



The SDG Accord 

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

SDG Accord Reporting 2021 CASE STUDY

Nova Scotia Community College - Province Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program

NSCC is invested in both using and producing energy from renewable sources. To help Nova Scotia continue its clean energy transition, NSCC participated the Province's Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program, which allows community groups and organizations to produce solar power on their property and feed it into Nova Scotia's utility under a 20-year power purchase agreement. This pilot program was run by the Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Mines in partnership with Clean Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia's electrical grid still relies heavily on combustion of fossil fuels, so the carbon footprint of electrical consumption in our province is amongst the highest in Canada. Through this program, NSCC will supply clean, renewable energy to Nova Scotians, lowering the overall carbon footprint of all electricity use in our Province. NSCC feels it is important that community groups participate in renewable energy generation, in partnership with government and industry. NSCC's approved projects are distributed geographically across the province, in both urban and rural municipalities.

NSCC's Ivany Campus has a 39-kilowatt solar array on the roof of the Centre for the Built Environment, which was erected in 2019. In 2020, 75-kilowatt solar arrays were installed at Shelburne, Strait Area and Annapolis Valley Campuses. Lunenburg Campus will also install a 75-kilowatt rooftop array in 2021.

BENEFITS

1. Increases the share of renewable energy in Nova Scotia's energy mix.
2. Investment in Canada's expanding renewable infrastructure sector.
3. Installation sites are highly visible and provide great demonstrations of climate change solutions in municipalities throughout Nova Scotia.

BARRIERS

1. Regulatory barriers in Nova Scotia provide challenges for commercial buildings to install renewables in a way that provides favourable business cases for capital and operating budgets. Special programs such as the SECB Pilot Program make installations more attractive.
2. Not all College Campuses have enough space on site for large installations of renewables, or may not have the structural capacity to support racking for solar arrays, so site selection can be challenging.

SDG Accord Reporting 2021 CASE STUDY



75-Kilowatt Photovoltaic Array at NSCC's Centre of Geographic Sciences in Lawrencetown, NS



75-Kilowatt Array at NSCC's Shelburne Campus in Shelburne, NS

CONCLUSIONS

Post-secondary institutions should pursue any possible opportunities to install renewable energy systems at their Campuses. A good starting point is to do high level assessments of spaces on campus that can accommodate renewables and associated infrastructure and incorporate this into master planning initiatives. Such installations have many benefits, ranging from emissions reductions to opportunities for applied research and living laboratories on campus. Future renewable energy projects support Canada's transition to a clean economy and provide an excellent learning opportunity for instructors and students to leverage campus infrastructure for teaching and learning.