

2020 - 2021



Environmental Trust Fund

IMPACT
REPORT

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Message from the Minister



▼
HON. GARY CROSSMAN
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE MINISTER

It's such an honour to be the minister of Environment and Climate Change and to call our beautiful province home.

The Environmental Trust Fund is making a difference in areas all over New Brunswick – from small, rural communities to larger urban centres and those in between.

Our province is rich with natural resources; we have pristine rivers and lakes, tidal waters, mature forests, wetlands and green spaces. But we must continue to work together to ensure the place we call home is as vibrant generations from now as it is today.

The Environmental Trust Fund plays such an important part in protecting and enhancing what we treasure here in New Brunswick.

It brings together people who know the value of nature and the environment, and who roll up their sleeves to get the work done. The projects also spur economic activity by creating jobs.

Whether it's important research into environmental issues, communities developing climate change adaptation plans or saplings being planted along the Nashwaak River to restore the floodplain, I see the pride and commitment.

As the Environmental Trust Fund marks its 31st anniversary, I want to congratulate the dedicated people in the department who make this program possible and I want to thank all New Brunswickers who have taken part. You're making a difference.

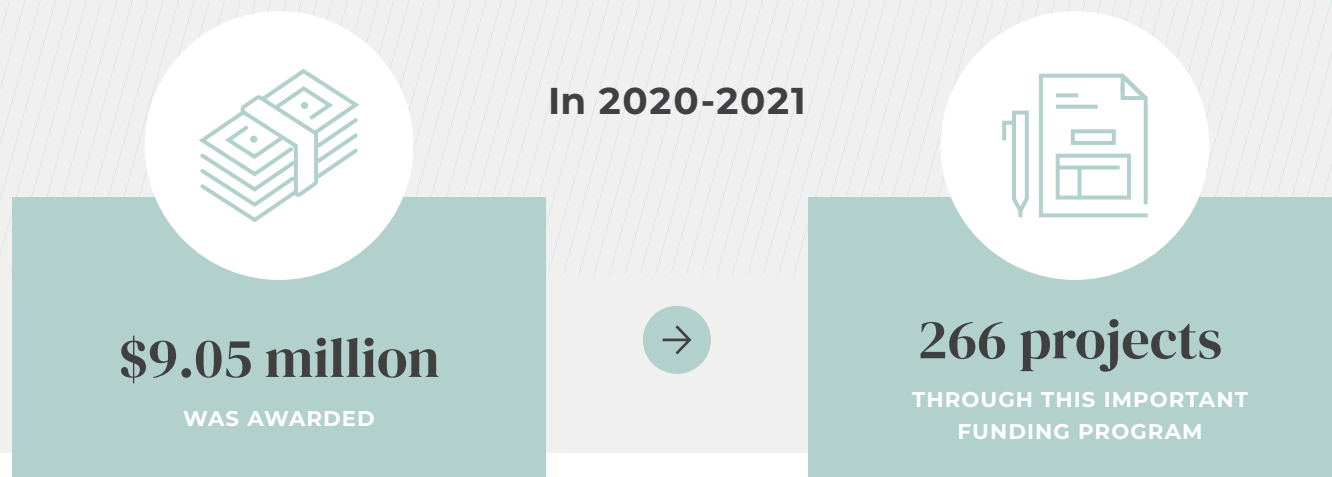
Thank you!

“ **What we do today makes for a better tomorrow for all of us**”

The Environmental Trust Fund

With our first Environmental Trust Fund Impact Report, we give you a snapshot of some of the projects the fund has supported and what it means to the people behind the many important initiatives. We care about the environment and that appreciation of our natural world weaves us together to not only make us a better society but to preserve our environment for generations to come.

Established in 1990, the fund provides financial assistance for projects with tangible, measurable results, aimed at protecting, preserving, and enhancing the province's natural environment. Each year, community groups, our local governments, First Nations, non-profit organizations and institutions receive funding.



Each November, the Department of Environment and Local Government accepts applications under the Environmental Trust Fund. Awardees are required to be eligible under at least one of the five priority areas:



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



MANAGING OUR WASTE



ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE



BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

ETF Impact



2019

A project was undertaken to develop Priority Area Measures to demonstrate the impact achieved by the Environmental Trust Fund program

2020

Nine priority area measures were implemented

2021

Grant recipients submitted results achieved

This impact report is a summary of what has been collectively achieved by these projects through ETF grants.

A full list of projects funded can be found on the [Environmental Trust Fund](#) website.



The Impact

In 2020-21, the Environmental Trust Fund successfully supported 266 projects. Community groups, New Brunswick local governments, First Nations, non-profit New Brunswick organizations, and institutions all shared their green ideas to make our communities a better place. These projects have demonstrated tangible, measurable results, aimed at protecting, preserving, and enhancing the province's natural environment.

The following projects are examples of the impact the Environmental Trust Fund has in our province.





PRIORITY AREA:

Protecting Our Environment

PURPOSE

The purpose of this measure is to protect, improve or restore the air, water or land environments.

INTENDED RESULT

Actions that lead to the protection, improvement or restoration of the quality of water, air or land and the generation of data to inform decisions.

RESULTS ACHIEVED



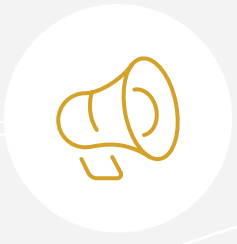
52

water quality improvement management actions were completed



57,270

square metres of riparian restoration activities were completed



947

communications and awareness events/initiatives were completed with a total reach of **810,149** people



17

ETF-funded research studies were completed that focused on protecting our environment

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

ORGANIZATION	Association du bassin versant de la baie de Shediac/ Shediac Bay Watershed Association
PRIORITY AREA MEASURE	Water quality improvements
PROJECT NAME	Rainwater Conservation and Management Program for Improving the Water Quality of Shediac Bay



PLANTING A RAIN GARDEN

“ Nature has incredible capacity. We are able to use organic methods or green infrastructure to find solutions to some everyday problems. This can be to control erosion, protect against flooding, improve water quality for recreational purposes such as swimming and aquatic ecosystems, attract pollinators and many others, thus putting nature to work to help the environment.

— JOLYNE HÉBERT | EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Controlling erosion, protecting against flooding, improving water quality for drinking and recreational purposes, and protecting pollinators are just some of the ways the Shediac Bay Watershed Association puts nature to work.

The Shediac Bay Watershed Association is responsible for monitoring and improving the water quality of rivers and streams throughout the Shediac Bay watershed. Since saltwater ecosystems are influenced by the freshwater that flows into them, this also ensures good water quality in Shediac Bay.

The organization has been harnessing the power of nature to manage stormwater and improve water quality using green infrastructure. Green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and biological drainage channels, help filter and purify surface runoff water which can contain a wide variety of pollutants such as bacteria, petroleum products, pesticides, and fertilizers. This project funded by the Environmental Trust Fund helped launch a pilot residential rain garden program.

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

ORGANIZATION Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance

PRIORITY AREA MEASURE Water quality improvements

PROJECT NAME Water Quality Monitoring -
Facilitating Environmental
Stewardship



BRITTANY CORMIER
PROJECT LEADER, PETICODIAC WATERSHED ALLIANCE

“ **Monitoring projects like these help us know how best to protect the freshwater resources we work in every day, and help us engage our community in learning more about these beautiful natural areas right around the corner. We seek to help protect and improve our watershed from a scientific lens and a curious mind, and we hope to inspire others to do the same.**

— BRITTANY CORMIER

The Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance is a non-profit environmental organization working to protect and enhance the ecological nature of the Petitcodiac watershed, bridging the gap between science and community through education. Our actions are guided by what we want to leave for future generations.

The Water Quality Monitoring project not only aims to protect our environment but increase environmental awareness. Currently, the organization has a well-established, long-term monitoring program, collecting data on 11 water quality parameters at 21 established sites in the Petitcodiac watershed. The group uses instream data loggers to record hourly temperature in urban streams during the summer months. Warm water temperatures retain less dissolved oxygen and make it difficult for fish to survive.

Water quality monitoring provides a snapshot of the health of our rivers and streams, and with this, the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance can expand its understanding of the watershed. Monitoring projects such as these help to determine how best to protect New Brunswick's freshwater resources and help engage the community in learning more about these beautiful natural areas.

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

ORGANIZATION	Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc.
PRIORITY AREA MEASURE	Riparian zone restoration activities
PROJECT NAME	Forested Wetlands on the Nashwaak Watershed



VOLUNTEERS PLANTING SAPPLINGS ALONG THE NASHWAAK RIVER

You've probably seen people leaning over small saplings and gently placing them into the ground along the Nashwaak River. Buckets of water and shovels in hand as volunteers work together to help re-establish floodplain forests. Every sapling that takes root and grows means soil erosion and run-off is reduced. One by one, thousands of trees will be planted.

The Nashwaak Watershed Association was founded 19 years ago with the goal of restoring properties that will protect river water quality. The organization's current focus surrounds various on-the-ground restoration of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The action plan prioritizes restoration of wetland forest, re-establishing the critical habitat these ecosystems provide to at-risk species and increasing the ability of the Nashwaak's floodplains to modulate river flows.

Since 2011, the Nashwaak Watershed has been working on restoring nearly 70 hectares of land owned by the local government. This restoration project largely consists of tree planting, and the Environmental Trust Fund has enabled this to progress over the years. With this grant, the Nashwaak Watershed Association has achieved the goal of planting 1,500 live willow stakes and 2,000 native tree seedlings. The association is committed to purchasing trees from local nurseries in the watershed. To help meet this commitment, it sources and collects its own tree seeds from local restoration sites in Marysville. This fall, the group plans to plant another 10,000 trees from their own locally sourced seedlings.

The silver maple tree plays a prominent role in the association's strategic plan, which has a goal of re-establishing mature floodplain forests on 71 hectares along the Nashwaak River over the next 10 years. The silver maple can intercept more than 11,000 litres of rainfall annually, which significantly reduces runoff and soil erosion. By harnessing the amazing power of these trees, the Nashwaak River will be able to better withstand increased flooding as a result of climate change, further protecting our environment.

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

ORGANIZATION	Vision H ₂ O
PRIORITY AREA MEASURE	Communications and awareness - conferences, education materials
PROJECT NAME	Awareness campaign on the reduction of single-use plastics in the Village of Cap-Pelé and the Beaubassin-est Rural Community



PLAGE ABOITEAU BEACH, CAP-PELÉ, NB

“ **With the help of the Environmental Trust Fund, we were able to launch marketing campaigns to help raise awareness and make sure everyone knew that the elimination of plastic bags was coming.** ”

— JULIE CORMIER | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vision H₂O is a watershed organization working to maintain a healthy ecosystem which helps to ensure good water quality in the Village of Cap-Pelé and in the Beaubassin-est rural community. With fisheries being a main economic driver for the area, monitoring and maintaining water quality is at the core of Vision H₂O's initiatives.

Single-use plastics are a common sight when it comes to cleaning up New Brunswick shorelines. Although many people are aware of the harms of single-use plastics, there is still widespread usage in many households and businesses. Vision H₂O's awareness campaign on practicing the 5R's (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot) aims to educate people about the importance of recycling and encourage better recycling behaviour. The organization worked closely with worked with surrounding local governments to eliminate the use of plastic bags in businesses.

To better understand plastic consumption, Vision H₂O conducted interviews with 22 businesses in the region. With this information, it was able to provide recommendations for more ecological alternatives and, in turn, this had a trickle effect on other businesses in the community. By promoting better recycling habits, Vision H₂O's initiatives play an important role fighting climate change and setting a standard for recycling in New Brunswick.

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

ORGANIZATION UNB – Fredericton

PRIORITY AREA MEASURE Research - studies focusing on protecting our environment

PROJECT NAME Developing knowledge for salt marsh restoration and salt marsh creation in New Brunswick using *Spartina alterniflora* seedlings



LYLE M. VICAIRE, GRADUATE STUDENT / PROJECT LEAD

“ **Our salt-marsh restoration, facilitated by the Environmental Trust Fund, has the potential to increase New Brunswick’s resilience to climate change, increasing coastal protection, and to reduce greenhouse gases.** ”

— MYRIAM BARBEAU, PH.D. | PROFESSOR

New Brunswick’s coastlines are home to many salt marshes. In addition to providing beautiful landscapes, salt marshes are highly productive ecosystems. They store carbon, filter pollutants, protect against sea level rise, prevent erosion and provide a home for migratory birds and aquatic species.

The University of New Brunswick’s (UNB) Salt Marsh Restoration and Salt Marsh Creation in New Brunswick project focuses on understanding impacts for the communities living on these mudflats or the salt marshes. A large component of UNB’s saltwater marsh restoration involves minimizing the effects of strong currents going through the openings of marshes causing erosion and destruction. Planting *Spartina alterniflora* and other salt-tolerant grasses play a large role in this restoration. The strong roots of these plants create a more resistant shoreline that can respond to harmful environmental conditions such as rising sea levels and increased storm activity.

Climate change will cause rising sea levels and increased frequencies of severe storms. The research for restoring and creating salt-marsh ecosystems in New Brunswick can reduce potential damage and loss of coastal property and infrastructure. As UNB’s salt-marsh research progresses, they will be able to help establish a guide for coastal wetland restoration.



PRIORITY AREA:

Increasing Environmental Awareness

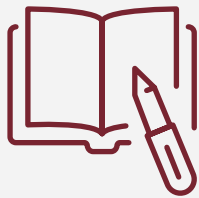
PURPOSE

The purpose of this measure is to educate New Brunswickers on environmental issues to drive action.

INTENDED RESULT

New Brunswickers taking action to protect the environment, addressing climate change, building sustainable communities, and managing waste.

RESULTS ACHIEVED



10,396

hours of environmental education and awareness initiatives were completed



84,259

participants

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA:
INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

ORGANIZATION Knowlesville Art and Nature Centre

PRIORITY AREA MEASURE This measure will track the number of participants in environmental education/awareness initiatives

PROJECT NAME Wild Child Nature Immersion



HARVESTING IN THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN WITH STUDENTS

Supporting children's natural inclination to be curious, explore, and play as well as connect with their environment through unique learning opportunities.

The Knowlesville Art and Nature Centre is a rural-based community education centre that supports social connections for rural communities and offers environmental stewardship opportunities in New Brunswick. The Wild Child Nature Immersion initiative offers nature immersion programming that is designed to strengthen the environmental component of existing child-care services and give children an increased opportunity to experience, explore, and play in a safe, local, and natural setting.

The Environmental Trust Fund has allowed the Nature Learning Centre to foster connections with kids and the environment through experiential activities, games, and art at several daycares in rural communities across the province. This on-site programming involves showing kids wetlands, forests, and meadow ecosystems present in their communities. Older kids in the program are involved in scientific discovery processes such as water quality testing, whereas younger children explore the outdoors and connect to their local environment.

On a seasonal basis, the Knowlesville Art and Nature Centre educates and connects with 250 children across rural New Brunswick. Fostering the connection between kids and the environment at a young age awakens long-term environmental awareness and contributes to a more sustainable future.

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA:
INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

ORGANIZATION Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)

PRIORITY AREA MEASURE This measure will track the number of participants in environmental education/awareness initiatives

PROJECT NAME DUC's NB Wetland Education Program



YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATED IN DUCK DAYS OF SUMMER NATURE CAMP AT Hyla Park Nature Preserve

“ I am extremely proud of Ducks Unlimited Canada and the resiliency and innovation that came in the face of COVID-19 to turn our program into a virtual studio and the four high-quality programs that came from this project. With the support of the Environmental Trust Fund, we were able to bring wetlands directly into the classroom and experience a fun hands-on experience with the students and encourage them to get outside when it was safe to do so.

— SAMANTHA BREWSTER | EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Have you ever had the chance to explore the wonder of Ducks Unlimited's wetlands? Perhaps your children have come home from a school field trip excited to share all the cool things they experienced? Unique hands-on educational displays and programming is what make Ducks Unlimited Canada a one-of-a-kind hub for wetland learning.

Ducks Unlimited Canada is a science-based organization that delivers on-the-ground habitat conservation projects, research, and educational programs. In partnership with government, industry, other non-profit organizations, Indigenous groups, and landowners; Ducks Unlimited works to conserve wetlands that are critical to water flow, wildlife, and the environment.

To help increase environmental awareness, Ducks Unlimited offers comprehensive wetland education programming that focuses on curriculum-based, hands-on activities for the preschool level through to post-secondary education levels and beyond. It also features an engaging outdoor classroom where students can get their hands dirty and explore a true wetland ecosystem. By connecting New Brunswickers with nature, Ducks Unlimited inspires more people to protect our precious wetlands and wild places. With support from the Environmental Trust Fund, Ducks Unlimited Canada was able to deliver 226 educational programs to 4,205 students.



PRIORITY AREA:

Managing Our Waste

PURPOSE

The purpose of this measure is to protect the environment through proper solid waste disposal and diversion initiatives.

INTENDED RESULT

Responsible management of waste through successful diversion programs.

RESULTS ACHIEVED



1,793

TONNES OF WASTE
WERE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILLS
AS A RESULT OF
ETF-FUNDED PROJECTS

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: MANAGING OUR WASTE

ORGANIZATION Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission 5

PRIORITY AREA MEASURE This measure will track the tonnes of waste diverted from landfills

PROJECT NAME Waste Reduction and Recycling in Schools for the Greater Miramichi Region



CLASSROOM RECYCLING

“ **The Environmental Trust Fund is the reason why this program is in place. Without this funding, we wouldn’t have been able to implement this in our schools. The Environmental Trust Fund allows programs like ours to provide education and presentations remotely and extend our reach.** ”

— MÉLANIE CRIPPS | GENERAL MANAGER, SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Reduce, reuse, recycle, is a phrase we are all familiar with. Educating residents on waste reduction, recycling programs, and composting is an important component of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission’s waste management efforts.

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission provides planning and building services to member municipalities and communities. It strives to attain and promote waste management best practices such as co-ordinating recycling pickup, household hazardous waste drop-off, and landfill operations.

Although the Regional Service Commission recycling program did not originally include the institutional sector, it was important to facilitate recycling of the abundant waste in schools. The funding from the Environmental Trust Fund enabled recycling programs in schools in the Miramichi region. This has allowed 19 schools to have a recycling budget, where the Regional Service Commission manages waste and reduces paper and cardboard destined for landfills.

Implementing recycling practices at schools allows children to make environmentally-conscious waste management decisions. The initiative has a broader impact as children encourage recycling within their homes. In the future, the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission plans to expand school recycling programs to include metals and compost, creating an even greater waste reduction impact.



PRIORITY AREA:

Addressing Climate Change

PURPOSE

The purpose of this measure is to Increase New Brunswick's resilience to climate change and reduce greenhouse gases.

INTENDED RESULT

Reduce greenhouse gases generated by New Brunswick communities.

RESULTS ACHIEVED



6 communities

developed a greenhouse gas reduction plan



31,779 people

took part in a climate change education/awareness initiative



A total of

2,598 hours

of climate change education/awareness initiatives were completed

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

ORGANIZATION	EOS Eco-Energy
PRIORITY AREA MEASURE	This measure will track the number of people who have taken part in a climate change education/awareness initiative
PROJECT NAME	Implementing Energy Efficiency and Solar Education in the Memramcook- Tantramar Region



SUNRISE IN MEMRAMCOOK-TANTRAMAR

Helping local schools go solar and initiating solar energy-based programs for staff and students is only a fraction of EOS Eco-Energy’s commitment to helping communities slow the impacts of climate change.

Dedicated to community-based solutions to the challenges of climate change, EOS Eco-Energy is an environmental non-profit organization based in Sackville, New Brunswick. It focuses on energy sustainability, renewable energy technologies, sustainable community planning, local watershed issues, and climate adaptation.

Thanks to the support from the Environmental Trust Fund, EOS Eco-Energy’s current project includes educating people in the Memramcook-Tantramar region on the importance of energy efficiency, promoting solar energy, and advancing the benefits of composting. As part of this, the organization wrote energy efficiency and solar energy lesson plans for elementary and middle school students. They also filmed solar home video tours and “How to Draft Proof Your Home,” co-ordinated a solar panel bulk purchase, created educational composting signage and conducted a community composting survey.

In total, EOS Eco-Energy impacted 639 participants through its climate change awareness initiatives. EOS Eco-Energy’s dedication to advancing solar energy and emission reduction in its community is playing an important role in addressing climate change.

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

ORGANIZATION Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick (AFMNB)

PRIORITY AREA MEASURE This measure will track the number of people who have taken part in a climate change education/awareness initiative

PROJECT NAME Electric Mobility Transition - Phase 2



RESIDENTS OF THE ACADIAN PENINSULA AT AN EVENT ON ELECTRIC MOBILITY AWARENESS

The electrification of transport is a popular phenomenon in large urban centres, but it's not widespread in New Brunswick... for now.

The Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick (AFMNB) supports strong local governance as well as members and municipalities in carrying out capacity-building projects, including asset management, insurance, and sustainable development.

In relation to addressing climate change, the AFMNB has been working on advancing the transition to electric transportation. The Environmental Trust Fund has allowed AFMNB to continue with the organization of a virtual tour in the region, promoting the electrification of transportation in New Brunswick. As electric vehicles do not emit greenhouse gases when used, the electrification of transport will not only help address the issue of reducing greenhouse gases but also work towards mitigating climate change as a whole. AFMNB's Electric Mobility Transition educational project has worked to raise awareness on the matter. This includes proposing solutions for equipment sharing and proving how electric transport can be adapted in different regions through consumer webinar activities.

The efforts of the Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick are an important step in promoting the benefits of electric vehicle adoption and encouraging innovation in the province.

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

ORGANIZATION	City of Miramichi
PRIORITY AREA MEASURE	This measure will track the number of communities that have developed a GHG reduction plan
PROJECT NAME	Local Action Plan for GHG Reductions



MIRAMICHI, NB

“ **Support from the Environmental Trust Fund makes our work that much more impactful. This provides additional recognition of how important a specific plan or study is that we’re working on.**

— DARREN ROW, P. ENG. | DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

World-class salmon fishing, bass fishing, boating and paddling, scenic beaches and walking trails are all reasons why the Mighty Miramichi is known as Atlantic Canada’s great outdoors. Sustaining these beautiful natural elements is crucial to maintaining this title.

Over the past several years, the City of Miramichi has not only renewed its economy, but it has a vibrant social and cultural scene and focuses on the beautification and sustainability of its natural assets. As part of these initiatives, the city began preparing a local action plan for greenhouse gas reductions.

A key component of Miramichi’s local action plan involved community outreach and public engagement. The municipality reached out to different groups in the city, including environmental students from the local community college. The city also held multiple open houses to help make a diverse set of recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Not only did the Environmental Trust Fund support the outreach initiatives mentioned above, it also supported the city’s marketing efforts. Green transportation campaigns encouraged carpooling and biking as well as the promotion of local NB Power incentives.

It’s important for municipalities to display leadership in promoting positive habits that help address climate change. The Environmental Trust Fund allowed the City of Miramichi to do just that. The development of Miramichi’s local action plan for greenhouse gas reduction has been essential in improving the community’s resilience to climate change.

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

ORGANIZATION QUEST - Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow (NB Caucus)

PRIORITY AREA MEASURE This measure will track the number of communities that have developed a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan

PROJECT NAME NB Smart Energy Community Benchmark and Working Group



EDDIE OLDFIELD, SENIOR LEAD PROJECTS & ADVISORY SERVICES (LEFT) AND ERICKA WICKS, MANAGING DIRECTOR AT QUEST (RIGHT)

“ **Our project, funded by the Environmental Trust Fund, has grown. We are engaging up to five communities to first benchmark where they are using our smart energy communities benchmark tool. And the tool allows us to understand how well a community is doing across ten different indicators based on best practices across Canada.**

— EDDIE OLDFIELD | SENIOR LEAD, PROJECTS & ADVISORY SERVICES

A smart energy community seamlessly integrates local, renewable, and conventional energy sources to meet its energy needs efficiently, cleanly, and affordably. It is a coveted, highly livable place to live, work, learn, and play.

QUEST is a non-government organization that strives to accelerate the adoption of efficient and integrated community-scale energy systems in Canada. The community energy plan project that the Environmental Trust Fund supports involves working with local authorities to implement on-the-ground energy solutions.

As part of the project, QUEST has engaged five communities with a tool to benchmark how they use smart energy. The tool allows QUEST to understand how well a community is doing across 10 different indicators based on best practices across Canada. Those indicators cover everything from governance, communications, strategy, financials, transportation, buildings, energy networks, water and waste. Based on these benchmarks, QUEST helps each community create a road map to advance its energy plans. QUEST also offers virtual courses, monthly webinars, and implementation workshops that enable communities to achieve greenhouse gas reductions.

There are more than 55 New Brunswick communities committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, many of which already have energy plans in place. QUEST's work to build smart energy communities will not only help address climate change in New Brunswick but inspire transformational change in other communities.



PRIORITY AREA:

Building Sustainable Communities

PURPOSE

The purpose of this measure is to create capacity in communities to build resilience to environmental challenges.

INTENDED RESULT

Increase New Brunswick communities' resilience to climate change.

RESULTS ACHIEVED



Eight communities

ADOPTED A CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA:
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

ORGANIZATION Village of Rexton

PRIORITY AREA MEASURE Total number of communities with an adaptation plan

PROJECT NAME Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Village of Rexton



REXTON, NB

The Village of Rexton is on the front lines of climate change and it knows it. That's why it's taking steps today to prevent impacts from climate change, particularly rising sea levels.

The Village of Rexton is a bilingual municipality in Kent County that strives to provide a better quality of life for its residents and businesses. Situated on New Brunswick's coast near the mouth of the Richibucto River, rising sea levels may have major impacts on infrastructure in Rexton.

The study, enabled by the Environmental Trust Fund, produced maps forecasting how sea level rises may impact the municipality. The climate change adaptation plan helped identify areas most vulnerable to rising sea levels, and how to mitigate these risks through infrastructure planning. The plan produced several recommendations for the village to implement. As part of the project, the village was also able to develop educational materials to engage with the public.

The Environmental Trust Fund made it feasible for the Village of Rexton to develop a complex and impactful adaptation plan. Understanding how to adapt to municipal infrastructure to the rising sea levels in Rexton is crucial for long-term planning and establishing community sustainability.

Impact Story

PRIORITY AREA:
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

ORGANIZATION Neqotkuk Wolastoqiyik Nation (Tobique)

PRIORITY AREA MEASURE Total number of communities with an adaptation plan

PROJECT NAME Neqotkuk Climate Change Adaptation Plan



NEQOTKUK WOLASTOQIYIK NATION (TOBIQUE)

“ **The Environmental Trust Fund has been instrumental in helping Neqotkuk implement the priorities of our Climate Action Plan.**

— DEANA SAPIER | SENIOR ADVISOR/ENVIRONMENT LEAD

Nestled along the northern shore of the Tobique River, Neqotkuk Wolastoqiyik Nation (Tobique) is the largest rural Wolastoqiyik community in New Brunswick, with a population of about 2,500 people. Neqotkuk works directly with the community members to develop health, social, education, forestry, and fishery initiatives.

In the past several years, Neqotkuk has been focused on energy conservation and creating a more sustainable community. The Environmental Trust Fund helped further this community's sustainability by funding the development of a climate change adaptation plan. A background literature review helped determine a list of vulnerabilities within the community that were verified through interviews with community staff members. The expertise and local knowledge of community members was called upon in an adaptation planning workshop to identify 13 preventative measures and nine adaptation measures to implement, including physical adaptation to community infrastructure.

Neqotkuk has leveraged the Environmental Trust Fund to not only work towards its infrastructure adaptation goals but also to help educate children on becoming stewards of their land. It's important that Indigenous voices are heard when it comes to climate action as much of the population is passionate about building more sustainable and resilient communities.

Conclusion

The projects featured in our first Environmental Trust Fund Impact Report highlight some of the important initiatives that our fund supports in New Brunswick. Through these and many other projects, the objectives of the Environmental Trust Fund are realized.

The efforts of those who submit proposals, receive grants, and fulfil their project objectives cannot be understated. You're helping the province retain and enhance its natural beauty while also helping to educate all New Brunswickers about the environment. You're making a difference and our entire province benefits. Thank you.