



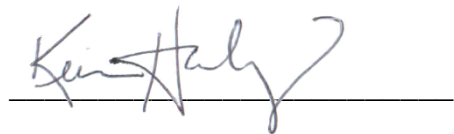
Activity Plan 2023 - 2026

Message from the Council

As Chair of the Net Zero Advisory Council, I am pleased to present the activity plan for the Council for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2026. The Council's mandate is to advise the provincial government, through the Minister of Environment 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 meets the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for a Category 3 entity.

In accordance with the legislated requirements of the **Act**, the Council developed the following activity plan that directs the Council's activities for a period of three years. Through regularly held Council meetings, targets studies, consultations with stakeholders and reporting to the responsible Minister, the Council is confident that objectives of this planning period are achievable. The strategic directions of the provincial government related to the Department of Environment and Climate Change have been considered in the development of this activity plan. The Council is accountable for the preparation of the plan and the achievement of its objectives.

The Council is committed to informing ongoing and future decision making related to greenhouse gas emission reduction policies and measures, including identifying actions the government and others can take to set the province on a strong path to achieve net-zero emissions.



Kieran Hanley, Chair

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1. Overview

The **Net Zero Advisory Council (NZAC)** was established in December 2021 through Order-in-Council 2021-301 to advise the provincial government, through the Minister of Environment 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 composed of eight (8) members from environmental organizations, educational institutions, industry associations, private sector companies, and Indigenous organizations. Current Council members are:

- Mr. Kieran Hanley, Chair
- Dr. Kelly Vodden, Vice Chair
- Dr. Angela Carter
- Ms. Caron Hawco
- Ms. Kaylen Janes
- Dr. Nick Mercer
- Dr. Jonas Roberts
- Mr. George Russell

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 serve 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 and Climate Change.

The Climate Change Division of the Department of Environment and Climate Change supports the Council and provides secretariat services. Observer representation is composed of senior level officials from the Departments of Environment and Climate Change and Industry, Energy and Technology.

The Council ensures diverse viewpoints are fairly heard and considered when providing advice and recommendations on greenhouse gas reduction pathways. The Council's mandate is to provide advice and makes recommendations to the provincial government; however, government itself makes the final decisions on any courses of action that may be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net-zero by 2050.

2. Mandate

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. Vision

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, a just transition and affordability.

4. Objectives

In keeping with the Council's mandate, the Council plans to address the issue of providing policy advice to provincial government for this planning cycle, as described below. To facilitate the issue and related objectives, the Council will hold regular council meetings, consult with stakeholders, undertake targeted studies and initiatives, and provide advice to the responsible Minister.

1. Policy Advice

By March 31, 2026, the Council will have provided comprehensive advice to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on foundational actions and potential policies and initiatives to make progress toward the achievement of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Objective 1: By March 31, 2024, the Council will have completed an analysis of the approach to net-zero in other jurisdictions.

Indicators:

- Completion of independent analysis of the approach to net-zero in other jurisdictions.
- Meeting with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to convey key findings.

Objective 2: By March 31 of each fiscal year in the planning period, the Council will have provided advice to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on key policy areas that can facilitate progress toward the achievement of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This objective will be applied in 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Indicators:

- Number of Council meetings.
- Number of stakeholder engagement meetings.
- Number of meetings with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to provide analysis and advice regarding program, policies, and/or promising pathways to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.