



ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

2024-25

Energy

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Accountability Report 2024–2025

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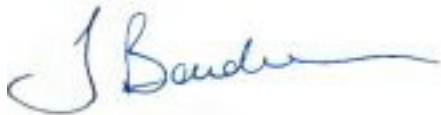
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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Energy for the year ended March 31, 2025, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. The reporting of the Department of Energy outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments, and opinions by the Department of Energy management.

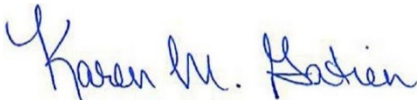
We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of Department of Energy management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the 2024-25 Business Plan.

Original signed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Boudreau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon. Trevor Boudreau

Minister of Energy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen M. Gatien", with a stylized initial "K" and a flourish.

Karen Gatien

Deputy Minister

Introduction

The Department of Energy serves the social, environmental, and economic interests of Nova Scotians by ensuring all energy resources are developed and used in an efficient and sustainable manner. The department delivers programs and activities related to electricity, renewable energy, energy efficiency, petroleum, and industry development.

In December 2024, the Department of Energy was created. The 2024-25 Business Plan of the former Department of Natural Resources and Renewables is now represented in the 2024-25 Accountability Reports of the Department of Energy and the Department of Natural Resources.

Measuring Performance

Advancing the Development and Sustainable Use of Clean and Renewable Energy

- Highlights of progress to implement the [Clean Power Plan](#):
 - As of March 31, 2025, 40.5% of Nova Scotia's electricity was renewable.
 - Six wind farms were selected to provide up to 2,000 gigawatt hours of clean electricity by the end of 2028 for customers in the [Green Choice Program](#).
 - Port Hawkesbury Paper's Goose Harbour Lake wind project received support from the Province and funding from the Canada Infrastructure Bank, enabling the largest wind farm in Nova Scotia's history to begin construction in 2025.
 - 9.25 megawatts of renewable energy were approved under the [Community Solar Program](#), including three new projects in rural HRM, Sydney, and Annapolis County.
 - A 150-megawatt, three-site battery project with Nova Scotia Power was approved, enhancing the province's energy storage capacity.
 - Amendments to the *More Access to Energy Act* and federal funding from the Canada Infrastructure Bank enabled the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick intertie project to move forward.
- Amendments to the Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Implementation Accord Act enable Nova Scotia to capitalize on world class offshore wind resources for clean energy and economic benefits. The Regional Assessment for Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia was completed to inform decision making as this new industry is established.
- The [Offshore Wind Roadmap Module 2](#) was released, outlining the government's plan to develop a robust supply chain for the emerging offshore wind sector.

- A moratorium on offshore wind development on Georges Bank was established, mirroring the moratorium on oil and gas activity in this area.
- Nova Scotians had opportunity to provide feedback on proposed offshore wind energy areas, within which parcels will be chosen for the first call for bids.
- The Independent Energy System Operator was created to modernize the electricity system, enhance transparency and accountability, and manage the connection of clean energy projects to the grid.
- The *Petroleum Resources Act* was amended to enable opportunities to explore development of onshore natural gas.
- 36 communities now have active transportation plans in Nova Scotia.
- With 2,500 more electric vehicles registered in Nova Scotia this year, the province reached 5% EV sales in 2024.
- Thousands of low-income households received energy efficiency upgrades through the [HomeWarming Program](#) (3,255 households) and [Affordable Multi-Family Housing Program](#) (231 households). Together, these programs resulted in 4344 tonnes of first-year GHG reductions and \$3.8 million in first-year bill savings.
- More than 17,900 homes took part in six programs (Home Warming, Affordable Multi-Family Housing, [Home Energy Assessment](#), Green Heat, [Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project](#) and the Heating Research Pilot), that collectively cut home heating oil use by more than 4.5 million litres.
- The [African Nova Scotian Communities Retrofit Program](#) was launched providing access to energy efficiency upgrades—such as heat pumps, insulation, and solar panels—for African Nova Scotian households.
- Highlights of progress to implement the [Green Hydrogen Action Plan](#):
 - Amendments to the *Gas Distribution Act* passed, supporting investments in low-carbon fuels including green hydrogen and renewable natural gas.
 - Funding provided to conduct a Hydrogen Supply Chain Assessment and Development Plan for Atlantic Canada.
 - Three potential small-scale green hydrogen production projects are among the seven projects supported by a second round of funding from the [Clean Fuels Fund](#).

Financial Summary and Variance Explanation

Departmental Expenses Summary
(\$ thousands)

<u>Programs and Services</u>	<u>2024-2025 Estimate</u>	<u>2024-2025 Actuals</u>	<u>2024-2025 Variance</u>
Senior Management	210	54	(156)
Clean Energy	30,098	34,324	4,226
Energy Resource Development	7,565	9,374	1,809
Total - Departmental Expenses	<u>37,873</u>	<u>43,752</u>	<u>5,879</u>
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenues	80	97	17
Ordinary Recoveries	25,591	28,219	2,628

<u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u>			
Department Funded Staff	45.5	44.9	(0.6)

Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:
Expenses were \$5.9 million higher than estimate primarily due to \$2.5 million for Independent Energy System Operator, \$1.2 million Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator, \$0.9 million Code Acceleration Fund, \$0.5 million Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, \$0.5 million FORCE (Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy), along with other expenses.

Revenue, Fees and Recoveries Variance Explanation:
Recoveries were \$2.6 million higher than estimate primarily due to \$1.1 million Low Carbon Economy Fund, \$0.9 million Code Acceleration Fund, \$0.5 million Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, along with various other recoveries.

Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:
Variance primarily due to temporarily vacant positions.

**Instructions: Please note - variance explanations should be for material differences only.*

Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

Annual Report under Section 18 of the *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act*

The *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board.

A wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations;
- b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets;
- c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment; or,
- d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Energy:

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2024-25
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing.	N/A