

**Food Security Policy (Last reviewed 2016)****PREAMBLE:**

The Green Party of Nova Scotia views food as more than just a commodity or a component for international agri-business. Food is a necessity, yet Nova Scotia has the highest household food insecurity rate in Canada.

The Green Party recognizes that fundamental policies are missing that are necessary to correct the injustice of hunger and food insecurity in the province.

The Green Party principles call for an overarching strategy that addresses food issues across health, poverty prevention, agriculture, fisheries, and the environment.

The Green Party supports a food security strategy that would

1. be developed through broad consultation with all communities of interest
2. be an interdepartmental program that integrates a sustainable food system with social equity, public health, energy security, economic vitality, and environmental health
3. set out a comprehensive approach for analyzing issues and policy design which recognizes the inter-relation between different parts of the food system, environmental issues, and social considerations, and the need for coordination and integration of actions
4. include a mechanism, such as a Premier's advisory council on food policy, for on-going broad-based input to all the departments that have an influence on or are influenced by food
5. be designed to ensure that all Nova Scotians have access to and can afford sufficient nutritious, safe foods, and recognize that policies aimed at reducing poverty are critical
6. ensure that all foods are harvested, produced, procured, distributed, and equitably-traded in ways that are environmentally sound, socially just, and sustainable
7. establish programs that incorporate the role of food in disease prevention and healing, including the role of breast feeding and organic foods
8. encourage, support, and promote local food production, processing, and consumption recognizing the importance of community self-reliance and economic development through innovation in direct marketing, local processing methods, and community self-sufficiency in renewable energy.
9. protect the natural resource base to produce and sustain our food supply;
  - 9.1. ensure sustainable environmental, agricultural, and fishery practices; and
  - 9.2. require assessment of food security impacts in development evaluations at municipal and provincial levels
10. respect the knowledge of experienced local fishers and farmers and reject technologies that undermine or contaminate local food systems
  - 10.1. protect the food system from genetically modified organisms
11. support secure fair livelihoods for and respect the work of all food providers
12. provide assistance to primary producers including support to transition to new products and new markets;
13. work with the federal government to correct the situation that grant programs for local foods are small in scale in comparison to those offered for industrial production

14. seek to improve the energy efficiency in our own food system including investment in the infrastructure necessary to store and distribute local food production