

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### Provincial Energy and Emissions Program Launched in April

Wolfville, NS - A new energy and emissions reduction program for Nova Scotia residents and municipalities has been launched in the province by the Arthur Irving Academy for the Environment at Acadia University. The program, called Nova Scotia E2 Challenge, was developed with support from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, Nova Scotia Power Inc. and the Government of Nova Scotia to help individuals and communities in the province reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Nova Scotia is especially vulnerable to impacts of climate change, which as many are now aware is caused primarily by excess greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions produced from human activities such as burning coal, oil, and gas as fuel supply and energy sources. Expected impacts include increases in storms and floods, sea level rise, and changes in temperature and precipitation. These impacts in turn will have an impact on life in Nova Scotia: our communities, industries, and natural environment

Taking action involves reducing our energy use and emissions in all areas of activity; at home, at work and in our communities. The NS E2 Challenge was created to help individuals and communities do their part.

A central feature of the program is the NS E2 Emissions Calculator, which enables Nova Scotia residents to measure and track their emissions on a monthly basis from home energy use, transportation and travel activity. Unlike many other carbon calculators, the NS E2 Emissions Calculator uses real energy data, rather than estimates, and Nova Scotia-specific emissions factors so participants will obtain an accurate emissions profile for their household. Other features of the program include business listings, news and events, ask an expert forum, and action plan tool to give participants information they need to reduce energy use and emissions.

Municipalities are also able to participate in the NS E2 Challenge by promoting the program locally. A free community participation kit is available to help spread the word. Municipalities

can also plan a program launch in their community, either as a stand-alone event, incorporated into an existing event or as a partnership with a local community group. Finally, municipalities can participate in a community challenge, a friendly competition with another Nova Scotia community, to engage citizens and increase participation, ultimately raising awareness about climate change and reducing community emissions.

While no single initiative will solve the climate crisis, this program offers an opportunity for Nova Scotia residents and communities to participate in a solution that can help reduce our personal emissions contribution and have a positive impact in the province.

For more information on the program visit [www.nse2challenge.ca](http://www.nse2challenge.ca)

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#### **FOR BROADCAST USE:**

The Nova Scotia E2 Challenge, a new energy and emissions reduction program for residents and municipalities in Nova Scotia, was launched in April. The program created by the Arthur Irving Academy for the Environment at Acadia University was developed with support from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, Nova Scotia Power Inc. and the Government of Nova Scotia.

Designed to help individuals and communities in the province reduce greenhouse gas emissions from home energy use, transportation and travel activities it features an online emissions calculator, action plan tool, news and events, ask an expert forum and more. For more information on the program visit the website at [www.nse2challenge.ca](http://www.nse2challenge.ca).

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