

Choose Green Leaders:

2020 Nova Scotia Municipal Election Toolkit



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In 2020, the role of municipalities is more important than ever. As we navigate the COVID-19 crisis alongside the climate crisis, municipalities must take a lead in creating a just and green recovery.

The unprecedented community support for climate, nature, and community – seen through the climate marches amongst many other events – have shown that now is the time to be ambitious and committed in building our community around a just and green recovery.

The results of the 2020 municipal elections will set the tone for locally-based environmental action for the next four years. This election season, you can help make climate and environmental justice top election issues. This toolkit is designed to help you, as a community member or representative of a community organization to engage your candidates in your community's top environmental issues. Every municipality is different.

This toolkit is not a complete summary of all environmental and community issues across Nova Scotian municipalities. We highly encourage you to work beyond this guide and ask candidates about the issues most relevant in your community!



General:

- Name 2 initiatives that you would spend money on to achieve just and green recovery.
- What are two things you would fund less or not at all because they inhibit a just and green recovery?
- How will you ensure our municipality invests in sustainable initiatives that will provide short-term and long-term economic benefits as well as reducing our greenhouse gas emissions over the next thirty years?

Built Environment:

- What steps will you take to build age-friendly, accessible, and affordable development and services in our community?
- What steps are you taking to inform our community's growth patterns: where we develop and how, based on the climate crisis?

Transportation:

- Are you committed to supporting plans to build safe, equitable and convenient places to walk, bike and roll in our community?
- What do you see as the future of community transit in your municipality?

Wilderness:

- Do you understand the full suite of benefits that parks and protected areas bring to your municipality (e.g., water purification, recreation, tourism, business opportunities, etc.), and how will you build on them? Name a park or protected area in your municipality and 3 benefits it provides.

Freshwater:

- How does the municipality protect freshwater, both for human consumption, and for ecosystem services (e.g., where intact wetlands reduce downstream flooding)? What more would you do to protect freshwater in our community?

Food:

- How do you envision municipal resources (human, infrastructure, financial) being used to support community food security?
- Would you support the development of a municipality-wide food strategy? If so, what do you see as the municipality's role in this?

Energy:

- Are you committed to ensuring that a Climate Action Plan in our municipality will promote investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy?
- How are you going to ensure that 100% of the energy we use in our municipality will be clean, and affordable?

Don't forget to see who is elected in your district on October 17, 2020. And be sure to follow-up with elected candidates to make sure they keep their commitments to a just and green recovery. You could become a trusted ally on environmental issues!

For more information on any of these environmental issues, please contact Ecology Action Centre at info@ecologyaction.ca.

