



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES



# Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund

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# How the Fund came to be

# The development of the Fund

NSFM was awarded the contract to develop and administer the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund in April 2022.

- Worked in partnership with ECC, Deloitte and Prime Creative to design and develop the Fund
- Hired new staff and established management structure
- Developed policies, plans and processes to effectively administer the Fund
- Met with stakeholders to inform the development of the Fund
- Engaged with communities and equity-deserving groups
- Established a Review Committee



Erica Brook



Brandon Durkee



Mary Claire Lake



Debbie Nielsen

## Guiding principles

The Fund was designed to:

- Meet the needs of local communities and align with existing funding programs
- Be inclusive
- Low administrative burden
- Encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Be continually improved and provide avenues for feedback



# Program overview

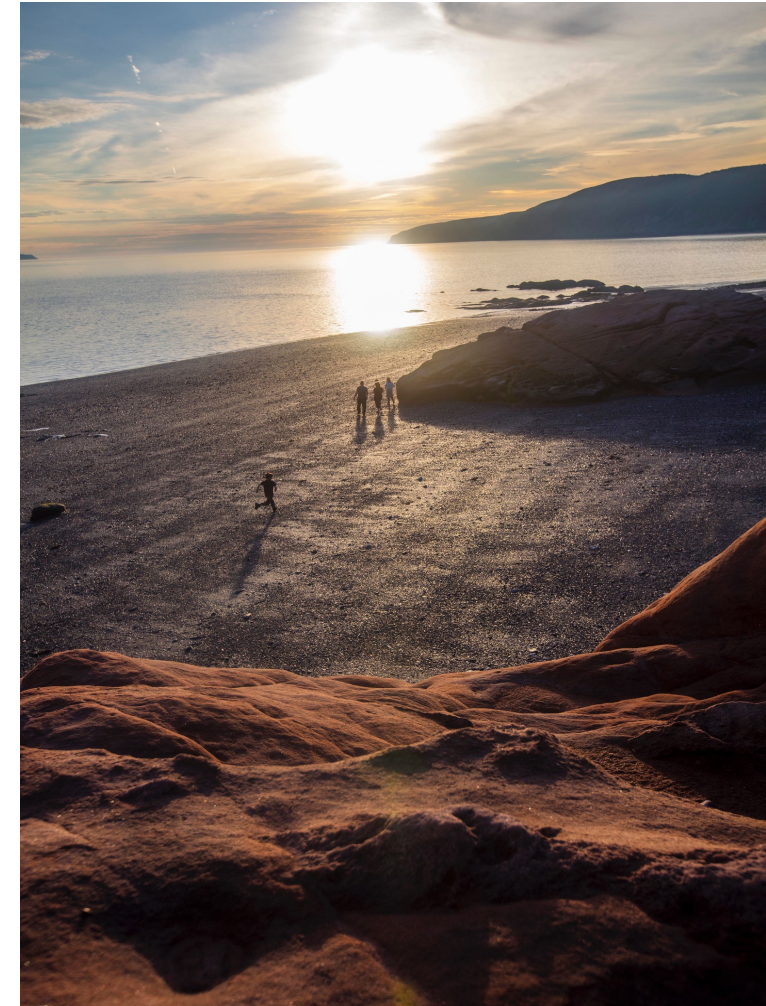
The **Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund** supports community efforts to reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions, or to prepare for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate.

The Fund provides non-repayable grants in competitive intake rounds to fund a range of projects, from public outreach initiatives to renewable energy projects, deep energy retrofits, coastal restoration and more.

# The Fund objectives

The core objectives of the Fund are to:

- Support the implementation of initiatives that avoid and **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** and contribute to Nova Scotia's targets for emission reduction.
- Improve community **capacity to adapt** in an ongoing way to the changing climate and implement projects that help reduce vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems.



# Eligible applicants

# Eligibility

The following groups can apply to the Fund:

Nova Scotia municipalities

First Nations bands and tribal councils

Post-secondary institutions

Non-profit organizations operating in Nova Scotia

**Collaboration, partnerships, and regional approaches between organizations and sectors are encouraged.**

For-profit and private sector entities, social enterprises, and municipal-owned corporations can be eligible provided they partner with one of the primary organizations, who will act as the lead proponent for the project.

# Funding streams

# Funding streams and focus areas

Funded projects will fall primarily under one of two streams: GHG reduction and community adaptation. Under each stream we have identified a number of focus areas.

## Mitigation

1. Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Energy generation and storage
4. Waste management and circular economy
5. Carbon storage and sequestration

## Adaptation

1. Built environment and climate-ready infrastructure
2. Ecosystems and nature-based solutions
3. Community coordination and planning

# Available funding

# Contributions

The Fund will provide non-repayable grants between **\$75,000 and \$1,000,000** per project.

An applicant must make a financial contribution to the project, and their overall contribution may be a combination of cash and in-kind. The applicant's cash contribution can include other funding sources.



# Determining your contribution amount

## Contribution Calculator

To assist in project budget planning, use the contribution calculator to determine your contribution amounts and project budget. Enter any one amount for the **Total Cost of Project** and the other three will fill in automatically.

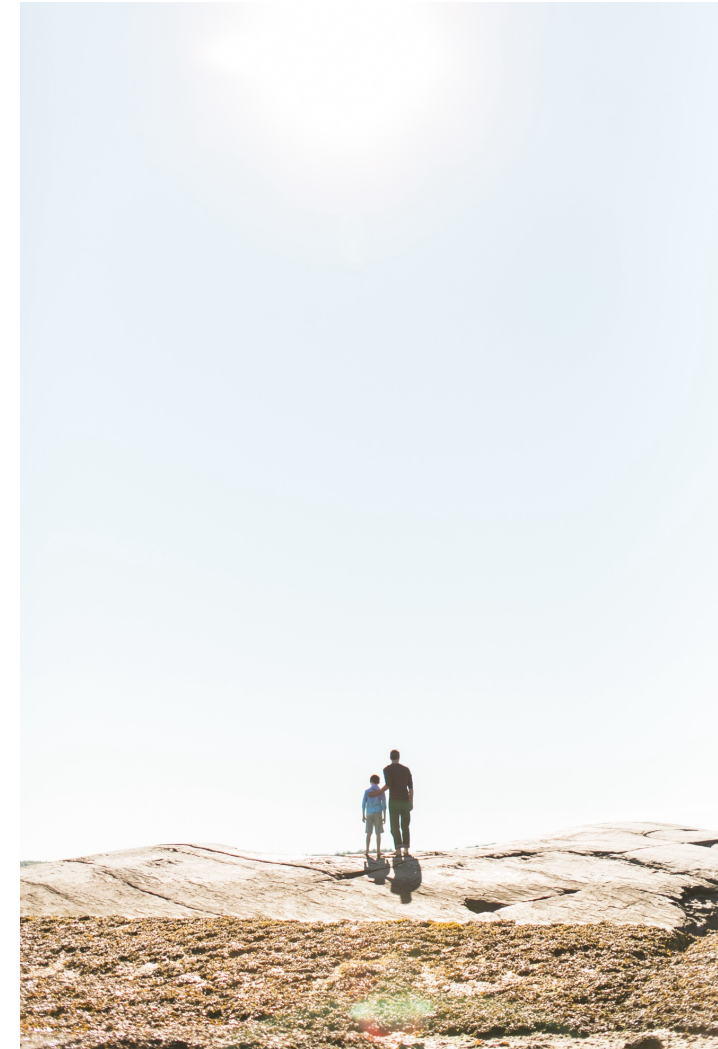
Total Eligible Project Costs	Percentage Applicant Contribution	Applicant Contribution	Fund Contribution
\$ Enter here		\$ Enter here	\$ Enter here

[Calculate »](#) [Reset »](#)

# How to apply

## First steps for applying

1. Visit our web site and sign-up to receive updates on the Fund: [nschallengefund.ca](https://nschallengefund.ca)
2. Review the Applicant Guide
3. Create a free account on our grants management online platform: *Submittable*
4. Submit a pre-application form with your project idea online
5. Email Fund staff if you have any questions: [info@sccfns.ca](mailto:info@sccfns.ca)



# Information Webinars

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – for non  
profit organizations

All webinars start at 1:00 pm.





Sustainable Communities  
Challenge Fund

# A grant for local action on climate change in Nova Scotia

The Sustainable Communities Challenge is a provincial grant program for local action on climate change in Nova Scotia. It supports community efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or to prepare for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate.



Sustainable Communities  
Challenge Fund

Join our mailing list:  
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Questions? email:  
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