

# 2030 Declaration – GHG Target Background

March 2019

The [2030 Declaration](#) sets a vision for strong climate action, and working toward a low-carbon economy in a way that is based in justice and equity for workers and communities in Nova Scotia.

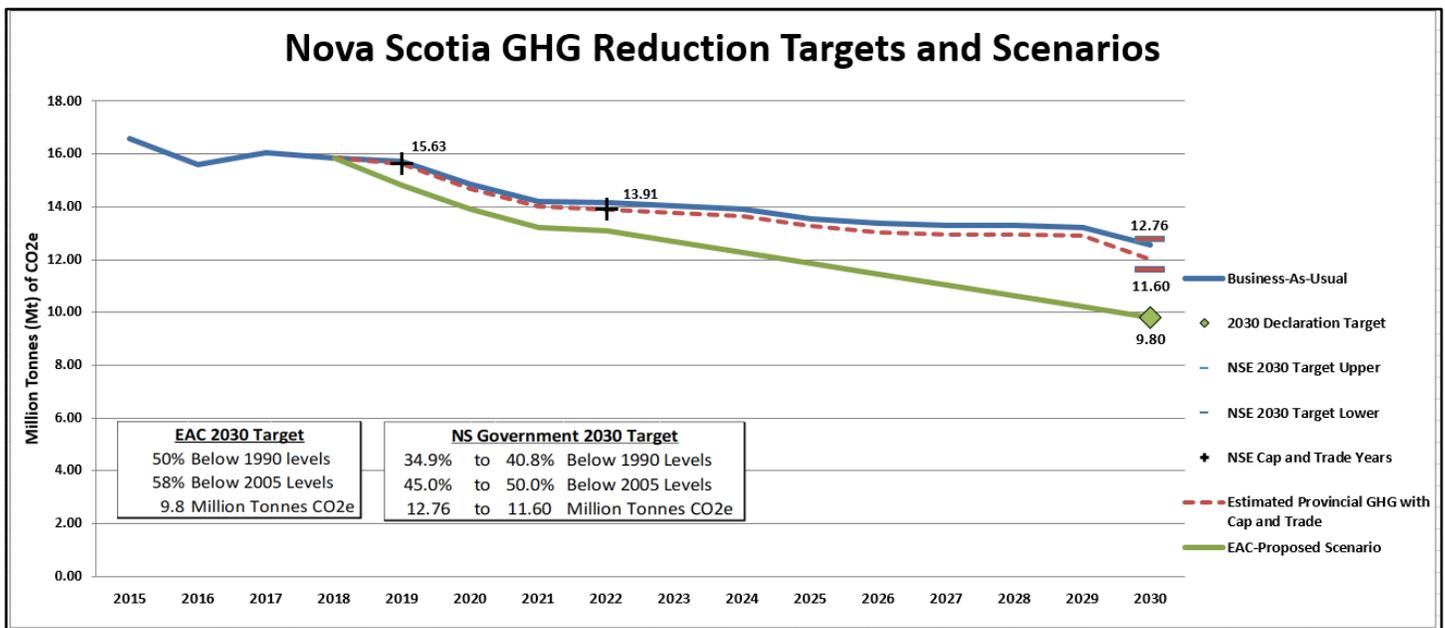
As part of this vision, the 2030 Declaration puts forward a greenhouse gas reduction target of **50% below 1990 levels by 2030**. The below is a brief on why this target was chosen.

## Nova Scotia's Existing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets and Goals

The 2030 Declaration target is 50% below 1990 levels by 2030, which equal to about 58% below 2005 levels, or about 37% below 2017 levels.

Through the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, Nova Scotia has a greenhouse gas reduction target of 10% below 1990 by 2020. This goal was reached years early, in 2014. <sup>i</sup>

Nova Scotia currently has no legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets beyond 2020, and has regulated business-as-usual targets for 2030 as part of the Cap and Trade system that are not in line with climate science. Nova Scotia's current target range for 2030 is between 45% and 50% below 2005 levels, which is equal to between 35% and 41% below 1990 levels.



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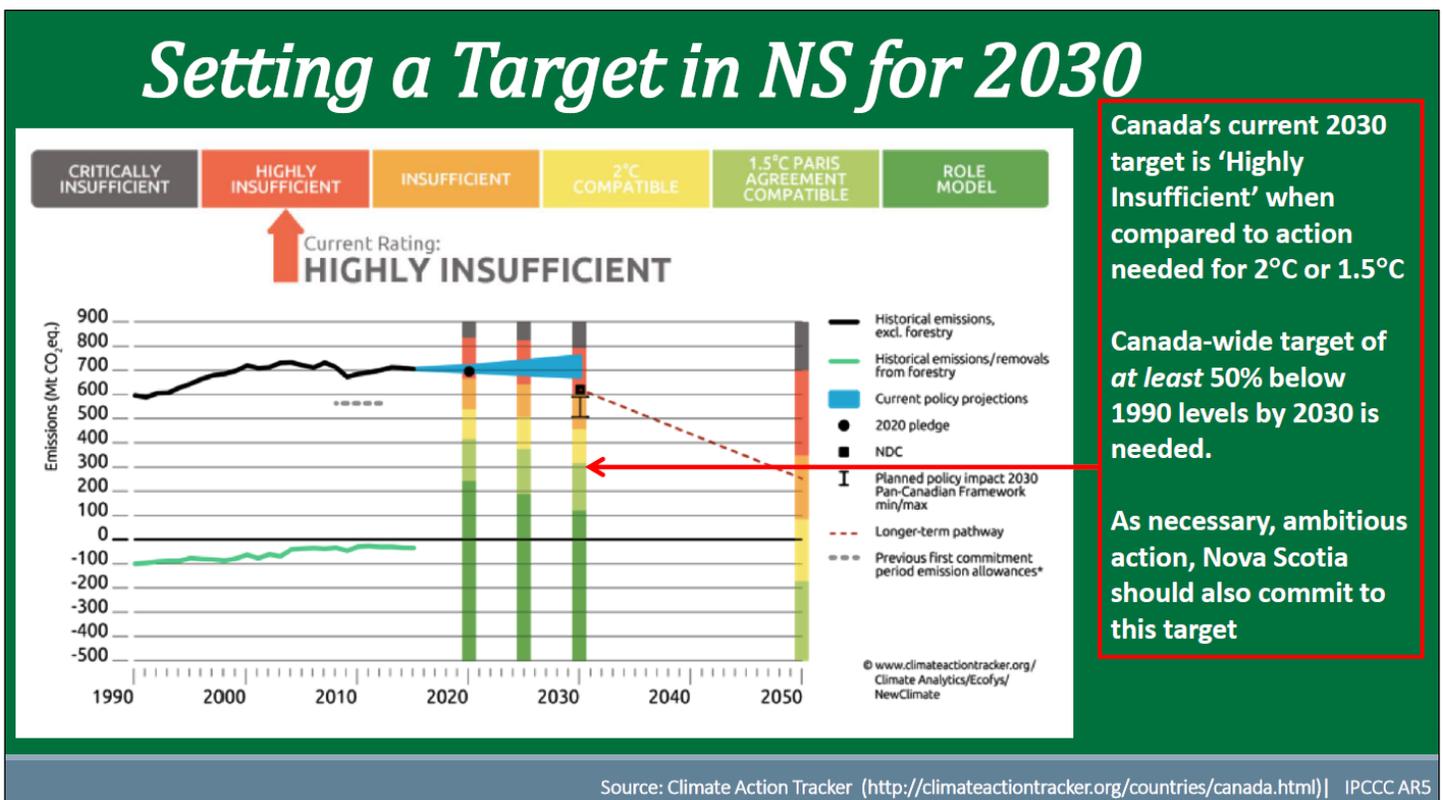
## How Was 50% Below 1990 Levels by 2030 Chosen?

The greenhouse gas reduction target of 50% below 1990 Levels by 2030 was chosen for two key reasons.

First, this target is an estimate of what would be fair for Canada's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions reductions in order to meet the *Paris Agreement targets of 2.0 °C and 1.5 °C of global warming*. Canada's current Nationally Determined Contribution to the UN is 30% below 2005 levels by 2030, and is categorized as "Highly Insufficient" and consistent with globally catastrophic levels of warming of between 3.0°C and 4.0°C <sup>ii</sup>.

Analysis from Climate Action Tracker<sup>iii</sup> (an independent scientific analysis produced by three research organizations tracking climate action since 2009) shows a value of about 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 to be consistent with Canada's fair contributions to the Paris Agreement targets of 2.0°C and 1.5°C of global warming. See the graphic below and supporting links for more details.

Second, this target lines up with the Green Economy Network's analysis<sup>iv</sup> for creating 30,700 jobs in Nova Scotia in the renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transportation sectors, as part of their 1 Million Climate Jobs Plan<sup>v</sup>.



Source: Climate Action Tracker (<http://climateactiontracker.org/countries/canada.html>) | IPCC AR5

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## How Will the 2030 Declaration Target be Implemented?

We advocate for this target to be implemented through the upcoming renewal of the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act – where Nova Scotia's current 2020 targets are legislated.

## How Does the 2030 Declaration Target Compare to Other Jurisdictions?

British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island all have 2030 emission reduction targets of between 25% and 40% below 1990 levels, and other provinces and territories either have no legislated targets, or their targets are in process.<sup>vi</sup>

The 2030 Declaration target – 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 - would be the most ambitious climate mitigation target in Canada, and would place Nova Scotia back in a leadership position when it comes to action on climate change.

Other countries have targets that far exceed the 2030 Declaration Target, including:

- United Kingdom: 57% below 1990 by 2030<sup>vii</sup>
- Germany: 55% below 1990 levels by 2030<sup>viii</sup>
- Norway: Carbon Neutral by 2030<sup>ix</sup>

## What's the Plan? How will Nova Scotia work toward meeting the Declaration Target?

The 2030 Declaration speaks to the need to set strong targets, and work together to create a plan that is based in justice, equity and benefit for communities and workers. It is intentional that the Declaration does not prescribe one path to getting to the 2030 target, but lays out a vision and principles for how we work together to create a path that works best for Nova Scotia.

We know that the technology for a just transition to a low-carbon economy is available. We know that there are vast renewable resources in Nova Scotia. We have fantastic experience in Nova Scotia to build on, when it comes to reducing emissions, creating jobs, and ensuring prosperity for our communities. It's important that we commit to broad, public consultations on climate action, and develop solutions that center justice and equity, as is laid out in the 2030 Declaration.

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<sup>i</sup> Nova Scotia EGSPA Goals: <https://novascotia.ca/nse/egspa/>

<sup>ii</sup> Climate Action Tracker – Canada: <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/canada/>

<sup>iii</sup> Climate Action Tracker – About: <https://climateactiontracker.org/about/>

<sup>iv</sup> Green Economy Network – About: <http://greeneconomy.net.ca/about-us/>

<sup>v</sup> GEN – Nova Scotia Analysis: <http://greeneconomy.net.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2017/05/Nova-Scotia-long-EN.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> Auditors General Report – March 2018 - [http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl\\_otp\\_201803\\_e\\_42883.html](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_otp_201803_e_42883.html)

<sup>vii</sup> UK Target: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/reducing-carbon-emissions/carbon-budgets-and-targets/>

<sup>viii</sup> Germany Target: <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/germanys-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-climate-targets>

<sup>ix</sup> Norway Target: <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Innstillinger/Stortinget/2015-2016/inns-201516-407/4/>