

Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests

About the program

Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests program, jointly funded by the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia, provides financial support to individuals and organizations for tree planting initiatives. Nova Scotia has set an ambitious goal of planting 21 million trees over the next decade in support of the federal government's 2 Billion Trees Program. Clean Foundation is currently accepting Expression of Interest for tree planting initiatives for the first planting phase of this program. Eligible projects will focus on afforestation, reforestation, urban forest enhancement and/or forest restoration for specific habitat goals.

Who is eligible to apply?

Individuals, community groups, businesses, non-profit organizations, Indigenous communities and organizations, municipal, provincial and federal agencies who own (or have rights to) land in the Province of Nova Scotia are eligible to apply.

What types of projects are we looking for?

Projects must meet the criteria as defined by the federal government's 2 Billion Trees Program. As there are two streams of funding, projects will be ultimately defined as being general tree planting or habitat restoration. Only projects with a clear link to conservation of endangered or at-risk species qualify for the habitat restoration stream. Projects will be reviewed, built and scored with the following criteria and key performance indicators listed below.

1. Reduction of GHG emissions

This category may include, but is not limited to the following factors:

- cumulative total number of incremental trees planted;
- cumulative total area planted with incremental trees;
- annual GHG emission reduction; and,
- projected long-term GHG emission reduction.

2. Achieving environmental co-benefits

This category may include, but is not limited to the following factors:

- cumulative total area planted that contributes to habitat restoration and conservation related to species at risk and other species of conservation interest; and,
- cumulative total area and number of species planted that contribute to increased forest resilience to climate change.

3. Achieving human well-being co-benefits

This category may include, but is not limited to the following factors:

- number of aggregate direct, indirect and induced jobs created;
- percent of large and medium organization funding recipients that have diversity and inclusion plans; and,
- percent of under-represented groups in the tree planning and related activity workforce of funding recipients.

How does the Expression of Interest work?

Once we receive an Expression of Interest (EOI), you will be contacted to discuss your potential project. With the support of our team, projects will continue to be developed and refined. They will then be reviewed and approved by a Provincial Steering Committee. Submitting an EOI does not guarantee funding. Projects may be matched together based on regionality to ensure successful applications.

Our team will support the sourcing of both trees and labour for interested landowners and organizations. Up to 100 per cent of project costs may be covered through this funding.

In addition to searching for landowners and organizations who want to have trees planted on their land, we also are searching for suppliers of seed stock, materials and personnel. Based on successful recipients and project needs we will match projects to suppliers. If your project has a specific supplier that you wish to work with, we ask you to share that information.

As the first round of projects for 2023 has been selected, this is now an ongoing call for Expression of Interest. Each fall, a Steering Committee will select a successful round of projects to move forward. Our team, however, may contact proponents at any point in the year to assess projects.

Once you have submitted your EOI, what are the next steps?

Someone from our team will contact you once your EOI has been reviewed. We will begin collecting more information about your project, such as:

- What is the current state of the proposed planting area(s)?
- What is the long-term plan for the proposed areas?
- Do you have a sustainable forest management plan in place? Are you willing to develop one?
- How will you/we ensure long-term survival of planted trees?
- How will you/we ensure access to sites to monitor their development?
- Are you interested in creating a conservation easement?

Contact us:

For general inquiries about Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests, please contact us at:

thrivingforests@cleanfoundation.ca

<https://cleanfoundation.ca/thriving-forests/>