

Forestry Policy (Last reviewed 2016)**PREAMBLE:**

The Green Party of Nova Scotia is very concerned that Nova Scotia's forests have been degraded to the point that their ability is seriously compromised to perform a wide range of forest functions that protect our soils, watersheds, and climate, that promote biodiversity through habitat for species, that allow aesthetic and recreational opportunities, and that provide sustainable jobs and high quality, wide diameter, clear timber. Further, the Green Party is concerned that Nova Scotia is passing up an opportunity to capture a large domestic market and to be a leader in sustainable technologies, for example hemp fiber and seed, which are growth industries.

1. The Green Party will work toward a comprehensive strategy to restore and protect the value of Nova Scotia's forests in meaningful consultation with all communities of interest, using the Genuine Progress Index approach as the measure for progress, incorporating interdepartmental cooperation, and ensuring full sharing of information including the Permanent Sample Plot data of the Department of Natural Resources.
2. The Green Party supports the development of a comprehensive strategy that includes
 - 2.1. the requirement that all Crown land in the province allocated for harvest is Forest Stewardship Council certified
 - 2.2. greater incentives to woodlot owners for investment in forest restoration including selective harvesting and forestry methods that restore the natural age distribution and species diversity in the forest
 - 2.3. support for private woodlot owner voluntary forestry certification standards
 - 2.4. sharp reduction in the volume of wood harvested annually and in clear-cutting, with no clear-cutting on Crown land
 - 2.5. incentives for the development of small-scale wood product industries, local manufacturing and value-added businesses to produce high-value wood products, retooling of sawmills, and increase in the number of jobs per unit of wood harvested
 - 2.6. retraining for forestry and pulp and paper industry workers to transfer skills and experience to new jobs
 - 2.7. immediate protection of all remaining old-growth forest and of older forests with good potential to return to their old-growth state
 - 2.8. completion of an adequate network of representative protected areas in Nova Scotia in a manner that connects protected spaces, utilizing Crown land and land trust options to secure forestry habitats and encourage private land conservation.