

Guidelines

Climate Adaptation Program



Program Objective

The Climate Adaptation Program (the “Program”) supports resilient business growth across Nova Scotia by offsetting the costs of expert advice and pilot testing needed to identify and integrate climate adaptation measures.

The Program supports projects that:

- address physical climate risks and strengthen long-term business and asset resilience;
- test innovative climate adaptation approaches before larger capital commitments are made;
- integrate climate adaptation measures into project planning and design; and
- support investment decisions with timely technical evidence, due diligence, and qualified third-party expertise before significant or irreversible capital commitments are made.

Eligible Applicants

- Be a Nova Scotia registered business in good standing (current registration on the [Registry of Joint Stock Companies](#)).
- Have a permanent establishment in Nova Scotia.
- Have most of its workforce currently residing in Nova Scotia.**
- Have fewer than 150 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs).
- Have no outstanding or pending claims/litigation, injunctions, judgments, orders, legal or administrative actions, or similar proceedings against the business, its principals and/or any related business. (Some exceptions may apply. Contact the [Regional Business Development Advisor](#) in your area to discuss.)
- The business, principals and/or any related business shall not be in default of any obligations under any other form of financial assistance and/or incentive program from Invest Nova Scotia, the Province of Nova Scotia, or any agency of the Province of Nova Scotia. For purposes of this criterion, the [Credit Union Small Business Loan Guarantee Program](#) is considered a form of financial assistance provided by the Province of Nova Scotia.
- Businesses and their related entities may be limited to funding for one business only.

***For remote workforces, the remote employees must reside in Nova Scotia to be eligible.*

Ineligible applicants include:

- Franchisees
- Professional service providers
- Personal service providers
- Tourism operators
- Publicly funded organizations
- Non-revenue-generating not-for-profit organizations
- Associations
- Games of chance operations and bingo halls
- Real estate companies such as agents, developers, brokers, etc.
- Licenced liquor establishments whose primary business is alcohol sales (except production breweries, brew pubs, wineries, and distilleries)
- Distributors, wholesalers, agents, or traders, including retailers, except where value added products or services are part of the deliverables or for the purpose of selling Nova Scotia products/services abroad
- Venture capital and other private capital firms

Eligibility is at Invest Nova Scotia's sole discretion, based on the above-outlined criteria and information provided by the applicant. Invest Nova Scotia reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to revoke an Agreement based on information discovered after the issuance of the Agreement should the information reveal that the business is not in compliance with the Program Guidelines and Terms and Conditions of the Agreement. In such cases, Invest Nova Scotia will be under no obligation to pay the business the incentive as set out in the Agreement.

Eligible Projects

Projects must be new, unique, with defined start and end dates, and not include year-over-year work.

1. Climate Risk Assessment, Investment Planning & Third-Party Technical Expertise

Projects that establish the technical evidence, independent expertise, and analysis needed to understand physical climate risks, assess adaptation options, and strengthen investment decisions before an applicant makes an irreversible or material capital commitment to the underlying investment.

- Site-specific physical climate risk, hazard, and vulnerability assessments for existing or proposed facilities, including flooding, extreme precipitation, wildfire, extreme heat, drought, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, storms, permafrost degradation, or other relevant hazards.
- Climate stress testing of proposed capital investments under current and future climate scenarios.

- Climate adaptation feasibility studies and options analyses, including lifecycle cost-benefit analysis of adaptation measures.
- Preparation of climate-resilient design specifications and specialist advice on integrating climate adaptation into project planning, design, and procurement.

2. Operational & Business Continuity Resilience

Projects that reduce climate-related interruptions to production, services, supply, or revenue.

- Climate-informed business continuity and operational resilience planning.
- Engineering studies identifying climate-related production bottlenecks and failure points.
- Redesign of critical processes to operate safely under projected climate conditions.
- Heat-resilience measures that protect workers and maintain productivity.
- Adaptation of production processes to changing water availability or temperature.
- Climate-resilient storage and warehousing systems.
- Protection of critical inventories, raw materials, and finished products from climate hazards.
- Redundant systems or alternative operating configurations where supported by a climate risk assessment.
- Climate-resilient emergency response and recovery systems.
- Testing and validation of operational resilience measures through simulations or pilot projects.

3. Climate-Resilient Supply Chains & Critical Inputs

Projects that assess, strengthen, diversify, and demonstrate climate resilience across critical supply chains, inputs, logistics, and externally supplied utilities or services. Projects should focus on technical assessment, planning, design, and early-stage implementation, rather than routine procurement or ordinary supply-chain management.

- Climate risk assessments of critical suppliers, facilities, transportation routes, or logistics nodes.
- Climate stress testing of critical supply chains.
- Identification and technical assessment of alternative suppliers or sourcing locations.
- Climate-resilient logistics and distribution planning.
- Diversification or redundancy strategies for climate-vulnerable critical inputs.
- Engineering studies for alternative transportation, storage, or distribution arrangements.
- Climate-resilience assessments of externally supplied utilities or critical services.

4. Climate Adaptation Demonstration & Pilot Projects

Projects that test innovative climate adaptation approaches before larger capital commitments are made.

- Pilot testing of climate adaptation technologies.
- Demonstration projects for resilient building or industrial designs.
- Prototype development for climate-resilient equipment or processes.

A strong preference will be given to pilots that have a credible pathway to commercial deployment or replication.

Examples of **ineligible** projects:

- Repair or replacement of assets damaged by a climate event, unless the replacement materially improves resilience beyond the previous design.
- Routine maintenance and ordinary capital renewal.
- Investments required solely to comply with existing regulatory requirements, unless the program specifically intends to support regulatory adaptation.
- Projects with no demonstrated physical climate-risk component.
- General energy-efficiency projects where climate adaptation is not a material objective.
- General emissions-reduction projects with no adaptation benefit.
- Routine insurance, emergency response, or disaster recovery costs.
- Business-as-usual upgrades that would proceed without consideration of climate risk.
- Adaptation measures implemented after substantial capital expenditure has already been committed, except where the project is specifically intended to retrofit an existing asset.
- General consulting or corporate strategy work unrelated to a specific climate risk or investment decision.

Evaluation Criteria

The Program funds adaptation investments, not general environmental projects; therefore, each project must demonstrate:

Material climate risk	The risk is clearly identified, supported by credible evidence, and materially affects assets, operations, workers, supply chains, critical inputs, revenue, or growth.
Proactive adaptation	The work is proactive, directly responds to the identified risk, is technically appropriate, and goes beyond routine maintenance, repair, compliance, or general environmental work.

Business relevance	The project is likely to improve continuity, productivity, competitiveness, asset life, downtime, operating costs, revenue protection, investment performance, or long-term growth.
Project readiness and feasibility	Scope, activities, deliverables, schedule, budget, responsibilities, and consultant qualifications are clear, realistic, and proportionate.
Additionality and value for money	Funding will materially improve the timing, scope, quality, or feasibility of the project, and the requested amount represents reasonable value.
Measurable resilience outcome	Expected outcomes are specific and credible, with indicators, baselines, targets, or a clear method for confirming results where feasible.

Eligible Costs

The Program contributes up to a maximum of CAD \$15,000 per business. Eligible project costs exclude GST/HST/PST/QST and the minimum project cost is CAD \$3,000. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2027.

Eligible costs are limited to third-party professional and technical services for climate science, engineering, analysis, planning, and advice, as well as limited materials and equipment needed to test or validate an approved climate adaptation technology or approach.

Selection of the consultant/service provider is at the discretion of the applicant. Applicants are expected to engage other Nova Scotian/Canadian businesses for their projects wherever possible

The chosen consultant/service provider must be at arm's length from the applicant. Examples of non-arm's-length relationships include family relationships, related-party transactions, close friendships, and anyone listed on the RJSC under the applicant company.

Excluded Costs

The Program does **not** fund:

- Construction or installation of adaptation measures
- Purchase or replacement of equipment or infrastructure except limited materials, equipment, or temporary installations required to test or validate an approved climate adaptation technology or approach
- Routine repairs, maintenance, or operating costs
- Routine business, engineering, or consulting services unrelated to climate adaptation
- Internal staff salaries or general administrative costs

- Implementation costs beyond the technical planning, design, assessment, advisory work, and approved pilot testing required to inform an investment

How to Apply

Submit your application to the Program online at www.investnovascotia.ca/cap

The following documents must be included in your application:

1. Application Form (website form)
2. Consultants/service providers statements of work
3. Proof of consultant/service provider expertise

Statement of Work

The statement of work must be prepared by the consultant/service provider and must include:

- Project objective
- Detailed breakdown of the work/deliverables
- Project timelines, including start and end dates (i.e., day, month and year)
- Fee structure (hourly rates, cost per deliverable, etc.) including currency and total project costs
- Applicable GST/HST/PST/QST status for Canadian consultants/service providers (if no GST/HST/PST/QST is included in the cost, it must be noted that costs are either exempt, subject to, or inclusive of GST/HST/PST/QST)
- Signatures of both parties

Proof of Expertise

For a project to be assessed, sufficient information must be provided with the application to validate the consultant/service provider and their expertise. Invest Nova Scotia reserves the right to contact any consultant/service provider.

Proof of consultant/service provider expertise may include:

- Consultant/service provider's biography
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Previous work history
- Client references

How to Claim Funds

Claims must be submitted online no later than 30 days from project completion. Submit one claim per approved project. Applicants are required to pay all invoices prior to receiving a claim under the incentive.

To claim funds, the following documents must be included:

1. A signed Claim Form (website form)
2. A completed Company Declaration confirming project completion (website form)
3. Related project invoices from the consultant/service provider
4. Proof of payment in the form of credit card/bank statements, copies of the front and back of cleared cheques (indicating they have been cashed at a financial institution) or a wire or e-transfer receipt that shows the status of the transaction as “completed” or “confirmed”

Important notes:

- The invoices and proof of payment documents must be made to/paid by the company that holds the Agreement. Invoices marked as paid, barter/contra and cash payments do not provide sufficient proof of payment.
- An engagement survey must be completed prior to the claim incentive being paid out.
- Businesses must participate in Invest Nova Scotia’s annual corporate data collection process for two years following the project’s completion.
- Invest Nova Scotia reserves the right to make any adjustments to the claims as part of the claim review process. Failure to adhere to these timelines will result in the project claim being denied, with no further notice.

Important Information

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Information collected in connection with this Program is subject to, and will be treated in accordance with, the [Nova Scotia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#).

Public Announcements and Disclosure of Information

Approved businesses must consent to:

- Participate in any public announcement or public ceremony relating to the awarding of the Program funding to the business and related accomplishments, at a mutually agreeable time; and
- The release of project information (business name, sector, region, and total Program funding amount approved) to the media and general public.

Contact Information

For more information, visit www.investnovascotia.ca/cap, or contact the [Regional Business Development Advisor](#) in your region.