

**Climate Change Policy (Last reviewed 2016)****PREAMBLE:**

The Green Party recognizes that both misuse of the living surfaces of the planet and energy choices play a significant role in the present climate instability. The Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act requires that the province reduce greenhouse gas emissions to set targets by specified dates. While a number of gases contribute to global warming, the situation with carbon dioxide is of particular concern.

The carbon cycle, one of life's sustaining systems, is out of balance. We need carbon dioxide in our atmosphere but the concentration is elevated and continuing to rise, with planetary consequences. We have released too much carbon dioxide, particularly through the use of fossil fuels, at the same time as we have reduced Earth's ability to absorb carbon oxide by our destruction of plant communities, particularly forests.

An important factor in the rising carbon dioxide levels is the loss of biologically diverse vegetation to biologically impoverished or inanimate cover. Failure to protect terrestrial and aquatic flora communities from toxins, over-use, and destruction has significant impacts on carbon dioxide levels as well as other negative impacts on all life cycles.

Carbon dioxide from our use of fossil fuels for energy has been identified as a major contributor to the carbon cycle imbalance. However, as well as addressing climate change issues, the goal is to move to options that reduce the environmental, health, and security risks of our energy choices. Also, our energy options must be assessed from starting materials to waste products.

1. The Green Party supports dedicated efforts toward
  - 1.1. energy conservation, co-generation, and improved energy efficiency
  - 1.2. increased development and use of sustainable, renewable energy
  - 1.3. a decentralization of electricity production to increase individual and community self-sufficiency in power
  - 1.4. improved public and alternate transportation
  - 1.5. regulations for lower fuel consumption and emissions for new vehicles
  - 1.6. improved energy efficiency and lower water consumption in buildings
  - 1.7. development of plans and tools for adaptation to climate change with
    - 1.7.1. proactive support to communities for mitigation of climate instability
    - 1.7.2. land use regulations for coastal areas that address the impacts of climate change
    - 1.7.3. preparedness for "100-year events" which could happen with greater frequency due to climate change
    - 1.7.4. support for research and coordinated action across provincial government departments, and with municipalities and the federal government
  - 1.8. a predictable and steadily rising fee placed on GHG-emitting fossil fuels energy at the point of entry into commerce, with proceeds distributed to Nova Scotia residents and

businesses in order to alleviate the effect of any cost increase due to the imposition of the fee.

2. The Green Party understands the need to use land for food, fodder, fiber, and fuel, and would promote agricultural land use for food first not biofuel.
3. The Green Party considers the use of forest biomass for electricity generation as counterproductive in addressing climate change.
4. The Green Party stands against nuclear power and will
  - 4.1. oppose the importation into Nova Scotia of electricity generated by nuclear power
  - 4.2. oppose the establishment of nuclear power facilities in Nova Scotia
  - 4.3. work to phase-out nuclear power nationally.
5. The Green Party supports corrective action to address the damage to ecosystems that resulted in the province's reduced capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, including:
  - 5.1. relevant legislation and regulations that reflect the value of forests, diverse vegetation, and aquatic systems in countering climate change through their role in the carbon cycle
  - 5.2. the inclusion of this value within cost-benefit assessments, environmental assessments, and measures of progress
  - 5.3. conversion of biologically impoverished areas and inanimate surfaces to healthy diverse vegetation, including options for built structures, private lots, and Crown land
  - 5.4. protection of a connected network of biologically diverse habitats, including significant stands of maturing forests.