

Environmental Goals and Sustainability Act-Progress as assessed by Ecology Action
Centre (2009)

Goal	Year	Dept	Progress
4(1)(a) demonstrate international leadership by having one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world by the year 2020	2020	DEL	-bold act which received and continues to have all party support -assertive and imaginative leadership required from all sectors of society for successful implementation of goals -Government is already missing or changing early goals
b) provide certainty to all sectors of the economy through the Government's economic development strategy entitled Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity and establish clear environmental goals while improving the Province's economic performance to a level that is equal to or above the Canadian average by the year 2020	2020	Dept of Econ Dev.	-greening the economy is not just an economic opportunity, but an economic imperative; if we don't, we will lose access to markets and our energy costs will skyrocket over long-term -Government of Ontario recently passed Green Energy and Economy Act with hopes of creating 90,000 jobs per year (PERI, U. of Mass-Amherst) -need to adopt new forms of economic measurement, such as the Genuine Progress Index
a) twelve per cent of the total land mass of the Province will be legally protected by the year 2015	2015	DEL/ DNR	Behind -some positive things were done while other things that were previously promised were very late or not done. Province currently at 8.2% - should be at 8.7% according to last year's Progress Report. Positives: - designated 5 of 30 parcels acquired from Bowater as new Nature Reserves. - designated Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes, Shelburne River and Amherst Town water supply area as Wilderness Areas. - creation of the Crown Share Land Legacy Trust (\$23 million) -passage of Conservation Property Tax Exemption Act

			<p>-support for Colin Stewart Forest Forum</p> <p>Negatives:</p> <p>-government behind on protection designation of land parcels from Bowater and designation of Ship Harbour Long Lake</p> <p>-No new areas announced as new “candidate” Wilderness Areas (i.e. nothing new in the pipeline)</p> <p>-two bottlenecks that should be corrected: 1) The government should amend the Wilderness Areas Protection Act to remove the clause requiring a socio-economic study be done for each new wilderness area</p> <p>2) Environment Department staff are under resourced</p>
b) the Province will adopt emissions standards for greenhouse gases and air pollutants from new motor vehicles, such as the standards adopted by the State of California by the year 2010	2010	SNSM R/ DEL/ DOE/ Conserve NS	<p>Behind</p> <p>-Government should join Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and B.C. and adopt low carbon fuel standards</p> <p>-Nova Scotia does not need to wait for federal government to act; Quebec has already implemented regulations in 2008, Manitoba has promised to implement California’s regulations as soon as the US federal government approves them</p> <p>-Nova Scotia should push Canadian federal government to act now</p>
c) emissions of nitrogen oxides will be reduced by twenty per cent by the year 2009 relative to emissions in the year 2000	2009	DEL	<p>On Track</p> <p>-NSPI must reduce emissions to 21,365 tonnes</p> <p>-assessment of ‘on track’ based on 2008 numbers, 2009 numbers not available until late 2009</p> <p>-does not include emissions from transportation sector</p> <p>-where NSPI is burning fossil fuels should continue to switch to cleaner burning natural gas</p> <p>-NSPI should also install low NOX burners</p>
d) sulphur dioxide emissions will be reduced by fifty per cent by the year 2010 from sources	2010	DEL	<p>Not Enough Information to Assess</p> <p>-government needs to move</p>

existing in 2001			aggressively to meet 2010 target of 72,500 tonnes
e) greenhouse gas emissions will be at least ten per cent below the levels that were emitted in the year 1990 by the year 2020, as outlined in the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan of 2001	2020	DOE	On Track -Government on track to meet goal, at least in the next 5 years, based on commitments in 2009 Climate Action Plan, in particular absolute caps on emissions from NSPI -Government must aggressively implement these commitments
f) mercury emissions will be reduced by seventy per cent by the year 2010 relative to pre-2001 levels	2010	DEL	Behind -goal for NS Power is 65 kg by 2010; in 2007 NS Power's emissions were 157 kg.
g) eighteen and one-half per cent of the total electricity needs of the Province will be obtained from renewable energy sources by the year 2013	2013	DOE	Behind -current approach of competitive tendering employed by NSPI is failing to bring on renewables at rate required to meet this goal; current approach creates uncertainty and deters smaller producers -haste to meet this goal is resulting in NSPI proposing ecologically harmful projects such as the 60MW biomass project in Port Hawkesbury -Government needs to introduce Feed-In Tariffs and implement province-wide rules for wind so as to minimize community concerns and maximize development
h) the Province will meet the Canada Wide Standard established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment for airborne fine-particulate matter by the year 2010	2010	DEL	Not Enough Information to Assess -more information required from Government to evaluate progress on goal -Canada Wide Standard is a guideline and should be replaced by national regulated standards and standards should be reviewed in light of new science on health impacts -much of the particulate matter in Nova Scotia comes from the US; Canada and US need to conclude agreement on particulate matter
i) the Province will meet the Canada Wide Standard established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment for ground-level ozone by the year	2010	DEL	Not Enough Information to Assess -more information required from Government to evaluate progress on

2010			goal
j) municipal public drinking-water supplies will meet the Province's treatment standards by the year 2008	2008	SNSM R/ DEL	Behind -goal not met -currently 60% of drinking water treatment facilities are meeting provincial standards; full compliance expected by 2011 -EAC is extremely concerned that early goals are not being met thus undermining credibility of entire Act
k) a comprehensive water-resource management strategy will be developed by the year 2010	2010	DEL	On Track -timelines being met thus far -Department staff has continued to foster good working relationships with NGOs and community groups -how will the Water Strategy fit with the Coastal Development, Natural Resources and Climate Change Strategies?
l) wastewater treatment facility discharges will be provided at least primary treatment by the year 2017	2017	DEL	On Track -given that Federal standards have increased and now require secondary treatment for all municipalities, and given the recent complications and breakdown of the wastewater treatment facility in HRM, the province will need to act effectively to meet this goal by 2017 as well as meet federal standards by 2040.
m) regulatory tools that use the framework within the Environment Act to stimulate redevelopment of contaminated land and contribute to economic development while protecting the environment will be developed by the year 2010	2010	DEL	On Track -release of report from NS Law Reform Commission in 2009 is important step
n) a policy of preventing net loss of wetlands will be established by the year 2009	2009	DEL/ DNR	On Track -Government is actively working towards this goal and good progress has been made -proposed no-net-loss framework is clear, defensible, and science-based. -strong integration with Water Resources Management Strategy is welcome -the Department of Environment has not yet announced its plans for public consultation to review the

			proposed no-net-loss policy; a transparent process is essential.
o) the solid-waste disposal rate will be no greater than three hundred kilograms per person per year by the year 2015 through measures that include the development of new programs and product stewardship regulations	2015	DEL/ SNSM R	Behind -Nova Scotia has early leader on this issue, but in recent years solid waste per person appears to be increasing
p) septage treatment facilities will be operated in accordance with the Guidelines for the Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Septage by the year 2011	2011	DEL	No Expertise to Assess Progress
q) a sustainable procurement policy for the Province will be developed and adopted by the year 2009	2009	Dept of Econo mic Devel pmt/ DEL	On Track -Government should be commended on development of policy but policy has not been publicly released so difficult to assess effectiveness
r) all new residential dwelling units constructed in the Province that are within the scope of Part 9 of the National Building Code of Canada will be required to display an EnerGuide rating by the year 2008	2008	DEL/ Conser ve NS	Miss and Mess -Government changed this goal from mandatory to voluntary; this move utterly undermines credibility of Act -any building being sold on the market, not just new buildings, should have a mandatory Energuide rating to educate the consumer, and stimulate the energy auditing sector -lack of trained auditors partly affected ability of industry and government to meet this goal
s) all new residential dwelling units constructed in the Province will be required to achieve an EnerGuide rating of 80, or meet energy conservation measures adopted in the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations made under the Building Code Act after January 1, 2011	2011	DEL/ Conser ve NS	Ahead -this goal has been moved forward by one year but unclear whether deadline is January 2010 or December 2010 -applaud the inclusion of small and large commercial buildings to the efficiency targets; waiting to hear what standards exactly will be implemented for commercial buildings -standards should focus specifically on energy efficiency, not LEED standards alone. -industry needs to start preparing

			now
t) a government facility will be constructed as a demonstration facility in accordance with a leading standard for building energy efficiency and sustainability, such as the Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Design standard by the year 2015	2015	DTPW / DEL	<p>On Track</p> <p>-decision anticipated this year -demonstration facility may be redundant as Nova Scotia has numerous LEED buildings already: NSCC Waterfront is aiming for LEED Silver, Seaport Market is aiming to be 1 of 3 LEED Platinum in North America, Joggins Fossil Centre is hoping for LEED gold and private sector is already engaged By the time this facility is complete, LEED will already be very normal in NS.</p> <p>-government should focus on demonstration sites regarding making energy efficiency upgrades to the government's current building stock; would stimulate the renovation and energy efficiency industry, especially in rural areas</p>
u) the Province will adopt strategies to ensure the sustainability of the Province's natural capital in the areas of forestry, mining, parks and biodiversity by the year 2010	2010	DNR/ Vol Planni ng	<p>Behind</p> <p>-Government is way behind in meeting this commitment: Phase One ended almost five months late and Phase Two was to begin in January 2009 and has not started -at this rate the creation of the new Natural Resources strategy will not be possible by 2010</p>