



Chapter Highlights

Chapter 3: Environment – Climate Change Management

Overall Conclusion:

- Managing climate change through legislation, strategic plans and training
- Met the 2020 greenhouse gas reduction target
- Public reporting on results lacks details on adapting to climate change; new plans needed

Targets, Strategies, and Coordination

Conclusion:

- Greenhouse gas reduction legally required
- NS met minimum in 2015
- Action plan on climate change released in 2009
- Some departments part of climate change approach

Examples:

- Emissions reduced by 18% in 2015
- Met 10%-by-2020 target
- 68 planned actions to address climate change
- NSE helped 6 departments with planning
- Some departments not part of planned approach

Recommendations:

None

Public Reporting

Conclusion:

- Reporting on climate change has little info on adapting
- Most of the action plan done
- More planning and actions needed

Examples:

- Most actions are completed
- 85% of promised actions not discussed in public report
- Most actions done by 2015
- No new plans since then

Recommendations:

1. Report on progress and if all plans are done
2. Decide what the future plans are and share with NS

Assessing Risks

Conclusion:

- Strategies cover major climate change risks
- Risks not regularly reviewed/updated
- GNS worked with municipalities on plans

Examples:

- Action plan to reduce greenhouse gases
- Adapting to climate change is in the plan
- Climate change risks not reviewed since 2005
- Municipal plans cover similar risks, useful info for GNS planning

Recommendations:

3. Regularly assess risks and plan accordingly

5 Questions Nova Scotians may want to ask:

1. How does the Department's recently announced cap and trade program impact public reporting of progress and actions to address climate change?
2. What key focus areas of climate change is the Department going to report on in 2018 and when will they let us know?
3. Are Nova Scotia's 2020 targets for reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency on track?
4. What progress has Environment made in getting other government departments involved in planning for climate change?
5. When will the Municipal Affairs report on the impact of climate change on municipalities be finalized? Will it be released to the public?