

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Lens: Guidance Document

What is the Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Lens?

- The purpose of the Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Lens process is to ensure the full and effective integration of climate change considerations into the planning, design, and development of all infrastructure projects that receive any financial support from the provincial government.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Lens is two-step process, and requires that:
 - **Step 1** – All entities seeking provincial funding for infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as ‘applicants’), integrate climate change considerations into the planning, design, and development of their project and, to this end, fully factor climate change considerations into their project budget and workplan; and
 - **Step 2** – Once their application has been approved, applicants demonstrate, in detail, how they intend to integrate measures to enhance resilience to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the planning, design and implementation of the project, and subsequently report on how this affected the project from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective. While the applicant will be responsible for providing this information to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, this information would usually be prepared by a lead consultant at the request of the applicant.

Why Implement a Climate Lens?

- The science is clear. Climate change is happening and the impacts are already been felt.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has committed to tackle climate change through action by (i) reducing provincial greenhouse gas emissions and (ii) improving resilience to the impacts of climate change such as extreme precipitation, flooding, coastal erosion, and permafrost melt.
- Climate change is projected to bring warmer, wetter and stormier weather conditions across Newfoundland and Labrador. All regions will experience changes, ranging from an increase of up to 7.3°C in the winter and up to 3.8°C in the summer, with the most significant impacts expected for northern Labrador. Extreme precipitation and weather events are expected to increase in both frequency and intensity.
- These changes will impact infrastructure and it is essential that all infrastructure investments take into account both projected climate change risks and impacts, and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help prevent further adverse impacts in future.
- As such, the objective of the Newfoundland and Labrador Climate Lens is to:
 - Ensure applicants and consultants fully incorporate climate change considerations into their project development process, from the onset;
 - Ensure that climate change considerations are fully and appropriately taken into account throughout the project lifecycle; and
 - Develop infrastructure that is more resilient to projected climate impacts and seek to minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

Where can I find further useful information on climate change?

www.turnbackthetide.ca

<http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/exec/occ/climate-data/index.html>

If you have any questions, please contact: climatechange@gov.nl.ca