



Sustainable Communities
Challenge Fund

Glossary of Terms

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Glossary of Terms

Concept	Definition
2SLGBTQ+	Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex persons and people who identify as part of sexual and gender diverse communities who use additional terminologies
Adaptation	<p>The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities, and can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Incremental adaptation</i>: Adaptation actions where the central aim is to maintain the essence and integrity of a system or process at a given scale• <i>Transformational adaptation</i>: Adaptation that changes the fundamental attributes of a system in response to climate and its effects
Adaptive capacity	The ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust, modify or change its characteristics or actions to moderate potential damage, take advantage of opportunities, or cope with consequences of shock or stress.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity or biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including among other things, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.
Built environment	Man-made structures, features, and facilities viewed collectively as an environment in which people live and work. This concept encompasses buildings, parks, neighborhoods, cities and their supporting infrastructure, such as water supply or energy networks
Carbon storage / carbon sequestration	The process of removing carbon dioxide—one of the leading greenhouse gases—from the atmosphere, thereby reducing the total concentration in the atmosphere.
Circular economy	An economy in which resources and products are kept in use for as long as possible, with the maximum value being extracted while they are in use and from which, at the end of their service life, other materials and products of value are recovered or regenerated
Climate change	A change in the climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity and that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods
Climate-resilient infrastructure	Infrastructure that is planned, designed, built, and operated in a way that anticipates, prepares for, and adapts to changing climate conditions
Climate-resilient pathways	Iterative processes for managing change within complex systems in order to reduce disruptions and enhance opportunities associated with climate change
Co-benefits	The positive effects that a policy or measure aimed at one objective might have on other objectives, irrespective of the net effect on overall social welfare. Co-benefits are often subject to uncertainty and depend on local circumstances and implementation practices, among other factors. Co-benefits are also referred to as ancillary benefits

Community members	Individuals, groups, and organizations impacted by a project, including affected residents, participants, partners, and rights holders such as Indigenous Peoples but have not made a formal commitment to participate in its implementation.
Decarbonization	The process by which jurisdictions aim to achieve a low-carbon economy, or by which individuals aim to reduce their consumption of carbon. It involves shifting from energy systems that produce and release carbon dioxide and other GHG emissions toward clean energy production and utilization.
Disaster risk management	Processes for designing, implementing, and evaluating measures to improve the understanding of disaster risk, foster disaster risk reduction and promote continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Disaster risk management has the explicit purpose of increasing human security, well-being, quality of life, and sustainable development
Disaster risk reduction	Denotes both a policy goal or objective, and the strategic and instrumental measures employed for anticipating future disaster risk, reducing existing exposure, hazard, vulnerability, and improving resilience
Ecosystem services	Ecological processes or functions having monetary or non-monetary value to individuals or society at large. These are frequently classified as (1) supporting services (e.g., productivity or biodiversity maintenance), (2) provisioning services (e.g., food, fiber or fish), (3) regulating services (e.g., climate regulation or carbon sequestration), and (4) cultural services (e.g., tourism or spiritual and aesthetic appreciation)
Equity-deserving	An equity-deserving project is one that is either led by or specifically serves a community or group historically marginalized, underserved, or excluded from full participation in society. The core requirement for such a project is that the majority of stakeholders, whether in leadership or as beneficiaries, belong to these equity-deserving groups. This ensures the project not only addresses their unique needs and challenges but also empowers them through meaningful participation and leadership.
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	Any gas that has the property of absorbing infrared radiation emitted from the earth's surface and reradiated back to earth, thus contributing to the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides are the most important.
HVAC	Heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology is used to control temperature and humidity in an indoor environment, be it in buildings or in vehicles, providing thermal comfort and healthy air quality to the occupants
Indigenous Peoples	Indigenous Peoples are the original inhabitants of territories with distinct cultures and governance systems that predate colonization; in Nova Scotia, this includes the Mi'kmaq Nation, whose traditional territory is Mi'kma'ki. Indigenous Peoples hold inherent rights and title to their traditional territories; in Nova Scotia, we work within Mi'kma'ki, the unceded traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq Nation.
KPIs	Key performance indicators. These are measurable values used to evaluate how successful an organization is at reaching a target. For example, a project restoring coastal wetlands may track the change in wetland area as a key performance indicator.
Leveraged funding	The financial resources, whether public finance or private finance, required in addition to SCCF proceeds to implement the funded activity for which a funding proposal has been submitted
Mitigation	A human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases

Nature-based solutions	Refers to a suite of actions or policies that harness the power of nature to address some of our most pressing societal challenges, such as threats to water security, rising risk of disasters, or climate change
Net-zero	Net-zero emissions are achieved when anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals over a specified period
Outcomes	The effects or impacts a project produces on the people served or issues addressed. A project's outcomes could include reduced exposure to climate risks, greener transportation systems, etc.
Outputs	The direct product of a project's activities. A project's outputs could include knowledge products created and shared, partnerships established, etc.
Person of Color (POC)	Racialized peoples in Nova Scotia include African Nova Scotians with deep historical roots in the province, Mi'kmaq peoples as the Indigenous inhabitants of Mi'kma'ki, and members of diverse communities including Asian, Arab, Latino/Latina/Latinx, and others who face systemic discrimination based on race or ethnicity.
Project partners	True project partners are actively engaged in planning, decision-making, and implementation, sharing responsibilities and influencing outcomes. In contrast, informational stakeholders receive updates and may provide feedback but do not participate in core activities or decision-making.
Submittable	A web-based submission management platform used to accept applications to the Fund
Water Resiliency	Water resiliency refers to projects that help communities adapt to drought conditions, manage water shortages, and strengthen long-term water security.
TDM	Transportation Demand Management. Refers to policies and strategies that aim to reduce travel demand, particularly single occupant vehicles, or to redistribute that demand to off-peak times.
ZEVs	Zero-emissions vehicles. These are vehicles that do not emit exhaust gas or other pollutants from the onboard source of power

Sources:

- [IPCC Glossary Search](#)
- [Built Environment - an overview | ScienceDirect](#)
- [Nature-based solutions - WWF \(worldwildlife.org\)](#)
- [Transportation Demand Management | C/CAG](#)