

On August 24th 2009, Minister of the Environment Sterling Belliveau released a document detailing (referred to herein as “the update”) the Province’s progress towards the 21 goals contained under EGSPA (Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act). Below are points contained in the update that are of particular importance to business in Nova Scotia.

Sustainable Procurement

As of April 2009, Nova Scotia became the only province in Canada to broaden the scope of its purchasing decisions to encompass the three Ps – people, profit and planet. If your business sells products or services to the Provincial Government, you should become familiar with the Sustainable Procurement Policy. For more information visit: <https://www.gov.ns.ca/tenders/sustproc/default.asp?XX=09-082511:29:46AM&tab=1&w5=intro>.

Sustainable Buildings

According to the update, a final decision is expected in the next year regarding which government facility will be constructed as a demonstration facility for building efficiency and sustainability. The building is scheduled to be constructed by 2015.

Redevelopment of Contaminated Land

If you are considering redeveloping contaminated land, you need to be aware of a report which will assess liability issues, due out in late in 2009 from the Nova Scotia Law Reform Commission. This report works towards meeting the goal to develop by 2010 *“regulatory tools that use the framework within the Environment Act to stimulate redevelopment of contaminated lands and contribute to economic development.”*

Solid Waste Resource Management

Businesses in Nova Scotia will have to become even more diligent about how they handle their waste in the near future. A Renewed Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy will be finalized in 2009-2010. This Strategy will work towards meeting the goal of decreasing the solid-waste disposal rate to no greater than 300 kilograms per person per year, by 2015.

Climate Change

On August 14th 2009, the Province released Green House Gas Emission and Air Pollutant Regulation (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/2602009.pdf>).

The regulations apply to any facility that emits more than 10 000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide greenhouse gases in a calendar year. According to the regulations as of March 31st 2009 and in every calendar year thereafter, these facility owners must submit an annual report to the Province detailing their facility's emissions. For more information about the Climate Change Action Plan and how it might impact your business visit www.climatechange.gov.ns.ca.

Commercial Building Code Standards

The 2009 Energy Strategy commits that at least 25 per cent and possibly up to 40 per cent of Nova Scotia's electricity generation will come from renewable energy sources by 2020.

According to the update, commercial heating and cooling account for 9.2 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions. The building industry helped to draft changes to the Building Code Act that cover energy efficiency standards for new homes, home renovations and commercial buildings under 600 square meters. Under the proposed approach, in 2011 similar standards will apply to larger commercial buildings.

For more information and a copy of the complete Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Progress Report 2009, visit <http://gov.ns.ca/nse/>.