

Extractive Industries Policy (Last reviewed 2016)**PREAMBLE:**

Extracted minerals, oil, and gas are essentially non-renewable resources and require particular attention. The Green Party principles necessitate that any development, including oil and gas extraction, mining, and quarries, must be evaluated from environmental, social, and economic considerations in a process that ensures meaningful participation of all communities of interest, and includes full-cost accounting that recognizes the value of healthy ecosystems, vibrant communities, and a clean environment.

1. The Green Party will work to ensure that there is a review to modernize the legislation and regulation regime regarding oil and gas extraction, mining, and quarries, and that it incorporates meaningful citizen participation.
2. The Green Party will use a comprehensive approach to address a number of key issues:
 - 2.1. out-dated laws on mineral, oil, and gas extraction that undermine landowners' rights and disregard rights of the Mi'kmaq First Nation
 - 2.2. incompatible land uses
 - 2.3. failure to take input from communities into decision-making
 - 2.4. loss of non-renewable resources to export
 - 2.5. chemical pollution from mining, and oil and gas extraction operations
 - 2.6. legacy of problems from abandoned sites
 - 2.7. the potential for extraction and distribution of highly toxic substance
 - 2.8. loss of non-renewable resources from use by future generations.
3. The Green Party will not support extractive industries within the impact zone of protected areas or acknowledged candidate areas for protection.
4. The Green Party does not support the One Window process for extractive industries whereby companies meet with government officials over an extended period and are assisted through the regulatory process before the public is consulted in a formal way.
 - 4.1. The Green Party requires meaningful participation of communities from the beginning and throughout the process for approval of developments
 - 4.2. The Green Party supports required engagement of the community in constructive dialogue in any review of and in the decision-making for any extractive industry development
 - 4.3. As part of ongoing, full, and sincere collaboration with the Mi'kmaq First Nation in Canada's implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Green Party supports the necessity of consultation with the Mi'kmaq for free, prior, and informed consent
 - 4.3.1. for any extractive industry development considered by the province,
 - 4.3.2. throughout the steps for any subsequent development to proceed
5. The process of strip mining has its own set of particular environmental impacts, hence the Green Party supports
 - 5.1. a full review, by an independent panel with meaningful public participation, into the practice of strip mining in Nova Scotia, and

- 5.2. a moratorium on considering new strip mining projects (i.e. no One Window preparatory proceedings during this period) pending the recommendations of that review.
6. The Green Party understands that for quarry development, it is not only the size of quarry but also where it is located and what is to be quarried that influences the need for environmental assessment.
 - 6.1. The Green Party will work for revision of the size limitation, to require environmental assessment on smaller developments based on the location and the resource.
7. The Green Party will require that as well as reclamation plans being assessed as part of the comprehensive assessment of the extractive industry proposal:
 - 7.1. the proponent will be required to outline a funding guarantee for the reclamation plans
 - 7.2. if the development is approved, the proponent will be required to have the full reclamation plans and funding guarantee in place before active extraction begins
 - 7.3. if development proceeds, the operator must regularly evaluate the reclamation plans in response to any changing on-site conditions, evolving industry best management, and provincial regulations and update their reclamation plan with the provincial departments of Natural Resources and Environment.
8. The Green Party supports the safe recycling of metals, including
 - 8.1. required life-cycle product stewardship of metals
 - 8.2. the shift of subsidies presently given to the mining sector into support for metal recycling within industries and the provincial Waste Management programs
9. The Green Party supports a legislated ban on extraction activities that would bring significant quantities of radioactive material to the surface, and on milling, tailings, or waste storage units that would involve immediate or long-term releases of radiation or radioactive substances that could contaminate air, soil, wells or watersheds.
10. The Green Party supports a legislated ban on shale gas extraction through drilling and hydraulic fracturing (fracking)
 - 10.1. The Green Party opposes the fluid waste from hydraulic fracturing in other provinces coming into NS for treatment, storage, or disposal
 - 10.2. The Green Party insists that old drill wells in NS are not to be used for storing fluids associated with hydraulic fracturing.
11. The Green Party does not support further provincial investment in offshore oil or gas
 - 11.1. The Green Party supports the establishment of a permanent moratorium on drilling on Georges Banks.