

COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:

New Glasgow is a beautiful riverside town of 9,075 residents, located in Northern Nova Scotia, which serves as the commercial-service centre for the region of Pictou County with a population of 45,643. The Town's key strategies are investment in infrastructure, commercial development, environmental stewardship, downtown revitalization, strategic partnerships and regional cooperation, health and safety, the creative economy, and healthy lifestyles. The Town is committed to ambitious climate action and recently set a corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions target to reduce corporate emissions by 30% below 2018 levels by 2030. With our Council's renewed commitment to climate action, we are in the process of setting a community GHG reduction target and developing a Local Climate Action Plan to drive emission reductions, promote community resilience and support a healthy livable community for generations to come. ** During the course of this project, ACICC was disbanded and the Common Roots Urban Farm joined the project as community partner.*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Town of New Glasgow is seeking expertise to assist in the development of a Local Climate Action Plan (LCAP). The intention of a LCAP is to chart a path forward for our Town to reduce emissions, improve climate resilience, and enhance adaptive capacity to promote a fair and just transition to a sustainable low carbon community. To reach a successful conclusion, we would like to explore a community-driven and supported process. This plan will reflect our community supported reduction strategies, ideas and opportunities for climate solutions, now and into the future. Four sectors - residential, workplaces, transportation and waste - are to be targeted. Accessing local expertise will ensure the development of the Plan will be grounded in evidence-based decision-making to ensure actions are relevant, locally applicable, and appropriate to enhance adaptive capacity, drive emission reductions, and promote community resilience. Since we are in the initial stage of development, we think this is an appropriate time to access expertise in climate planning and community engagement.

PROJECTED BENEFITS:

Tangible benefits and outcomes for the Town of New Glasgow include:

- development and implementation of community engagement initiatives and collection of data (i.e., information/ideas/concerns) from community members with respect to a proposed LCAP;
- increasing awareness of climate issues and planning among community members: the importance and why participation of citizens is crucial in the development and implementation of a Plan;
- a review of existing Climate Plans - focusing on residential, workplaces, transportation and waste - from which ideas for policies and/or actions can be extracted and recommended for the TNG and the LCAP;
- review of existing policies and/or by-laws, from other jurisdictions, that could be adapted to function in the TNG to support the activities and operationalization of climate and sustainability in Town decision-making;

- knowledge and expertise will help the TNG and its citizens to better understand local climate impacts and opportunities;
- the proposed collaborative approach will better position the Town of New Glasgow to address climate change, and the social, economic and environmental implications in our community.

NB: These are excerpts from the Community Partner's original proposal from 2021.