



Ecology Action Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

This past year, we had a lot of meaningful accomplishments to celebrate. And what's remarkable is that we sparked so much positive change while working less, as we put into practice a four-day work week at the Ecology Action Centre. In emerging from the pandemic, we want to take what we learned about transformation, connection, empathy and resilience, and live these values in our work.

Daily we are seeing impacts from the climate and biodiversity emergencies intersecting with deepening healthcare and housing crises. Living through this is difficult and stressful and often brings a measure of sadness – but with intention, there remains space for care, creativity and hope. The four-day work week is part of EAC's response as we strive to bring this essential energy, along with our characteristic ferocity, to the complex problems of our time.

We also spent the past year breathing life into our new strategic direction. In it, EAC is choosing to think ahead multiple generations and build towards a joyful time of thriving and flourishing. Our vision is one in which human and ecological communities are revitalized and restored, not just sustained.

This annual report covers EAC's work throughout the 2022-2023 fiscal year. As always, there is a great deal to celebrate. Our Kelp Kurious project established a seaweed farming and education centre in Mahone Bay to support a sustainable, diverse and resilient coastal economy. We conducted four new Youth

Mobility Audits in schools across Nova Scotia. We celebrated the Halifax council voting to fully fund HalifACT, Halifax's climate action and sustainable development plan. We mobilized citizens to send 3,561 letters to provincial decision makers to save West Mabou Beach Provincial Park from a proposed golf development. We celebrated when, after a decade of work, Halifax council officially endorsed Part A of the JustFOOD Action Plan – the HRM's first food strategy. We launched home energy efficiency workshops in Millbrook First Nation, mobilized citizens to stand up against the proposed Goldboro liquid natural gas plant, released our Voices on the Climate Plan video series to engage in conversations on Nova Scotia's climate plan – and so much more.

In this glimpse of the past year, you can see our strategic direction in action. It has offered EAC a provocation to do what we do best, but even more strongly: hold decision-makers accountable, bring groups together for a strengthened voice, spark ideas beyond the status quo and mobilize action to tackle the urgent and complex environmental issues of our time.

We truly couldn't do this work without your support – our members, allies, community partners, dedicated volunteers and employees. We are thankful to have so many individuals and groups across Mi'kma'ki, the country and the world alongside us as we all strive for a vibrant world of respect and belonging.

In gratitude and solidarity,
EAC's board and staff directors

OUR BOARD

Christina Macdonald - Co-Chair

Helga Guderley (Joined: June 2022; Co-Chair as of September 2022) – Co-Chair

Roland Evborokhai (Joined: September 2022) – Treasurer

Virginia Olsen – Secretary

Anne Winters – Member at Large

Michael Sime – Member at Large

Rhiannon Davies – Member at Large

Grant MacDonald – Member At Large

Alyda Faber – Member At Large

Dawn Burstall – Member At Large

Laurette Geldenhuys (Joined: September 2022) – Member at Large

Mariam Knakriah (Joined: September 2022) – Member at Large

Keith MacMaster (Joined: September 2022) – Member at Large

Haruka Aoyama (September 2022 to November 2022) – Member at Large


John Crace (End: September 2022) – Co-Chair

Ayorinde Makanjuola (End: September 2022) – Treasurer


Anne Marie Dalton (End: September 2022) – Member at Large

photo: Maddi Tang

INFLUENCING DECISION MAKERS FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE




In collaboration with School Strike 4 Climate Hfx and their allies, we helped organize a climate strike to demand immediate action from the provincial government on the climate emergency. When the march was (ironically) canceled due to post-tropical storm Fiona, we pivoted to encourage supporters to send over 400 faxes to the Premier's office, demanding action!



We released a detailed analysis of Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth, reviewing what's good, what's bad and what's missing from the plan.




With our partners at SeaChoice, we expanded our Seafood Progress platform to include an additional 13 major brands in Canada assessing their commitments to sustainable and socially responsible seafood. Over the past year, nearly 3,500 emails from consumers were sent to brands and grocers calling on companies to drive meaningful improvements to fisheries and aquaculture and to have better measurements in place for accountability.



Through our advisory committee work and extensive submissions, we successfully advocated for a provincial commitment to 'right-sizing' regulations and ensure regenerative, small-scale seaweed and shellfish sea farming can thrive as a coastal livelihood.




We continued our work to ensure strong policies to support farmers under the newly announced Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP). We advocated for the Province to develop climate-friendly cost share programs that will be delivered under this framework.



We engaged in multiple opportunities for public input on the HRM's Regional Plan, the municipality's highest level planning document that lays out vision and strategy for future growth. This included formal written submissions and presentations at public hearings.



Along with our partners at Nature Canada, we collected hundreds of messages of hope and action for nature from communities across Canada and delivered them to world leaders at Nature COP – the United Nations' international conference on biodiversity.



We celebrated when the Nova Scotia Court of Appeals accepted an appeal put forward by Ecojustice on behalf of the EAC and the New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance. The court's decision grants the groups public interest standing to challenge a highway realignment related to the proposed Goldboro liquified natural gas plant.





We celebrated when, after a decade of work, the Halifax Regional Council officially endorsed Part A of the JustFOOD Action Plan – the HRM's first food strategy, co-led by the Municipality and the EAC.



We celebrated when after years of dedicated work from groups and individuals across the province, the Nova Scotia government announced that Owls Head Provincial Park will officially be protected and saved from a golf course development.



We mobilized Haligonians to send 1,455 letters to Housing Minister John Lohr, the Provincial Housing Task Force and HRM Council demanding the protection of the Sandy Lake Regional Park from a proposed suburban sprawl housing development next to the park.



We successfully lobbied for an Atlantic Canada-wide feasibility study for electric school bus deployment, bringing us one step closer to electrifying Nova Scotia's school bus fleet.



We celebrated the adoption of two landmark international fisheries management decisions that we worked for a number of years to pass: the world's first fishing quotas to protect the highly vulnerable South Atlantic population of shortfin mako sharks, and a management decision for Atlantic Bluefin tuna which will ensure that the Bluefin tuna stock continues to be harvested responsibly for years to come.



Along with concerned local citizens, we sounded the alarm on a proposed infilling project that would see 99,700 cubic meters of debris from local construction sites dumped into a water lot along the Dartmouth waterfront.



We released an interactive map of the nine "Special Planning Areas" selected for fast-tracked development in HRM, along with environmental features like lakes and wildlife corridors that could be negatively affected by these developments, to help make this information more accessible for people to engage.



In July, we celebrated when the Federal government announced an investment of \$255 million to deliver new wind energy projects and energy storage infrastructure for Nova Scotia with a focus on Indigenous-led projects.



We submitted written comments to Environment and Climate Change Canada's proposed Regulations Amending the Passenger Automobile and Light Truck Greenhouse Gas Emission Regulations, arguing that Canada needs a national Zero Emission Vehicle mandate that works for all of Canada, not just provinces that have had the capacity to implement provincial regulations on electric vehicle availability. This submission included modeling and reporting commissioned from Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors entitled "Ensuring ZEV Adoption in Nova Scotia: Analysis of Policy Options and Possible Adoption Outcomes," wherein we presented several measures the Government of Canada can implement to ensure equitable electric vehicle supply distribution.



We mobilized citizens throughout Nova Scotia to save the West Mabou Beach Provincial Park from a proposed golf development, including a successful lawn sign campaign and 3,561 letters sent to provincial decision makers.





As a member of the Nova Scotia Coalition for Healthy School Food, we continued to advocate for the province to deliver a federally supported school food program that is adapted to the community context, culturally appropriate and locally sourced.



We joined 80+ U.S. and Canadian groups in urging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Joe Biden to transparently report greenhouse gas emissions from logging – a critical step towards effective climate action, forest protection and climate-safe forestry.



We teamed up with the Healthy Bays Network to launch "Salmon Wars" — an explosive exposé on the sea cage salmon farming industry. With award-winning journalists Doug Frantz and Catherine Collins, we hosted six events across Nova Scotia to demand a transition away from open-net pen salmon farming.



We celebrated the implementation of the first tier of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Ecosystem Roadmap, which is the first step towards ecosystem-based management and consists of incorporating ecosystem health indicators into catch advice.



We worked with three Dalhousie students - one in planning and two in law – on research projects related to our new coastal access initiative.



We celebrated when the Halifax Council voted to fully fund HalifACT, Halifax's climate action and sustainable development plan! EAC played a key role in the Fund HalifACT campaign, in collaboration with Climate Emergency Unit, Halifax Climate Hub and dozens of volunteers calling on Council to be bold and back up their promises with real resources.



Along with our partners, we released new polling data showing that 86 per cent of Nova Scotians support national standards for electric vehicle availability, so Canadians in all parts of the country can have equal opportunities to purchase a zero-emissions vehicle.




Given that nature has a place in our cities, we continued to push for expansion of protection of the last three large, wild areas in urban Halifax – Blue Mountain - Birch Coves Lakes, Sandy Lake - Sackville River, and the Purcells Cove Backlands. Each area is worthy of conservation on its own merits, but together, they play a vital role in the Halifax Green Network Plan.




We released our Assessing Net Zero Electricity Supply and Demand Models in the Atlantic Loop report, detailing various clean electricity supply scenarios to decarbonize Atlantic Canada by 2050. The report is a part of our Atlantic Vision for a future where electricity is affordable, reliable and sustainable.




After three years of work with our partners at Make Stewardship Count, we successfully influenced the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) eco-label to raise the bar for fisheries seeking to be certified as sustainable. These new label requirements will strengthen protections for endangered, threatened and protected species threatened by fisheries and help consumers choose more sustainable options.



We celebrated as Nova Scotia officially reached 13 per cent land protection and allocated additional funding to help reach our provincial commitment to protecting 20 per cent of Nova Scotia's land and water by 2030.




We helped mobilize people across the province to stand up against Pieridae Energy's proposed Goldboro liquid natural gas plant, with nearly 1,000 letters sent to decision makers!




We continued to advocate for the implementation of the Coastal Protection Act regulations after repeated delays from decision makers, bringing attention to this issue through media and mobilizing concerned citizens to take action.



We responded to the Municipality's 2022/23 Budget and Business Plan, advocating for more resources dedicated to planning complete communities, active transportation infrastructure and a broad parks spectrum.




We supported CCNB advocacy and the development of public facing materials, contributing to NB's purchase of 20 electric school buses in 2022.




After a years-long court struggle and the continued campaign efforts of the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, The Council of Canadians, Nature Canada and GMO Free PEI, we celebrated when AquaBounty finally abandoned its plans to produce genetically modified salmon in PEI. We've been following this case closely and are excited to see this important precedent set!




Along with our partners, we continue to fight greenwashing in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's certification scheme. Forestry companies under the SFI certification standard can clearcut natural mixed-species forests, spray glyphosate to suppress natural re-growth and replace them with softwood plantations, all while claiming to be 'green' to the marketplace.



We gave an oral presentation to Environment and Climate Change Canada's Technical Working Group on Light Duty Vehicle Regulations, going toe-to-toe with vehicle manufacturers on the need for stringent regulation of electric vehicle supply in Canada.



We sounded the alarm on the multiple risks associated with advancing gold mining in Nova Scotia. We have campaigned against this unsustainable industry and called for strong precautions to be put in place to try to stop the one remaining gold mine in Nova Scotia from becoming an ecological disaster.



We provided detailed submissions to the federal consultation on the Clean Electricity Regulation, emphasizing the need to send a clear market signal to transition to renewable electricity generation.



SHOWCASING ALTERNATIVES



Our Pop-Up Bike Hub returned for its 3rd year to provide bike repairs and safe cycling education to underserved communities throughout the province! We visited 22 communities this year and helped fix 351 bikes!



Working closely with academic partners at Dalhousie University, we compared the effectiveness of several eelgrass restoration methods through our eelgrass restoration project in Port Medway. The project helps us better understand the feasibility of eelgrass restoration as a management tool.

Our JEDI Committee (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) designed and completed a new staff and board survey to help us understand staff and volunteer learning needs and evaluate the impacts of our efforts to make EAC a more just, equitable, anti-racist and decolonized organization.



The EAC once again participated in Winter Walk Day, encouraging 14,180 youth from 89 schools and youth groups throughout the province to get outside and stay active during the winter months by walking to or at school.



Our long-term work to showcase sustainable woodlot management and ecological forestry in partnership with the Otter Ponds Demonstration Forest surpassed the ten-year mark!



We hosted three electric vehicle test drive events in collaboration with Next Ride, giving Nova Scotians a chance to try out an electric car or bike.



Along with our partners we created a bilingual, interactive educational eelgrass exhibit and brought it to venues across the country to help build awareness of this crucial seagrass.



We celebrated the opening of Glace Bay Highschool's Pedestrian Pathway, a youth-led active transportation infrastructure project we co-facilitated from 2019-2022.





We hosted three Green Jobs for All events, helping new Canadians navigate the opportunities and challenges they face in the green jobs sector.



We launched the Pop-Up Bike Hub Mini, an electric cargo bike that offers agile repair programming within the HRM, partnering with five public community centres, two schools, and three public festivals, and repairing 112 bikes!



Along with our partners at Indian Point Marine Farms, our Kelp Kurious project helped establish the Seaweed Farming and Education Centre in Mahone Bay.



We launched a series of Home Energy Efficiency workshops in Millbrook First Nation, in partnership with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and Efficiency Nova Scotia.



We worked with groups around the Halifax Regional Municipality to develop Walking School Bus Programs for two new schools.



We launched In Our Power, a series of stories of ordinary people and diverse communities in Atlantic Canada and beyond, working to create a just transition to a green economy.



In October, the EAC began a nine-month pilot testing a four-day work week for EAC's staff. The pilot was a huge success and we have officially adopted the four-day work week moving forward. This is a chance for us to live our values as an organization and help encourage good work/life balance for our staff.



In October we participated in International Walk to School Month, helping 9,975 kids from 39 schools get outside and stay active.



We commissioned Zzap Architecture and Planning, RDH Building Science and RCS Construction to work with us and VIDA Living to conduct a case study and scoping project on the feasibility of a panelized deep energy retrofit of a multi-unit residential building in Dartmouth. We also commissioned a Canada-wide study of panelized retrofit projects that will be used to create a toolkit for property managers of all kinds.



We've been on board boats with Nova Scotia's swordfish harpoon fleet to trial new low-impact gear that will be critical as they adapt to changing ocean conditions and work to keep this sustainable fishery alive.



BROADENING AND DEEPENING ENGAGEMENT



Our last rounds of engagement sessions supporting the development of community-led marine planning and protection in the Gros Morne region were extensive. We spoke to approximately 150 participants, which included community members, fish harvesters, members of the Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union, scientific experts, members of the Qalipu and Miawkpukek First Nations, local business operators and ENGOs to understand the socio-ecological values of the area. Three years of community input is set to be published soon!



We held our second annual Raise a Racquet for the Environment at the Sobeys Atlantic Tennis Centre in October 2022. Over 30 players competed in the double's tennis tournament, raising over \$2,000 for the EAC. The event continues to bring new people and businesses into the EAC community.



On April 27, we co-hosted an art show with nature illustrator Jeff Domm. Domm is a renowned wildlife illustrator and is the artist who created the mural in EAC's Fern Lane office.



After a year-long process of consultation and building, on September 19, we celebrated the launch of EAC's new website! Upgrades will allow our community to better interact with our work, stay up to date and get involved.



Along with our partners, we hosted A Climate of Hope: Faith Communities Confront the Climate Crisis at the Ummah Mosque in Halifax. This day-long conference brought different faith communities together to explore opportunities to participate in climate action and make impactful change.



Along with our partners at the Halifax Cycling Coalition, we celebrated the launch of the Arabic, Mi'kmaq and French versions of the Halifax Cycling Handbook!



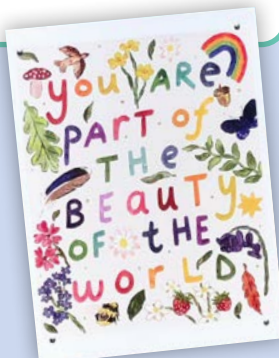
Youth Mobility Audits and Youth Leadership sessions were delivered to four schools this year, including Wagmatcookewey School, Halifax West High, Glace Bay High and Sydney Academy. We have now conducted nine Youth Mobility Audits across Nova Scotia!



Through our Diversity and Social Inclusion Fund, we were able to support the Mi'kma'ki Water Walk around the Bay of Fundy, provide resources to Down the Marsh Community Land Trust and support meaningful Mi'kmaq collaboration in the Work That Reconnects retreat.



We hosted five Better Building Speaker Series webinars, helping Nova Scotians navigate a wide variety of energy efficiency issues.



A group of our staff spent two days at Asitu'lisk with a group of L'nu educators, storytellers and artists to build relationships and explore what it means to decolonize ourselves and our organization. We had rich, mutual conversations, played games in the Mi'kmaq language and enjoyed time on the land together.





Our team of Green Avengers once again laced up their shoes for the 2022 Blue Nose Marathon! 2022 marked our seventh year walking and running in the Blue Nose and we were able to raise \$15,578 to support our work.



We had three successful Bike Buddy cohorts with 40 participants from newcomer communities throughout the spring and summer. Many buddies continue to meet up and arrange their own group rides post participation!



We partnered with the Conservation Council of New Brunswick to host a webinar on the benefits and challenges of school bus electrification, featuring Tomas Murphy, Pupil Transportation Coordinator for EECB NB and Mike Franklin, Logistics Specialist with the Public Schools Branch in PEI.



Along with our friends at Zuppa, we hosted Carry the Spark, a concert bringing together some of Nova Scotia's finest singer-songwriters, dancers, filmmakers, poets and visual artists to present art pieces from our 50 Things project, celebrating the legacies and futures of the environmental movement in Mi'kma'ki. It was a packed house!



In June, we hosted two guided hikes for our members, exploring the Sandy Lake Regional Park and the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area and the unique features that make protecting these spaces so important!



We released our Voices on the Climate Plan video series, speaking with different community members, leaders and organizers to get their thoughts on how Nova Scotia's climate plan measures up to this huge task of tackling the climate emergency.



We hosted six guided hikes showcasing the unique and crucial areas designated in the Halifax Green Network Plan with nearly 100 participants.



In collaboration with the Climate Emergency Unit, NSGEU and Wonder'neath Art Society, we hosted the BBQ & Picnic for the People in July. It was a chance to share food and connect with others in our communities who are working for a better future.



In celebration of World Wetlands Day, we co-hosted two public workshops exploring the importance of wetlands in Nova Scotia and how we can help protect these vital ecosystems.



We released our Energy System Demystifier, the first of three resources that aim to empower Nova Scotians in pushing for a clean, affordable and reliable energy system.



FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended March 31

REVENUE	2023	2022
Foundations and Charities	1,532,732	1,032,947
Government funding	817,989	575,292
Memberships	551,313	560,204
Donations	535,017	672,261
Other funding	414,269	127,884
Fundraising events	3,975	26,160
Administrative fees	0	258,910
Interest and other	58,183	35,601
Amortization of deferred capital contribution	17,339	17,799
Operating expense recoveries	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	3,930,817	3,307,058

EXPENSES	2023	2022
Amortization	41,247	31,663
Bank and credit card charges	26,191	25,129
Communications	51,026	49,903
Fundraising activities	13,453	25,008
Insurance	24,097	17,593
Interest on LTD	12,400	13,406
IT Services	43,413	30,718
Magazine	16,080	19,198
Memberships and subscriptions	25,438	17,608
Office	7,956	16,013
Professional fees	615,213	296,446
Property taxes	1,711	10,150
Rental	41,365	23,353
Repairs and maintenance	12,559	10,303
Supplies and materials	68,657	54,819
Training	25,095	9,071
Travel and meetings	174,085	61,925
Utilities	27,221	29,835
Wages and benefits	2,599,181	2,164,267
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,826,388	2,906,408

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	104,429	400,650
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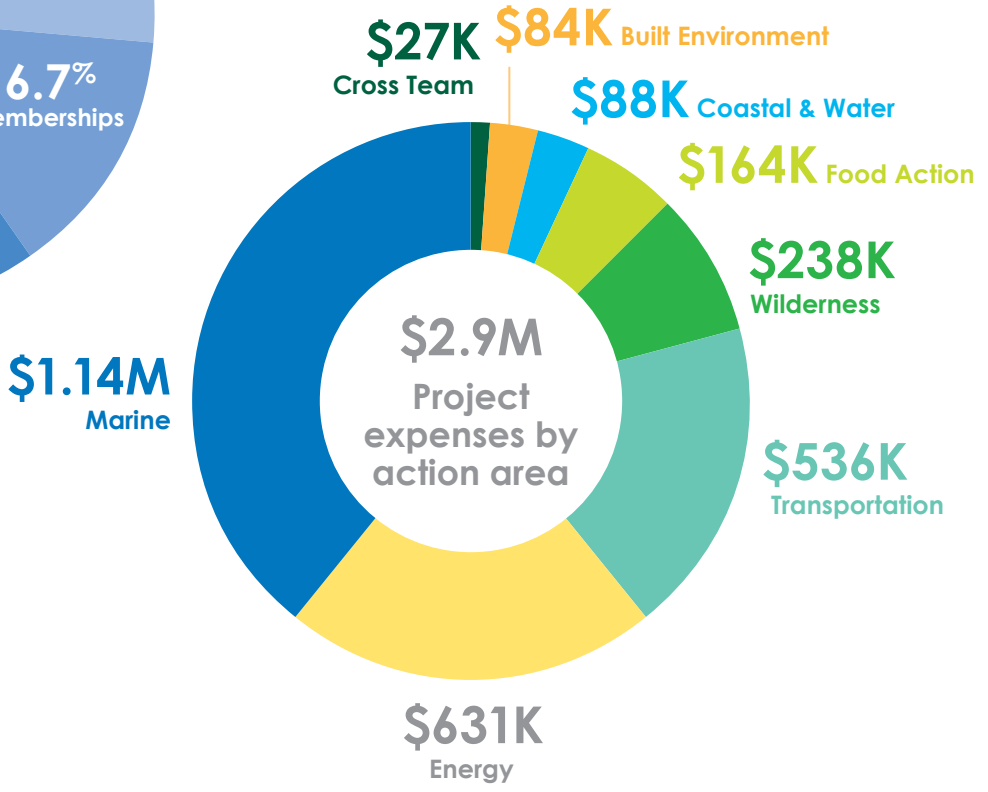
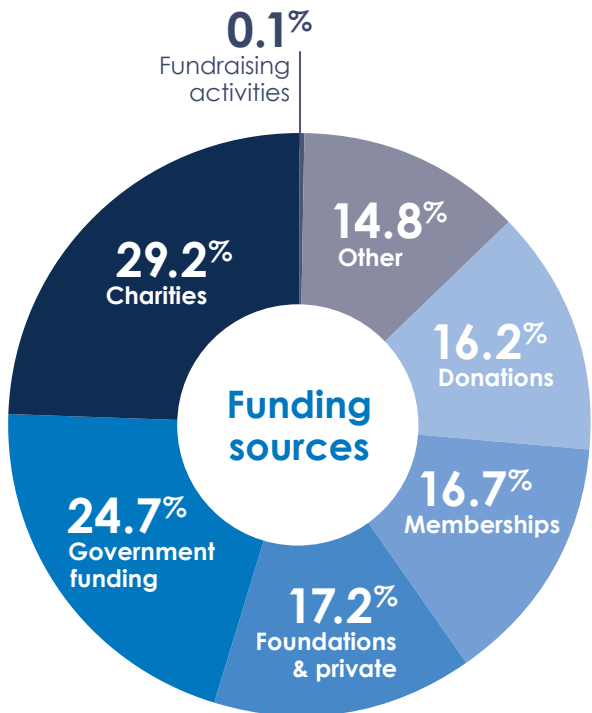
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year Ended March 31

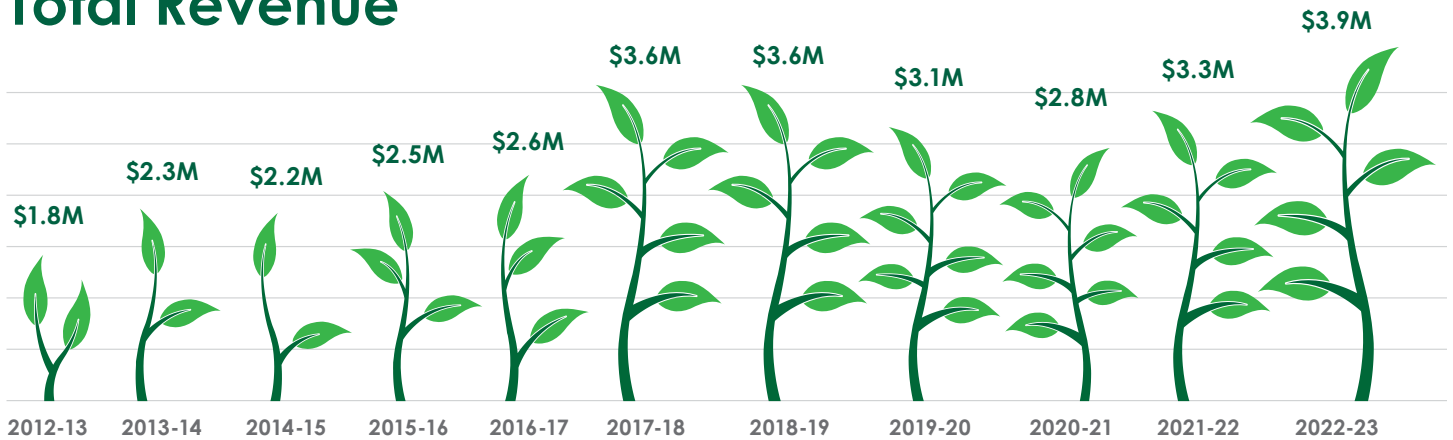
ASSETS	2023	2022
Current		
Cash & cash equivalents	644,426	2,562,176
Term Deposits	1,000,256	
Receivables	117,666	250,341
Prepays	36,582	28,330
	1,798,930	2,840,847
Long-term		
Term Deposits	775,213	
Property & equipment	830,330	826,669
TOTAL ASSETS	3,404,473	3,667,516

LIABILITIES	2023	2022
Current		
Payables & accruals	213,429	115,472
Deferred contributions	1,388,027	1,834,543
Current portion of mortgage payable	20,771	19,994
	1,622,227	1,970,009
Long-term		
Deferred capital contributions	418,596	417,704
Mortgage payable	292,030	312,612
	710,626	730,316
Surplus		
Operating surplus (deficit)	-	-
Investment in capital assets	120,093	76,359
Emergency Fund	133,008	133,008
Strategic Fund	713,678	661,824
Fern Lane Fund	104,841	96,000
	1,071,620	967,191
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,404,473	3,667,516

This summary of financial information has been extracted from the Ecology Action Centre's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2023. These statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). The audit was completed by BDO Canada LLP. Audited financial statements are available to view online at ecologyaction.ca/annual-report.



Total Revenue



 Ecology Action Centre

SUSTAINABILITY ALLIES

Assante Hydrostone

Authentic Seacoast Company

Garrison Brewing Company

Helping Nature Heal

Innovative Real Estate Ltd.

JustUs! Coffee Roasters

Laughing Whale Coffee Roasters

Luminate Co. Wellness Market

Truefaux Film Inc.

Vancity Community Investment Bank

photo: Jimmie Pederson

OUR FUNDERS

Generous monetary and in-kind contributions from foundations, organizations, businesses and individuals have helped the Ecology Action Centre immensely over the past year. You enable us to do the valuable work that we do. Thank you!

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Downtown Halifax Business Commission
Echo Foundation
Ivey Foundation
Individual donors

COASTAL & WATER

Echo Foundation
Rodney's Oyster House
Individual donors

ENERGY & CLIMATE

Catherine Donnelly Foundation
Clean Foundation
Echo Foundation
EfficiencyOne
Environment Funders Canada
European Climate Foundation
Faith and the Common Good
Halifax Climate Investment
- Innovation and Impact Fund (HCi3)
Halifax Innovation Outpost
Ivey Foundation
Pembina Institute
RSI Projects
Trottier Family Foundation
Individual donors

WILDERNESS

Echo Foundation
The Schad Foundation
Individual donors

FOOD

Halifax Regional Municipality
SeedChange

MARINE

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
David and Lucille Packard Foundation
Donner Canadian Foundation
ECO Canada
Government of Canada
- Ocean Management Contribution Program
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- Intervenor Funding, Offshore Energy Regional Assessment
Loran Scholar Foundation
Make Stewardship Count
Oceans 5
Blue Nature Alliance
Moore Foundation
Rodney's Oyster House
Rosewater Charitable Foundation
Shark Conservation Fund
Wyss Foundation
Individual donors

TRANSPORTATION

Clean Foundation
FedEx Cares
Halifax Regional Municipality
Province of Nova Scotia
- Department of Public Works
- Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage
- Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
The Active Transportation Fund
The Public Health Agency of Canada
Individual donors

WHOLE OF EAC

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Echo Foundation
Nature Canada



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