



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES



Sustainable Communities  
Challenge Fund

Divert NS Session – March 20, 2025

Welcome!

# Presentation content

- Program overview
- Eligible applicants
- Available funding
- Streams and focus areas
- Project selection

# Program overview

# Key facts

The Fund supports community efforts to reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions, or to prepare for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate.

# Context

Effective climate action depends on the local context and is closely connected with other challenges and opportunities that communities face.



# Key program objectives

## Mitigation

- Support the implementation of initiatives that avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to Nova Scotia's **targets for emission reduction**.

## Adaptation

- Improve community **capacity to adapt** in an ongoing way to the changing climate and implement projects that help reduce vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems.

# Administration

Developed and administered by:



NOVA SCOTIA  
FEDERATION OF  
MUNICIPALITIES

Funded by:



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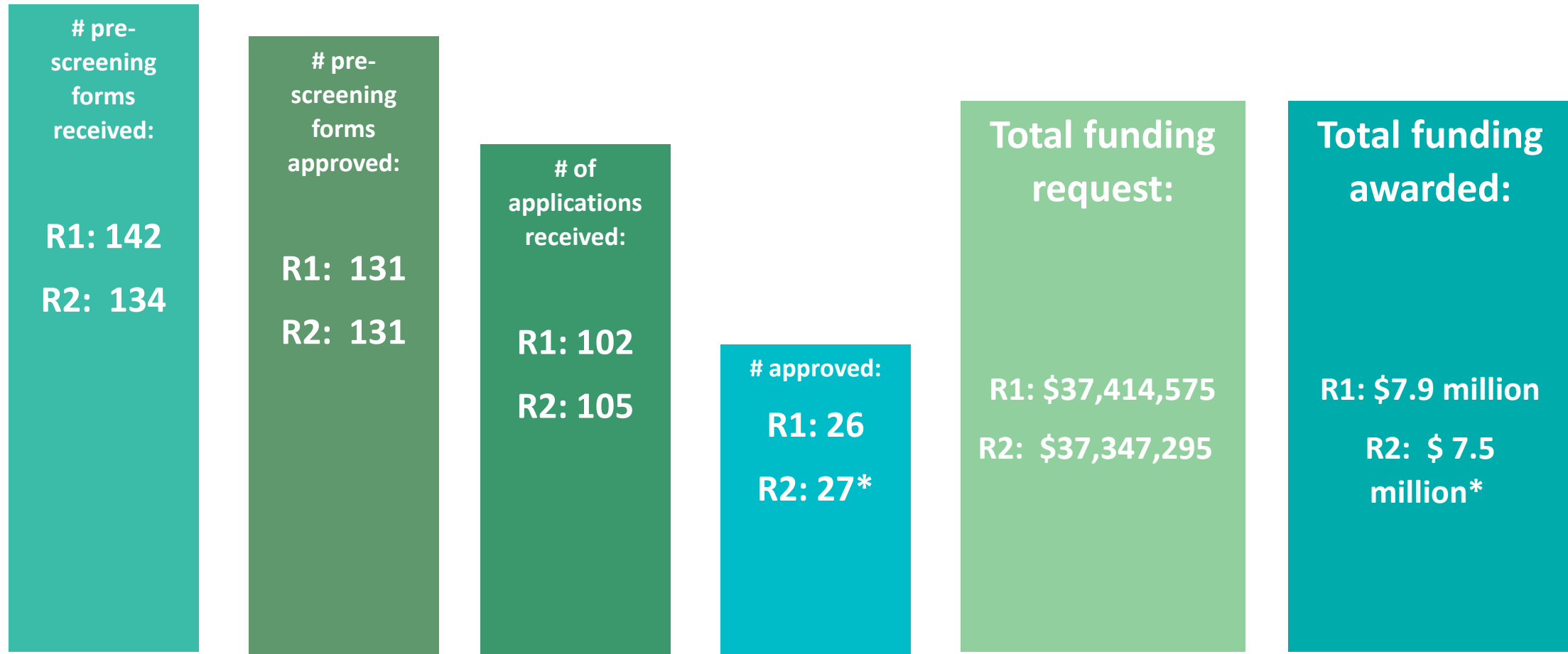
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# Submissions received and approved in rounds 1 & 2



# Eligible applicants

# Lead applicants

Nova Scotia municipalities

First Nations bands and tribal councils

Post-secondary institutions

Non-profit organizations operating in Nova Scotia

# Partnerships

Collaboration, partnerships, and regional approaches between communities, organizations and sectors are encouraged.

# Equity-deserving groups

Assistance is available for projects led by and/or benefiting equity-deserving communities, who will disproportionately experience the negative effects of climate change and face barriers to mitigation efforts.

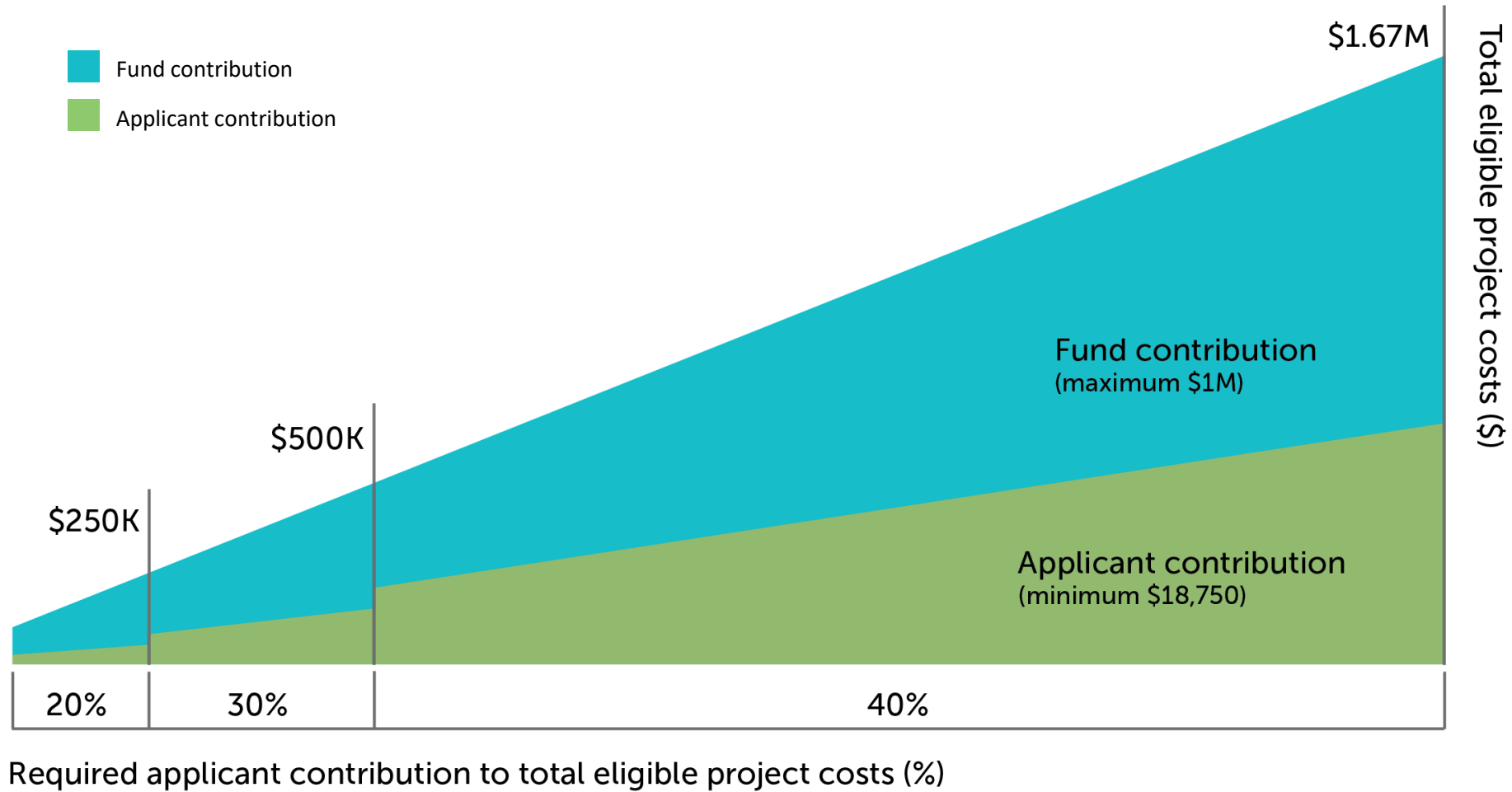


# Available funding

# Funding key facts

- Minimum \$75,000 per project
- Maximum \$1,000,000 per project
- 60 – 80% of eligible project costs
- Most applicants must contribute a minimum of 20%

# Matching funding requirements





# Streams and focus areas

## Mitigation

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1. Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Energy generation and storage
4. Waste management and circular economy
5. Carbon storage and sequestration

## Adaptation

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1. Climate-ready infrastructure
2. Ecosystems and nature-based solutions
3. Community coordination and planning

# Mitigation

Projects in the Mitigation Stream seek to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to Nova Scotia's targets for emission reduction.

# Streams and focus areas

## Mitigation

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1. Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Energy generation and storage
4. Waste management and circular economy
5. Carbon storage and sequestration

## Adaptation

1. Climate-ready infrastructure
2. Ecosystems and nature-based solutions
3. Community coordination and planning

# Mitigation stream

## 1. Buildings

- Retrofit community buildings or recreation centers with deep energy upgrades
- Electrify heating, cooling, and ventilation (HVAC) systems and switch to cleaner fuels
- Strengthen green building code standards
- Implement energy efficiency technologies
- Develop the workforce for energy-efficient and high-performance buildings



# Mitigation stream

## 2. Transportation

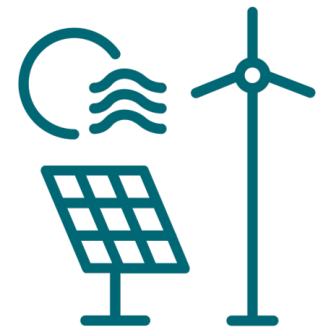
- Electrify community transportation
- Conduct fleet conversion studies
- Develop active transportation pathways and networks
- Implement shared mobility services
- Install electric vehicle charging infrastructure



# Mitigation stream

## 3. Energy generation and storage

- Develop new renewable on-site energy production or retrofit existing systems to reduce fossil fuel use
  - Rooftop solar photovoltaic systems
  - Ground-mount solar photovoltaic systems
  - Onshore wind projects
- Implement on-site combined heat and power projects (i.e. cogeneration)
- Conduct feasibility studies and business cases for renewable energy generation
- Develop energy storage projects



# Mitigation stream

## 4. Waste management and circular economy

- Implement waste prevention or minimization projects
- Develop food rescue/donation system projects
- Carry out recycling, repair, refurbishing, or material recovery projects
- Install landfill gas management systems
- Develop anaerobic digestion projects
- Create policies to improve waste management practices



## 4. Waste management and circular economy – project examples

### NSCAD: Flaxmobile

- Connecting NS Communities through a Fibre Flax Revitalization to enable the development of a sustainable textile supply chain in Nova Scotian communities by promoting fibre flax processing, the plant source for linen.
- Funding amount: \$112,000
- Partners: Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design

### HRM: Waste Management Review

- Halifax Solid Waste Strategy Review to conduct a comprehensive review of Halifax's Solid Waste Strategy to align it with new provincial and municipal climate goals.
- Funding amount: \$306,600



# Mitigation stream

## 5. Carbon storage and sequestration

- Restore and enhance local seagrasses for blue carbon storage
- Enhance community forests to study the increase in carbon capture



# Streams and focus areas

## Mitigation

1. Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Energy generation and storage
4. Waste management and circular economy
5. Carbon storage and sequestration

## Adaptation

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1. Climate-ready infrastructure
2. Ecosystems and nature-based solutions
3. Community coordination and planning

# Adaptation

Projects in the Adaptation Stream help communities improve their capacity to adapt to climate change, with the goal of reducing vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems.

# Adaptation stream

## 1. Climate-ready infrastructure

- Reinforcement, rehabilitation, or modification of assets that protect community infrastructure and services from various climate risks
- Flood risk mitigation measures or infrastructure projects, such as channel improvement, flow regulation, and other flood-proofing measures
- Mapping of vulnerable and at-risk community infrastructure and services



# Adaptation stream

## 2. Ecosystems and nature-based solutions

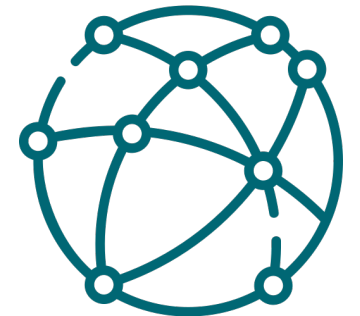
- Projects that address the intersection of fresh water and coastal system impacts, including storm water, storm surge, saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, ice jams, etc.
- Protection and restoration for cultural assets and areas of significance
- Restoring wetlands for flood management
- Restoring dune systems to protect communities from coastal hazards
- Managing community forests to reduce floods and landslides



# Adaptation stream

## 3. Community coordination and planning

- Forest and wildfire strategy or vulnerability assessments
- Flood mapping, preparation, and prevention
- Sea level rise adaptation and managing retreat from shoreline
- Water sustainability planning, and drought mapping, preparation, and prevention



# Project selection

# Technical Advisory Committee

- Applications will be reviewed and scored by an external committee of people who have expertise and/or connections to community-level climate change mitigation and/or adaptation.
- The Technical Advisory Committee will evaluate grant applications and come to a final score for each project through consensus.
- Minister of Environment and Climate Change will then make the final funding decisions.



# Evaluation criteria

The evaluation matrix is available in the Applicant Guide.

- A) Relevance to community needs and challenges – 15 points
- B) Core project impact (mitigation or adaptation) – 30 points
- C) Co-benefits & secondary objectives – 10 points
- D) Organizational capacity – 10 points
- E) Measurement and evaluation – 10 points
- F) Project budget and work plan – 25 points

# Step 1 – Pre-screening

1. Review the Applicant Guide.
2. Review eligible and ineligible costs.
3. Create a free account on Submittable (our grants management platform)
4. Submit the pre-screening form (deadline is March 24 at 2 pm)

If your project is a good fit for the program based on staff recommendation you will be invited to submit the full application form.

# Step 2 – Full application

1. Receive invitation to complete full application in Submittable.
2. Review the Applicant Guide, especially evaluation criteria.
3. Download the Applicant Workbook excel sheet found on the Fund website in the Resource Hub.
4. Gather supporting documentation (confirmation of matching fund, permits, letters of support, feasibility studies, quotes, etc.)

# Funding agreement

A contract that is unique to each grant recipient and includes:

- Detailed financial terms of the funding
- Eligible costs
- Payment schedule
- Reporting requirements
- Milestones and deliverables
- Any required permits, if relevant

# Key dates and deadlines

- **February 24, 2025:** The Fund opened for round three funding applications.
- **March 24, 2025 at 2:00 PM AST:** Pre-screening deadline\*
- **April 1, 2025:** Workbook webinar
- **April 22, 2025 at 2:00 PM AST:** Full application deadline\*\*
- **May-July, 2025:** Evaluation of submissions
- **Fall 2025:** Applicants are notified of funding decisions.
- **October 31, 2027** – All successful projects must be completed.



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# Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund

## Questions



Sustainable Communities  
Challenge Fund

**Email us at [info@sccfns.ca](mailto:info@sccfns.ca)**

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