



Healthy Forest Coalition

The Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, since its enshrinement in law in 2007, received the backing of all parties in the Legislature. This support continues today. Perhaps one of the best pieces of environmental legislation in Canada, the Healthy Forest Coalition strongly recommends that the EGSPA Act be updated to address the increased urgency of the threats to biodiversity in Nova Scotia but to also retain what made the Act so impactful in the first place; hard environmental goals and targets with hard deadlines.

Almost 13% of Nova Scotia's land is now protected, and nearly 40% of our electricity will be from renewable sources by 2020. However, the Healthy Forest Coalition believes that the use of forest biomass should be removed from the list of renewable sources as the works of Mary Booth and other studies on forest ecology and carbon sequestration have shown.

The EGSPA has not only brought environmental benefits but economic benefits as well. The Act helped to work towards a more sustainable future for our industries and rural economies.

The proposed Sustainable Development Act must continue to have strong environmental conservation goals, targets, and timelines in order to continue to bring the benefits that Nova Scotia has benefited from over the past 12 years.

More Goals are Needed for an Environmentally and Economically Sustainable Future

The Healthy Forest Coalition supports the Ecology Action Centre's call for the addition of 12 goals that should be incorporated into the Act. I will briefly list those proposed goals here:

Goal 1: Reducing GHG Emissions 50% Below 1990 Levels by 2030

Goal 2: Supplying 90% of NS Electricity Needs with Renewable Energy by 2030

Goal 3: Making 100% of Social Housing Net-Zero Energy Ready (NZER) by 2030

Goal #4: Tripling Energy Efficiency in the Electricity Sector by Increasing to 3% per year by 2030

Goal #5: Nova Scotia will sell 100 per cent zero-emission vehicles by 2040, with sales goals of 10 per cent by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030 along the way.

Goal #6: Nova Scotia will achieve zero waste by 2030 through the creation of a circular economy.

Goal #7: Building climate change adaptive capacity and resilience across the province by making resources available to Nova Scotia municipalities to take action on their adaptation priorities by 2022.

Goal #8: At least 17 percent of the total land mass of Nova Scotia is legally protected by 2025.

This goal is of particular importance to Nova Scotia as our province, fragmented by roads and development, is in the midst of a biodiversity crisis. Committing to 17% protection is the minimum that Nova Scotia can do to uphold the national standard commitment. It is not acceptable that Nova Scotia expects the rest of the country to meet this standard while we trail behind, forcing other provinces to make up our shortfall.

Goal #9: Full implementation of the Independent Review of Forestry Practices (The Lahey Report) by 2023.

With two extensive reviews of forestry practices in a period of less than 10 years, it is essential that the recommendations of the Lahey Report be carried out. Nova Scotia, its forestry industry and ecology, cannot afford to continue the status quo and undergo another expensive review. The change must come now.

Goal #10: Integrate Environmental and Biodiversity Education into the provincial public school curriculum by 2023.

Goal #11: Create 15,000 green jobs every year between now and 2030

Goal #12: In 2020, establish a Provincial Environmental Equity Working Group to address environmental racism and inequities in climate action and adaptation, and foster resiliency.