

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

2011 Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Action Plans: 2015 Update on Progress

“Charting Our Course: Climate Change Action Plan 2011” and *“Moving Forward: Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2011”* set out the Provincial Government’s strategic approach to climate change and energy efficiency, alongside 75 commitments to action across the economy. In the plans, government committed to provide annual updates on progress. This update reports on progress since the last ministerial statement, released on December 9, 2014.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is pleased to announce that since 2011, action has been undertaken on all 75 commitments and more than half have been completed. Highlights of the Provincial Government’s activities over the past year are described below.

Intergovernmental Action

Over the last year, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has played an active role in intergovernmental forums seeking to advance action on climate change, including:

- In April, Premier Paul Davis participated in the Quebec Climate Summit at which Provincial and Territorial leaders committed to strengthen collaboration on climate change.
- In July, the Premier chaired the Council of Federation meeting that adopted a Canadian Energy Strategy that addresses the need to tackle climate change.
- Also in July, the Minister Dan Crummell participated in the Climate Change Summit of the Americas.
- The Provincial Government joined the Compact of States of Regions that comprises more than 40 sub-national governments that have all reported their climate commitments, actions and emission inventories. The Compact of States and Regions spans 18 countries, six continents and represents over 12.5 per cent of the global economy.
- In August, the Premier chaired the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers that adopted a regional target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by between 35-45 per cent by 2030 below 1990 levels.

Improving Resilience

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador recognizes the importance of taking action to improve our province's resilience to climate change and has continued to strengthen work in this area this year:

- Released updated Intensity-Duration-Frequency curves on rainfall events to help ensure that infrastructure designs are able to withstand increases in precipitation, including vital transportation, municipal, marine and mining infrastructure.

- Produced a new flood risk map for the Municipality of Portugal Cove-St. Phillips based on the latest climate change projections.
- Continued the Hurricane Season Flood Alert System (HSFAS) daily between June 1 and December 31. This system has generated over 6000 storm forecasts for 45 communities/areas and over 36 flood alerts so far this year.
- Partnered with other Atlantic Provinces on developing a system for municipalities to determine adaptation options for flooding and erosion.
- Partnered with the other Atlantic Provinces to complete economic analysis on the costs and benefits of improving the resilience of Atlantic coastal infrastructure and property.
- Worked with Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador to deliver presentations on the important role municipalities can play in tackling climate change and minimizing risks within communities.

Improving Energy Efficiency and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Government has continued to advance action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency:

- Completed analysis on the costs and benefits of adopting new energy efficiency codes for new large buildings and consulted key stakeholders. A [“What We Heard”](#) document summarizing the findings of the consultations is available online.
- Achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification for the Corner Brook Long Term Care Home, Grenfell College Arts and Sciences Building and the St. John’s Long Term Care Home.
- Under the Hotshots program, distributed new teaching resources on energy efficiency to all 263 public schools. There were more than 4,000 visits to the Hotshots website, and, in partnership with takeCHARGE, classroom presentations were delivered to over 11,900 students. A full [report](#) on the results is available online.
- Continued a two-year Home Energy Conservation Pilot Program with 750 households across the province.
- Consulted large industry on approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and began work on greenhouse gas reporting guidance for large industry.
- Released a [Market Transformation Framework](#) with actions to support better access to energy efficient and lower greenhouse gas emitting goods and services.
- Released a [report](#) on technology, infrastructure and market developments for electric vehicles.

Government Leadership

Recognizing the importance of demonstrating leadership in its own operations, the Provincial Government also released a [Greening Government Action Plan](#) that includes 46 commitments to green government. Below are ways the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is taking a leadership role:

- Integrating green considerations into the procurement of goods and services.

- Increasing the amount of waste diverted from landfills as a result of government's operations.
- Improving the environmental sustainability of new and existing government buildings.
- Integrating green considerations into fleet management and travel practices.
- Enhancing employee engagement in green activities.

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