



# BUILDING A GREENER NOVA SCOTIA



## WHY ENERGY EFFICIENCY MATTERS?



Nova Scotia's energy efficiency ranking dropped by **3 spots**:

Efficiency Canada ranked NS **5th in their 2024 Efficiency Scorecard** down from 3rd due to NS's overreliance on fossil fuels making energy efficiency more critical than ever.

**43%** of households experience energy poverty in Nova Scotia, about twice the national average:

Nova Scotia has one of Canada's highest rates of energy poverty; energy-efficient retrofits and heat pumps can save households up to **\$2,200** annually as an example.

## WHY ARE GREEN JOBS IN SKILLED TRADE JOBS IMPORTANT?



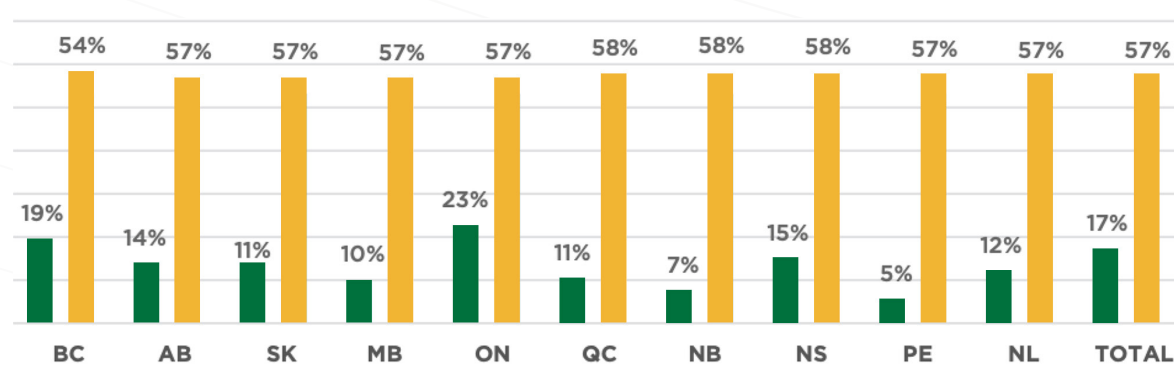
**16,500** homes will have to be retrofitted in Nova Scotia per year:

This will improve energy efficiency and will cost about \$0.6 billion annually.

**58%** of construction jobs will come from green buildings in Nova Scotia by 2030:

A lot of skilled trade professionals will be needed to construct and renovate buildings to higher energy efficiency, and meet Net-Zero.

Green Building Construction Jobs as a Share of Total Construction Jobs (2018 and 2030)



Green Building Construction Jobs as a Share of Total Construction Jobs.

Source: Canada Green Building Council.

■ GB Construction Jobs as % of Total Construction Jobs (2018).  
■ % GB construction of total construction jobs 2030.

## WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

**90%**

Of women reported experiencing harassment in skilled trades on YWCA Halifax's 2024 report.

**60%**

Reported "little" to "no" awareness of green job opportunities in ASBB's Survey.

**35%**

Of skilled tradespeople are over 55. Indicating an aging workforce.

**5%**

Or less identify as BIPOC in the skilled trades workforce.

## FORCASTED JOB SHORTAGES

Shortages in Key Trades (2025-2031 projections):

- **Transport Truck Drivers:** 15,072-18,252;
- **Carpenters:** 5,520-7,100;
- **Electricians:** 3,409-4,292;
- **Construction labourers:** 3,042-4,053;
- **HVAC:** 1,016-1,339;
- **Plumbers:** 805-1122.



**ONLY 2-10% OF WORKFORCE NEEDS ARE MET THROUGH NEW GRADUATES**



## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Workforce Development:** Support mentorship, foreign skilled trades validation, micro credentials for rapid upskilling, and training grants.
- **Simplified Incentives:** Make energy retrofit programs easier to access and more resilient to policy shifts.
- **Equitable Career Growth:** Fund more education and training programs in rural areas and reserves that help underrepresented groups to see trades as viable career paths.
- **Collaboration is Key:** Government, industry, and education must work together for a sustainable workforce.