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Canada



2023 to 2027 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

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SECTION 1

Introduction to the Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy

The [2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy \(FSDS\)](#)ⁱ presents the Government of Canada's sustainable development goals and targets, as required by the [Federal Sustainable Development Act](#).ⁱⁱ This is the first FSDS to be framed using the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and to provide a balanced view of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

In keeping with the purpose of the act, to make decision-making related to sustainable development more transparent and accountable to Parliament, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) supports the goals laid out in the FSDS through the activities described in this Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS).



The [*Federal Sustainable Development Act*](#)ⁱⁱⁱ also sets out [7 principles](#)^{iv} that must be considered in the development of the FSDS as well as DSDSs. These basic principles have been considered and incorporated in this DSDS.

To promote coordinated action on sustainable development across the Government of Canada, this departmental strategy integrates efforts to advance Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda National Strategy, supported by the Global Indicator Framework (GIF) and Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets and indicators. The strategy also now captures SDG initiatives that fall outside of the scope of the FSDS to inform the development of Canada's Annual Report on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

SECTION 2

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Sustainable Development Vision

ACOA's sustainable development vision is for Atlantic Canada to be economically competitive and to thrive in an inclusive low-carbon economy by 2050. Like much of the globe, Atlantic Canada is impacted by climate change. The Agency will embrace opportunities for clean growth by leveraging the momentum that Atlantic provinces have seen in recent years, as outlined in a recent [Public Policy Forum report](#) titled [The Atlantic Canada Momentum Index](#). ACOA's advocacy work, outreach, policies and programs projects will propel prosperity and promote inclusion in the region's communities.

ACOA recognizes that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the engines of regional economies, and an important source of innovation and job creation. As SMEs constitute a large portion of Canada's economy, they also make a significant contribution to Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. In Atlantic Canada, SMEs want to green their practices but don't always have the resources or expertise to make the needed investments or implement the required technologies and practices. As a key federal partner in economic development in Atlantic Canada, ACOA will support this green pivot by prioritizing strategic investments in clean technologies and sustainable practices, and enabling the regional ecosystems that accompany SMEs and communities that take action.

The Agency will work to advance the transition to a cleaner, more prosperous economy that will achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 by leveraging partnerships and collaborations with other departments, orders of government, industry, communities and Indigenous People to:

- support access to reliable and affordable clean energy;
- advance industrial decarbonization;
- accelerate the greening of firms and supply chains; and

- advance the development of clean technologies for domestic and international markets.

The Agency will meet this objective by providing regionally tailored, client-centric and place-based assistance to SMEs, ecosystems and communities in urban and rural areas, while also changing the way it does so to meet the new sustainable development goals. Additionally, ACOA will increase its advocacy and coordination function to optimize federal investments in the Atlantic region. The Agency's President and senior management team will take a strong leadership role on achieving this critical priority for the region.

In doing so, ACOA will support the following FSDS goals.

- **Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy:** Advance the development and deployment of clean and renewable energy. This includes advancing priority transmission projects, and supporting new and developing clean technologies and energy sources.
- **Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Support workers, businesses and communities in their transition to a greener and more inclusive economy through economic development and diversification, skills and training investments, and project development and growth assistance. This includes supporting efforts to green supply chains and decarbonize and electrify sectoral and business operations to remain competitive in Canada and internationally. It also includes supporting the Government of Canada's Sustainable Jobs Plan in Atlantic Canada.
- **Goal 10 – Reducing Inequalities:** Support the implementation of the [*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*](#)^v by fostering inclusion within the Agency and taking an inclusion lens on program delivery.
- **Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production – and Goal 13 – Climate Action:** Fostering practices that promote sustainable development in its internal operations and project management activities.

ACOA plans and activities are further described in Section 4. Information on ACOA's plans for sustainable development goals will also be included in its annual Departmental Plan.

SECTION 3

Listening to Canadians

As required by the *Federal Sustainable Development Act*, ACOA has considered comments on the draft 2022 – 2026 FSDS made during the public consultations held from March 11 to July 9, 2022. During the public consultations, more than 700 comments were received from a broad range of stakeholders, including governments, Indigenous organizations, non-governmental organizations, academics, businesses, and individual Canadians in different age groups and of various backgrounds. The draft FSDS was also shared with the appropriate committee of each House of Parliament, the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Development Advisory Council for their review and comment.

What we heard

Across the submissions received, ACOA identified sustainable development priorities and issues that affect the Agency. Canadians wanted to see more sustainable energy and a concrete road map to achieve this. They also recognized the importance of preparing businesses, communities and workers to transition to a clean economy, as well as designing and implementing supports that reach all Canadians, including those living in Atlantic Canada.

What we did

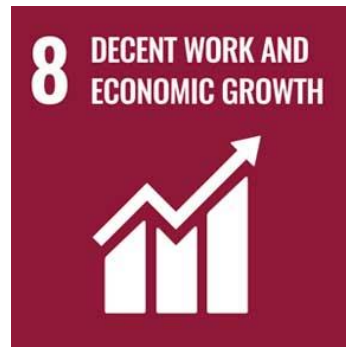
ACOA took the above-mentioned key priorities and issues into consideration in this DSDS. The Agency supports workers and communities through the [Canada Coal Transition Initiative \(CCTI\)](#),^{vi} delivering investments to make the

transition to a greener economy and foster collaboration on clean power for Atlantic Canada. ACOA also participated in the elaboration of the [Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada](#).^{vii}

Please find more information on the FSDS public consultations and their results in the [FSDS Consultation Report](#).^{viii}

SECTION 4

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Commitments





GOAL 7 – INCREASE CANADIANS’ ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY

FSDS Context:

ACOA will advance transmission and clean energy sources through advocacy with key energy stakeholders at all levels. This includes promoting collaboration with partners on clean energy infrastructure with the [Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada](#).^{ix} This will support a collective vision for how jurisdictions will collaborate over the coming decades to build a clean power network across Atlantic Canada.

ACOA’s planned action areas include:

- Advancing priority transmission by working with Atlantic Canada’s electricity regulators to identify and address regulatory and innovation barriers to accelerate strategic high-impact regional projects.
- Adding new clean energy sources and developing emerging clean technologies to advance electrification. This includes identifying early-stage strategic proposals in Atlantic Canada, developing management capacity and fast-tracking readiness for national programs.

These efforts will support the Government of Canada’s goal of generating 90 percent of electricity from renewable and non-emitting sources by 2030, up to 100 percent in the long term.¹

¹ Clean Electricity Regulations – Canada.ca, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-action/powering-future-clean-energy.html>

Target theme: Renewable and non-emitting sources of electricity

Target: By 2030, 90 percent, and in the long term 100 percent, of Canada's electricity is generated from renewable and non-emitting sources (Minister of Natural Resources).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TOWARD CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA, NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGs
<p>Work with partners on clean and renewable energy</p>	<p>ACOA is planning Regional Green Transition Summits as an internal capacity-building initiative with the goal to accelerate Atlantic Canada's competitiveness in a low-carbon future. These summits will raise awareness across the Agency by providing training and increasing knowledge on the green economy transition.</p> <p>Program: - All ACOA programs</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Completion of Regional Green Transition Summits that are provincially tailored and internal to ACOA staff to position the Agency for change.</p> <p>Starting point: 0 in 2023-2024</p> <p>Target: 5 regional summits held overall by 2026-2027.</p>	<p>ACOA's summits will ensure strong collaboration within ACOA and outline a clear plan on how the Agency will support clean energy for the region.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition/Target:</i> By 2030, 90%, and in the long term, 100%, of Canada's electricity is generated from renewable and non-emitting sources. (7.3.1). <i>CIF Indicator:</i> Proportion of electricity generated from renewable and non-greenhouse gas emitting sources. <i>GIF Target:</i> By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency (7.3).</p>



GOAL 8 – ENCOURAGE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN CANADA

FSDS Context:

ACOA recognizes that clean technologies provide the pathway to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and more sustainable growth in all areas of the economy. ACOA aims to continue its significant investments in clean growth and clean technology to support its development, demonstration, commercialization, adoption and exports.

ACOA's planned action areas include:

- electrification, decarbonization and efficiency of Atlantic Canada's economic sectors, especially those most vulnerable to market pressures; and
- supply-chain development by helping small and SMEs to decarbonize their operations to remain competitive in domestic and international supply chains.

In the context of the [FSDS](#),^x the [2030 Emissions Reduction Plan](#),^{xi} the [Sustainable Jobs Plan](#),^{xii} the [Innovation and Skills Plan](#),^{xiii} and the [Atlantic Growth Strategy](#),^{xiv} ACOA will continue to work with the Provinces – as well as with regional Indigenous organizations, industry stakeholders and experts – to explore how to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, grow clean-tech firms, adopt clean technologies, foster exports, and drive innovation to transition to a low-carbon economy, leveraging regional strengths.

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal “Encourage inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Canada” but not a specific FSDS target.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TOWARD CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA, NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGs
<p>Support workers, businesses and communities.</p>	<p>Support economic development projects that foster the development, commercialization, export and adoption of clean technologies. Where appropriate, ACOA will collaborate with regional and provincial stakeholders, including post-secondary institutions, businesses, non-profit organizations, Indigenous communities, and research centres, when making these investments.</p> <p>Program: All ACOA Programs</p>	<p>Performance indicator: ACOA expenditures (\$) for economic development projects that foster clean-growth priorities. This includes development, commercialization, export and adoption of clean technologies, and the scaling up of clean-tech firms.</p> <p>Starting point: \$36 million in 2022-2023</p> <p>Target: \$144 million expended by 2026-2027</p>	<p>ACOA investments in clean technology will count directly toward national commitments pledged for Mission Innovation,^{xv} a global initiative to make clean energy affordable, attractive and accessible for all.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition/Target:</i> Canadians contribute to and benefit from sustainable economic growth (8.6.1). <i>CIF Indicator:</i> Jobs in the clean technology products sector. <i>GIF Target:</i> Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services (8.3).</p>

<p>Other – Canada Coal Transition Initiative – Infrastructure Fund (part of the Investing in Canada Plan^{xvi} – Green Stream).</p>	<p>Deliver funding and support through the Canada Coal Transition Initiative – Infrastructure Fund (CCTI-IF) to help Atlantic Canadian communities move away from coal by investing in infrastructure.</p> <p>This action is a continuation of DSDS 2020-2023 indicators due to ongoing implementation of the CCTI-IF.</p> <p>Program: Business Growth; Diversified Communities; and Innovation Ecosystem</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Number of communities and surrounding areas benefiting from CCTI-IF investments Starting Point: 14 communities overall, as of 2023-24. Target: 5 eligible communities with projects by 2024-2025</p> <p>Performance indicator: Number of projects supported. Starting point: 31 projects overall, as of 2023-2024. Target: At least 12 projects by 2024-2025</p> <p>Performance indicator: Value of projects supported. Starting point: \$13.5 million overall, as of 2023-2024. Target: \$42.75 million by 2024-2025</p> <p>Performance indicator: Amount leveraged per dollar investment by ACOA for diversified community projects. Starting point: \$1.92 overall, as of 2023-2024. Target: \$1.5 overall by 2024-2025</p> <p>Performance indicator: Number of partnerships/collaborations concluded. Starting point: 15 partnerships/collaborations with a total of 62 partners in 2022-2023. Target: 30 by 2024-2025</p> <p>Performance indicator: Number of jobs created or maintained. Starting point: 187 since inception Target: 100 by 2024-2025</p>	<p>ACOA will help communities support employment while moving away from coal-generated energy by delivering funding to improve green infrastructure in communities.</p> <p>This reporting is a continuation of DSDS 2020-2023 indicators to remain transparent in the ongoing implementation of the CCTI-IF.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition/Target:</i> Canadians contribute to and benefit from sustainable economic growth (8.6.1). <i>CIF Indicator:</i> Jobs in the clean technology products sector. <i>GIF Target:</i> Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services (8.3).</p>
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GOAL 10 – ADVANCE RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TAKE ACTION ON INEQUALITY

FSDS Context:

The Government of Canada aims to implement the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#).^{xvii} ACOA's *Departmental Plan* speaks to realizing this goal through the overarching objective of building a more innovative, inclusive, diversified and sustainable regional economy.

The Agency invests in projects led by Indigenous Peoples. These investments strive to reach a larger number of indigenous businesses by supporting efforts that target capacity building and increasing knowledge and awareness by convening federal, provincial, stakeholder and community partners through joint participation in key committees, initiatives and communities of interest. ACOA is also resolute in supporting the Government of Canada's commitment that 5 percent of the total value of contracts be awarded to indigenous businesses.

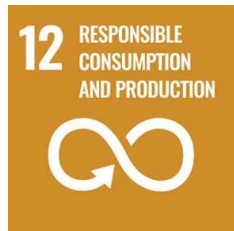
ACOA's internal strategy is for employees to contribute to a culture that welcomes, respects, appreciates and includes voices from diverse backgrounds, and takes action toward identifying systemic racism, discrimination and barriers to move toward more inclusive business practices. The Agency continues to prioritize equity, inclusion and anti-racism within its Human Resources practices to respond to the forward direction of the [Clerk's Call to Action on Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion in the Federal Public Service](#)^{xviii} as well as to [Many Voices One Mind: a Pathway to Reconciliation](#).^{xix} The Agency's *2022 – 2025 Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Action Plan* contains recruitment, retention and career development objectives for Indigenous Peoples and for other equity-seeking groups. The plan promotes enhanced understanding of indigenous history, the teaching of Reconciliation and the development of indigenous cultural competency. The Agency recently implemented employee-led networks (Indigenous and other

equity-seeking groups) and regional equity, inclusion and anti-racism committees to help guide the Agency’s strategies and action plan.

Target theme: Advancing Reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities

Target: Between 2023 and 2026, and every year on an ongoing basis, develop and table annual progress reports on implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TOWARD CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA, NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGs
Implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> .	Award 5% of the total value of contracts to indigenous businesses. Program: Internal Services	Performance indicator: Total percentage of contracts with indigenous businesses. Starting point: 10% in 2022-2023 Target: At least 5% annually	ACOA strengthens its relationship with Indigenous Peoples and helps increase economic opportunities for indigenous businesses, especially those located in the Atlantic region. Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition/Target:</i> Canadians live free of discrimination, and inequalities are reduced (10). <i>GIF Target:</i> Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices, and by promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard (10.3).



GOAL 12 – REDUCE WASTE AND TRANSITION TO ZERO- EMISSION VEHICLES

FSDS Context:

The Government of Canada recognizes the need to reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse, as well as to promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities. ACOA is devoted to participating in [Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan](#),^{xx} by converting its light-duty fleet to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and maximizing the diversion of waste to landfills by following the [Greening of Government Strategy](#)^{xxi} for the procurement of goods and services.

ACOA does not own real property; however, it does collaborate in Government of Canada initiatives to maximize diversion waste from landfills. The Agency contributes to reducing waste destined for the landfills as much as possible through its ongoing internal strategies such as donating 100 percent of functional computers and accessories to the Computers for School program, and 100 percent of reusable furniture is posted on GC Surplus for transfer to other federal departments, or for resale to the public.

Target theme: Federal leadership on responsible consumption

Target: The Government of Canada’s procurement of goods and services will be net-zero emissions by 2050, to aid the transition to a net-zero, circular economy (all ministers).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TOWARD CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA, NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGs
<p>Transform the federal light-duty fleet.</p>	<p>Take actions to decarbonize ACOA fleets, notably by right-sizing analysis and prioritizing hybrid and/or ZEV purchases as per the Greening Government Strategy’s fleet guidance, all while considering PSPC purchasing guidelines, availability of infrastructure and service, and ACOA’s operational needs.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Percentage of vehicles replaced using right-sizing analysis and low-carbon replacement assessments, as per the Greening Government Strategy’s Fleet Guidance.</p> <p>Starting point: 100% in 2022-2023</p> <p>Target: 100%, annually</p>	<p>As conventional vehicles are replaced over their lifetime with ZEVs or hybrids and/or the size of the fleet is reduced, greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition/Target:</i> ZEVs represent 10% of new light duty vehicle purchases by 2025, 30% by 2030 and 100% by 2040 (12.1.1). <i>CIF Indicator:</i> Proportion of new light-duty vehicle registrations that are ZEVs (12.1.1). <i>GIF Target:</i> Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities (12.7).</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TOWARD CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA, NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGs
<p>Strengthen green procurement criteria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure completion of Green Procurement training for all Agency acquisition cardholders and track this information. • Ensure the integration of environmental performance considerations into the procurement process, including planning, acquisition, use and disposal. • Monitor and analyze green purchasing trends. <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Percentage of Agency acquisition cardholders that have completed Green Procurement training. Starting point: 100% in 2022-2023 Target: 100% annually</p> <p>Performance indicator: Percentage of toner cartridges that are recycled. Starting point: 100% in 2022-2023 Target: 100% annually</p> <p>Performance indicator: Percentage of copy paper purchased that has a minimum of 30% recycled content. Starting point: 100% in 2022-2023 Target: 100% annually</p> <p>Performance indicator: Percentage of paper used that is Forest Stewardship Council certified, including for letterhead, business cards and envelopes. Starting point: 100% in 2022-2023 Target: 100% annually</p>	<p>Actions that reduce the generation of waste will help to reduce Scope 3 emissions for the production, transport and disposal of material. Diverting waste from landfill reduces landfill gas and transport waste hauling emissions. Material recovery via recycling reduces emissions for the extraction and production of virgin materials.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition/Target:</i> Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. <i>CIF Indicator:</i> Proportion of businesses that adopted selected environmental protection activities and management practices (12.2.1). <i>GIF Target:</i> Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities (12.7).</p>



GOAL 13 – TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

FSDS Context:

The Government of Canada, through its FSDS, will transition to low-carbon, climate resilient, and green operations in support of the [Greening of Government Strategy](#).^{xxii} ACOA will continue to support these efforts through the implementation of [Canada’s 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, the Strengthened Climate Plan](#)^{xxiii} and the [Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change](#).^{xxiv}

Target theme: Federal leadership on greenhouse gas emissions reductions and climate resilience

Target: The Government of Canada will transition to net-zero carbon operations for facilities and conventional fleets by 2050 (all ministers).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TOWARD CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA, NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGs
Implement the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience, and green the government’s overall operations.	Include climate-change-related risks in the departmental risk identification exercise and make necessary changes to mitigate them, if applicable.	Performance indicator: Ongoing review of ACOA’s corporate risks to ensure they are relevant and/or integrate considerations of climate change mitigation and adaptation, if applicable.	Factoring climate variability and change into policy, programs and operations is one of the most important ways the government can adapt to a changing climate and is consistent with the government’s risk management approach

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TOWARD CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA, NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGs
	<p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Starting point: ACOA's corporate risk profile was reviewed in 2021-2022</p> <p>Target: Reviewed and up-to-date corporate risk identification exercise, annually</p>	<p>of enhancing the protection of public assets and resources, and strengthening planning and decision-making.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition/Target:</i> Canadians are well-equipped and resilient to face the effects of climate change. <i>CIF Indicator:</i> Proportion of municipal organizations who factored climate change adaptation into decision-making processes (13.3.1). <i>GIF Target:</i> Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning (13.2). Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries (13.1).</p>

SECTION 5

Integrating Sustainable Development

ACOA's sustainable development vision is to create opportunities for economic growth and prosperity in Atlantic Canada by building on competitive regional strengths and through inclusive clean growth. The Agency's activities will continue to incorporate a sustainable development focus on its projects and build upon the strengths of the region's clean-technology firms.

ACOA will foster practices that promote sustainable development in its internal operations and project management activities. ACOA initiatives related to sustainable development are incorporated into the Agency's procurement planning, tracking and reporting systems. For example:

- pursuing best practices in environmental management and pollution prevention, including recycling;
- participating in sustainable development interdepartmental working groups;
- educating ACOA staff on clean growth and environmental issues, and providing them with the resources to carry out the Agency's clean growth agenda; and



- setting measurable targets, reporting on progress, and reviewing the Agency's contributions to the FSDS on an annual basis through the Main Estimates process.

ACOA senior management is responsible for integrating sustainable development principles into the Agency's policies, programs and operations.

The Agency will consider the environmental effects of initiatives subject to the [Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals](#),^{xxv} as part of its decision-making processes.

ACOA will continue to ensure that its decision-making process includes consideration of FSDS goals and targets through its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process. An assessment for a policy, plan or program proposal includes an analysis of the impacts of the given proposal on the environment, including on relevant FSDS goals and targets.

Public statements on the results of ACOA's assessments are published when an initiative that has undergone a detailed SEA is announced. The purpose of the public statement is to demonstrate that the environmental effects, including the impacts on achieving the FSDS goals and targets, of the approved policy, plan or program have been considered during proposal development and decision-making.

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- ⁱ 2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS), <https://www.fsd-sfdd.ca/en>
- ⁱⁱ *Federal Sustainable Development Act*, <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-8.6/index.html>
- ⁱⁱⁱ *Federal Sustainable Development Act*, <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-8.6/index.html>
- ^{iv} Seven principles of sustainable development, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-8.6/page-1.html#h-240618>
- ^v *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html>
- ^{vi} Canada Coal Transition Initiative, <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/services/canada-coal-transition-initiative.html>
- ^{vii} Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada, <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy/electricity-infrastructure/electricity-infrastructure-publications/clean-power-roadmap-for-atlantic-canada/24190>
- ^{viii} FSDS Consultation Report, <https://www.fsd-sfdd.ca/en/listening-to-canadians>
- ^{ix} Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada, <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy/electricity-infrastructure/electricity-infrastructure-publications/clean-power-roadmap-for-atlantic-canada/24190>
- ^x Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, <https://www.fsd-sfdd.ca/en>
- ^{xi} 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/emissions-reduction-2030.html>
- ^{xii} Sustainable Jobs Plan, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/initiatives/sustainable-jobs/plan.html>
- ^{xiii} Innovation and Skills Plan, <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/062.nsf/eng/home>
- ^{xiv} Atlantic Growth Strategy, <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/atlanticgrowth.html>
- ^{xv} Mission Innovation, <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/climate-change/canadas-green-future/mission-innovation/18612>
- ^{xvi} Investing in Canada Plan, <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/pub/drr-rrm/2022/2022-supp-hi-ih-eng.html>
- ^{xvii} *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, <https://justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html>
- ^{xviii} Clerk's Call to Action on Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion in the Federal Public Service, <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/corporate/clerk/call-to-action-anti-racism-equity-inclusion-federal-public-service.html>
- ^{xix} Many Voices One Mind: a Pathway to Reconciliation, <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/publicservice/wellness-inclusion-diversity-public-service/diversity-inclusion-public-service/knowledge-circle/many-voices.html>
- ^{xx} Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/emissions-reduction-2030.html>
- ^{xxi} Greening of Government Strategy, <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/innovation/greening-government/strategy.html>
- ^{xxii} Greening of Government Strategy, <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/services/innovation/greening-government/strategy.html>
- ^{xxiii} Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/emissions-reduction-2030.html>
- ^{xxiv} Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/pan-canadian-framework.html>
- ^{xxv} Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals, <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/programs/strategic-environmental-assessment/cabinet-directive-environmental-assessment-policy-plan-program-proposals.html>