

# Newfoundland and Labrador's Net Zero Advisory Council


## **Activity Plan 2026–2029**

## **Message from the Council**

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Members of the Net Zero Advisory Council were appointed in December 2021 with a three-year mandate to advise the provincial government, through the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, on policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the province with a particular focus on achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Council is a Category 3 government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. This activity plan covers the period of April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2029.

The membership term for Council members expired in December 2024 and no new council members have since been appointed. The Department is currently evaluating reactivation of the Council. In compliance with the **Act**, the Council is submitting a three-year activity plan covering the 2026-2029 period.



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Dr. Susan Squires, Assistant Deputy Minister

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## **1. Overview**

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The Net Zero Advisory Council was established in 2021 through an Order-in-Council to advise the provincial government, through the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, on measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the province with a particular focus on achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The Council was composed of eight (8) members from environmental organizations, educational institutions, industry associations, private sector companies, and Indigenous organizations until the completion of their term in December 2024.

Council members are appointed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for a term of three (3) years, with an opportunity for re-appointment. Council members served as volunteers and there is no remuneration. The Council has no dedicated budget and costs incurred by the Council are supported by the Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change. The Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change provides secretariat services. Observer representation is composed of senior level officials from the Departments of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change and Energy and Mines.

The Council strives to ensure that diverse perspectives are heard and fairly considered in its recommendations. While the Council's mandate is to provide advice to the provincial government, decisions on actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—and to achieve net-zero by 2050—rest with the government itself.

## **2. Mandate**

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The mandate of the Net Zero Advisory Council is to:

- a) Identify and/or review near term and foundational actions the government and others can take to set the province on a strong path to achieve net-zero that would grow the green economy, while considering a just transition and affordability;
- b) Track global trends for the achievement of net-zero;
- c) Track and advise on methods to optimize use of oceans as a carbon sink, as well as forests, wetlands, and depleted petroleum reservoirs;

- d) Upon request from the Minister respecting a particular policy or program matter within the mandate of the Council, undertake analysis and provide advice to the minister; and
- e) Meet on a regular basis and provide advice to the Minister that synthesizes its analysis on program, policies, and/or promising net-zero pathways for Newfoundland and Labrador.

### **3. Primary Clients**

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The Council's primary clients include the following:

- Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change;
- Department of Energy and Mines;
- Other provincial and federal departments and agencies;
- Indigenous Governments and Organizations; and
- The public, including industry groups, non-governmental organizations, and other interest holders.

### **4. Vision**

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The Council's vision is that Newfoundland and Labrador will be on a strong path to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 while supporting the green economy, while considering a just transition and affordability.

### **5. Objective**

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1. The objectives of the Council with supporting indicators will be developed upon the appointment of members to the Council. An updated multi-year plan will be tabled when a new board is appointed.