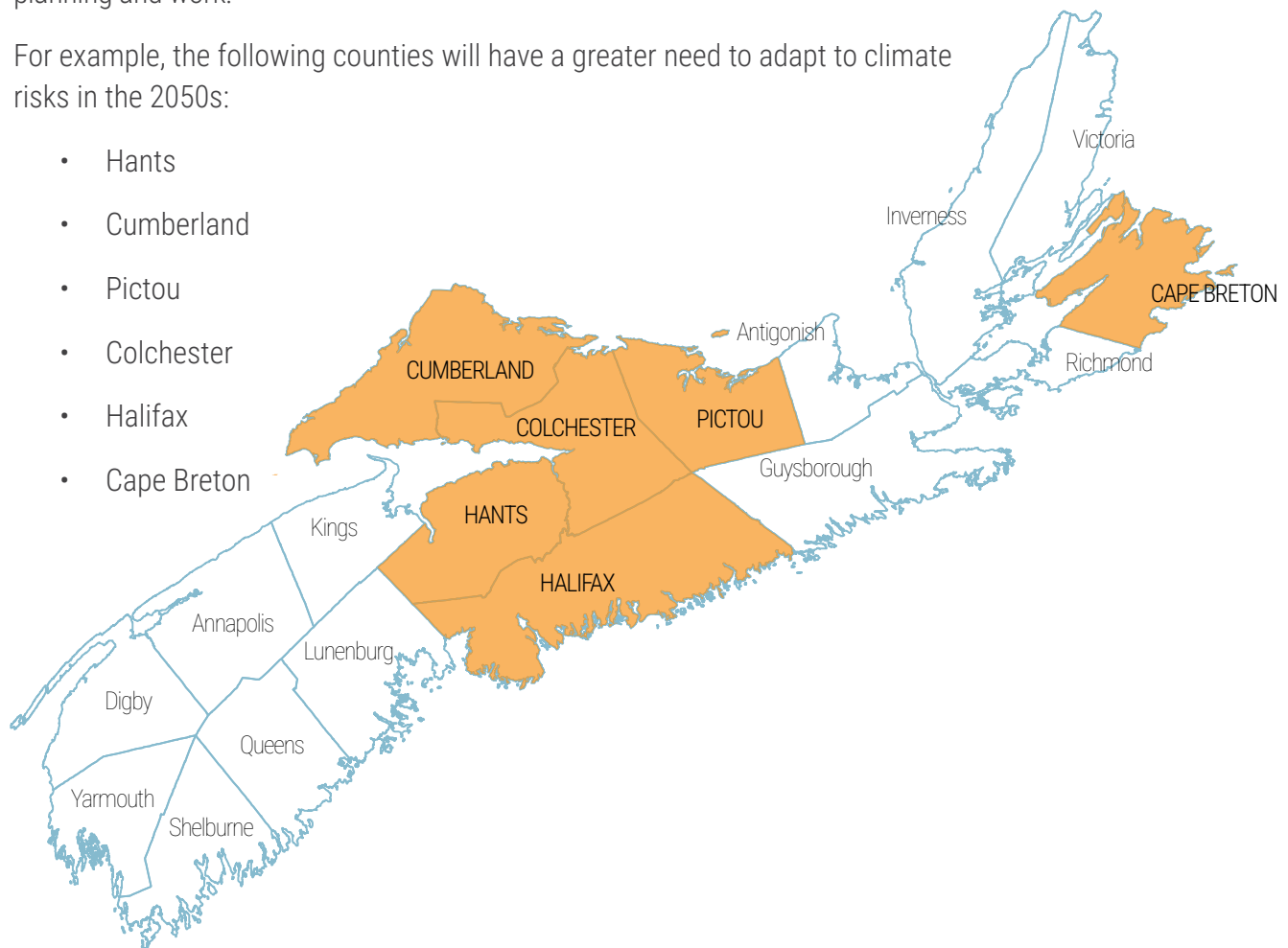
Adaptation Needs Differ Between Regions

Climate change is a global issue, but different places will have to adapt in different ways. The most effective actions are shaped by each community's unique situation — its people, location, needs, and available resources. Understanding the climate risks and opportunities in each area can help with planning and action to adapt.

The 2025 climate change risk assessment provides more granular information for different areas in Nova Scotia. This can help communities, first responders and municipalities with their adaptation planning and work.

For example, the following counties will have a greater need to adapt to climate risks in the 2050s:

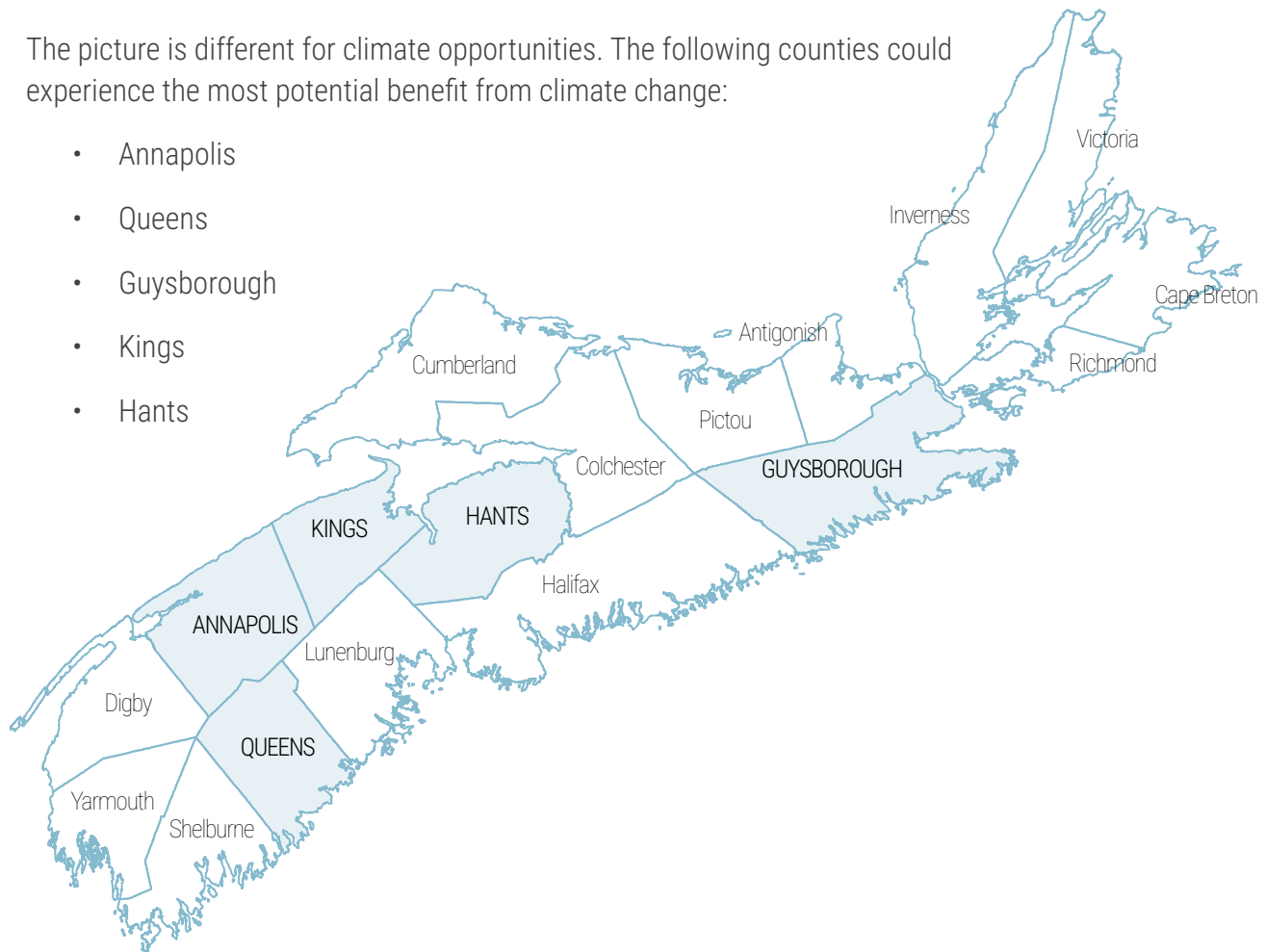
- Hants
- Cumberland
- Pictou
- Colchester
- Halifax
- Cape Breton



Different factors contribute to risk. Some counties, like Cape Breton and Halifax, have more people and infrastructure exposed to climate hazards, while Hants, Colchester and Cumberland are expected to see relatively more climatic change.

The picture is different for climate opportunities. The following counties could experience the most potential benefit from climate change:

- Annapolis
- Queens
- Guysborough
- Kings
- Hants



Annapolis and Queens counties will experience more of the kinds of climate changes that bring opportunities. For example, a longer season for summer tourism or for growing food. Farming areas, like Annapolis, Kings and Hants counties can also benefit more from a longer growing season.

In Guysborough, residents are likely to benefit more from needing less heating and experiencing fewer freeze-thaw cycles that can damage structures.

In addition to counties, the risk assessment also looked at smaller areas of Nova Scotia. These local risk profiles highlight the diversity of the province. The risk assessment also showed that when looking at smaller areas instead of the whole province, different hazards, like sea-level rise, coastal flooding and increased cooling demand, may be more pressing concerns.

This means that it is important to have solutions that are based in the community and relevant to the people who live there. For example, there are important differences between rural and urban areas. Urban areas may have more people exposed to climate hazards, but aspects of rural populations, such as more older adults, may make them more sensitive to hazards.

Looking Forward

The climate future is not written in stone, and the province will continue to change. This risk assessment is part of an ongoing climate risk assessment cycle that supports understanding of:

- how the climate is changing across Nova Scotia
- the risks and opportunities climate change presents for Nova Scotia

Updating information regularly will help make sure we have the latest science and information to guide what we do. The next risk assessment will be conducted in 2030.

Learning is constantly happening. The climate change risk assessment is just one tool to help Nova Scotians better understand how climate change affects the well-being of communities, infrastructure, the economy, and the environment. Universities, different levels of government, community organizations, business sectors and others, are all exploring new ways to adapt to climate change that work for Nova Scotians.

Nova Scotians are resilient and adaptable people. We've tackled hard problems before and will continue to rise to the challenge to help neighbours and communities.

A provincial-level risk assessment identifies what needs attention to support planning and preparation for climate change. Government departments, communities, municipalities, and businesses can use this information to make decisions and act to:

- change existing, or build new infrastructure that can stand up to the effects of climate change
- make sure people have what they need to stay safe and healthy, for example the new Nova Scotia alert system
- use nature to help protect people and places from climate impacts
- plan for different kinds of emergencies or extreme events
- benefit from new business opportunities





4. Opportunities to Take Action

Nova Scotians are working together on innovative solutions that slow climate change and help respond and prepare for climate impacts. The actions taken can bring many benefits, like:

- continuing to strengthen, grow, and diversify Nova Scotia's economy and jobs
- protecting the resources important to well-being
- continuing to build stronger, more inclusive communities

The actions taken can bring additional benefits. Working together can help protect people, nature, and livelihoods for a sustainable future.

Reaching our Emissions Goals.

The risk assessment reinforces the importance of taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst of these impacts that climate change can bring. Nova Scotia is demonstrating global and national leadership to reduce carbon emissions. This includes regulating greenhouse gas emissions from the province's largest emitters through Nova Scotia's Output-Based Pricing System to help meet climate goals.

Clean energy is the future, and the Province is pursuing opportunities in onshore and offshore wind, green hydrogen, solar, tidal, and more. Moving to clean energy is the best way to lower emissions and tackle global climate change.

Nova Scotia is punching above its weight as a leader in one of Canada's largest energy transformations. For example, Wind West—the province's first offshore wind energy development—will harness the tremendous power of offshore wind to generate clean, renewable energy to meet local needs, with surplus capacity for export. Fifteen wind energy projects have been approved since 2021 to help power the transition.

We are safely and responsibly unlocking the potential of natural resources to benefit all Nova Scotians. This will create jobs, grow the economy and help advance the transition to clean energy which is one of the most important ways to lower greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

We are making clean energy more accessible and affordable for Nova Scotians through various programs, for example:

- [Community Solar Program](#): helps community groups set up solar panels to generate clean electricity for participating subscribers
- [Affordable Multifamily Housing Program](#): provides rebates for energy efficient upgrades to rentals, co-ops, shelters, and other non-profit support facilities
- [House Warming Program](#): helps lower income households with no-charge upgrades to homes for draft-proofing and insulation to save on heating costs and be more comfortable
- [Clean Fuels Innovation Fund](#): supports industries and businesses to replace traditional fossil fuels with cleaner fuels for heating, transportation and industrial processes
- supporting community action through the [Low Carbon Communities Program](#) which provides funding for low-carbon building, transportation, and electricity projects
- improving buildings and transportation to use less energy and produce less pollution. For example:
 - adopting the [2020 National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings](#)
 - expanding community transit through the [Community Transportation Action Plan](#)
- making farming and fishing more affordable, energy efficient, and sustainable For example:
 - [Advancing Clean Technologies Program](#): helps farms add clean technologies for value-add agricultural production, adapting to climate change, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
 - [Fisheries and Aquaculture Energy Efficiency Innovation Fund](#): supporting commercial fisheries and aquaculture to reduce energy use and climate change impacts

Driving Climate Resilience.

The Province continues to look for improved ways to deliver programs and services to protect public and community assets in the changing climate. For example:

- creating a new [Department of Emergency Management](#) in 2024 to better prepare for emergencies, along with the volunteer [Nova Scotia Guard](#) to help communities during and after emergencies
- helping regional emergency management organizations with costs for essentials like communications equipment, staff, and training to support managing emergencies
- expanding the Emergency Services Provider Fund for fire departments and other first responders with grants for equipment
- launching the new NS Alert app so more Nova Scotians will have access to critical alerts, expanding coverage in areas in many parts of rural Nova Scotia
- increasing financial help to those affected by extreme weather events, like offering funding to farms for water supplies during the 2025 drought
- looking at ways to protect the health of Nova Scotians during heat waves and ways to help the health system better respond to heat-related illnesses
- working with community partners to restore the dunes at Risser's Beach Provincial Park and installing new educational signs about coastal climate change
- adding more outdoor air quality monitors so Nova Scotians have more information to protect themselves from wildfire smoke or other pollution
- educating residents about how to keep their well water safe



Empowering adaptation requires an all-hands-on-deck approach. The Province provides tools, resources and information to help Nova Scotians, municipalities, and businesses adapt. Some examples of these supports include:

- creating the [Coastal Hazard Map](#) and individualized coastal hazard assessment reports
- supporting updates to local by-laws
- [Community Climate Capacity](#) program: The Clean Foundation is supporting 29 communities and municipalities to take more climate action at the local level
- information and resources for fishers and farmers: Connecting fishers and farmers with the latest information and resources to adapt to extreme events and changes in temperature and precipitation
- [Municipal Floodline Mapping Program](#): Creating flood maps for municipalities to make decisions so new development can be safer from potential floods
- [Climate Justice Ambassadors Program](#): Growing climate leadership in African Nova Scotian communities
- supporting people, including youth and community leaders, to learn new skills, share information, and take action through:
 - CLIMAtlantic's Nova Scotia Community of Practice
 - CLIMAtlantic's [Climate Adaptation and Resilience Training Program](#)
 - Clean Foundation's [Clean Leadership Summer Internship Program](#)
- the Nova Scotia Climate Smart website offers information on climate risks and adaptation practices for the Nova Scotia agriculture sector: <https://climatesmart.perennia.ca/>

The Province of Nova Scotia is helping all Nova Scotians to act on climate change. Here are some resources to explore.

Living Safely by the Sea.

Nova Scotia's Coastal Climate Change website offers essential tools and guidance to empower property owners, communities, and planners make informed, climate-smart decisions for a safer, more resilient coast. Resources include interactive maps, guides to help coastal property owners, and planning resources for municipalities. Visit novascotia.ca/coastal-climate-change to find out more.

Local Ideas. Lasting Impact.

The Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund offers grants for community groups, municipalities and others to lead inclusive and resilient climate solutions. This fund is for projects that adapt to climate change or reduce greenhouse gases. Visit nschallengefund.ca to find out more.

Explore Funding Opportunities.

The Climate Funding Navigator helps Nova Scotians find funding for projects that support the province's climate goals by providing guidance to available funding programs and resources to support applications. Email ClimateFundingNavigator@novascotia.ca to find out more.

Tools for Climate Resilience.

[CLIMAtlantic](https://climatlantic.ca) helps people in Atlantic Canada deal with climate change. They offer free tools, data, training, and expert advice to support climate adaptation. Visit climatlantic.ca to:

- learn about climate impacts
- get help with climate data
- take training or find resources
- use climate adaptation tools
- connect with others working on climate adaptation

Email info@climatlantic.ca for more information.

Be Inspired. Take Action.

Discover TransitionNS Stories – real-life stories of Nova Scotians who are leading local solutions in response to climate change. Their inspiring work is creating a more resilient future. From clean energy to coastal protection, these stories show the power of local, community-led action. Visit transitionsstories.ca to learn more.

For more information about results, how the climate is changing, and climate risks and opportunities, please contact climatechange@novascotia.ca.



