

AGRICULTURE BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PROGRAM

GUIDELINES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Agriculture Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Program aims to incentivize sustainable and energy-efficient practices on farms in Nova Scotia, while also supporting innovative projects that move the industry forward. The program is designed to support a wide range of eligible measures that align with Efficiency Nova Scotia's (ENS) Business Energy Rebates and Custom Retrofit programs, as well as additional incentives for specific projects. The program is split into two streams; Solar & Batteries, and Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs). Here are the key program guidelines:

1. ELIGIBILITY

- Nova Scotian farms currently registered under the Farm Registration Act:
 - Individuals
 - Partnership
 - Corporations
 - Co-operatives
- Applicant is at least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Mi'kmaq Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia and other under-represented communities, including African Nova Scotians conducting farming activities in Nova Scotia are encouraged to apply.
- Applications must be submitted from the applicant's email as written in their application.

2. ELIGIBLE MEASURES & CRITERIA

This program is structured to enable participation so long as the implementation phase has not started. Implementation is defined as issuing purchase orders or commencing work. Exceptions may be granted upon request at Efficiency Nova Scotia's discretion. The program will incentivize the following measures under the below program paths. All products must be new. Used equipment is not eligible for funding. Multiple measures may be included in a project if they fall under the same energy efficiency category (such as heating and insulation upgrades, solar photovoltaics and batteries, ventilation and controls upgrades). If there are any questions regarding the eligibility or your project, please contact BMP@efficiencyns.ca. Only projects with total costs (excluding HST) of less than \$60,000.00 are eligible for the BMP program.

ECM ELIGIBLE MEASURES

- Eligible measures under Efficiency Nova Scotia's [Business Energy Rebates program](#).
- Farm machinery and vehicle modifications to improve energy efficiency or switch to biodiesel use, or another renewable energy source (renewable natural gas, free heat from anaerobic digesters, renewable electricity (excluding solar PV)).
- On-farm energy source switching and storage (wind generation, geothermal and thermal storage).
- Modification or upgrades of on-farm equipment for agricultural biomass collection and processing (e.g. balers, choppers) and/or for biogas/biofuel (e.g. boiler) generation in support of energy switching.
- Other custom energy efficiency projects resulting in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

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SOLAR & BATTERIES CRITERIA

- Contractor / installer must be a registered solar installer with Efficiency Nova Scotia's Preferred Partner (EPP) network.
- If approved, the applicant must commit to the scope outlined in their application. This includes, but is not limited to, maintaining the same contractor/installer, panel models, panel orientations, inverter models, etc.

SOLAR SPECIFIC CRITERIA

- Panel Orientation:
 - Panels facing North are not eligible for the program.
 - Panels facing East, South, or West may be installed at any angle.
- Modules must carry a minimum warranty of 20-year power performance and 10-year manufacturing. Grid-connected inverter(s) and/or micro-inverter(s) must carry a minimum 10-year manufacturing warranty. For off-grid systems, inverter(s) must carry a minimum 2-year manufacturing warranty.
- The solar installation should be either a new system or increase the capacity of, but not replace, currently operational solar equipment.
- Successful projects must also include an inspection report when submitting their claim form, where applicable
- Detailed quotes are required as part of the submission. Detailed invoices are required prior to incentive being issued. It is recommended, but not required, that eligible tax credits be included in the quote and invoice.
- Please reference the BMP terms and conditions for further criteria.

BATTERY SPECIFIC CRITERIA

- Battery energy storage systems must be paired with a new or existing solar PV system. The solar system must include a minimum of one kilowatt DC of solar PV nameplate capacity for every five kilowatt-hours of battery storage.
- Batteries must be certified to UL 1973 and all battery storage systems must be certified to UL 9540.
- Battery installations must be performed by a certified electrician, fully compliant with Canadian Electrical Code, approved for use in Nova Scotia, and pass an electrical inspection, where applicable (successful projects must include an inspection report and must be submitted along with claim form).
- Detailed quotes are required as part of the submission. Detailed invoices are required prior to incentive being issued. It is recommended, but not required, that eligible tax credits be included in the quote and invoice.

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3. ENERGY AND GHG SAVINGS CALCULATION

Project greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions and energy savings will be calculated using the approved energy savings methodologies from Efficiency Nova Scotia.

4. FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

- Participants may request program incentive to up to 50% of total project costs. Project evaluation is based on incentive dollars vs first-year greenhouse gas savings. (A competitive target is \$0.26/kg eCO₂).
- The program will offer funding for eligible projects to a maximum of \$30,000 per project. Total funding from all third-party sources cannot exceed 75% of the total project cost. Projects funded under the Agriculture Beneficial Management Practices Program cannot be stacked with other sources of provincial government funding. If interested in financing, please talk to the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board or your preferred lender.
- Solar PV projects will be eligible for incentives at a rate of \$300/kW of installed capacity up to a maximum of incentive amount of \$30,000.
- Energy Storage projects will be eligible for incentives at a rate of \$300/kWh storage capacity up to a maximum of incentive amount of \$30,000
- Applicants are limited to one project per call and thus, if a solar PV system and energy storage system are submitted to the BMP as a single project, the maximum eligible incentive for said project is \$30,000.00.
- Agrivoltaics may be eligible for up to an additional \$100/kW to assist with other costs associated with agrivoltaics. Common examples of agrivoltaic applications can be found in relevant resources such as SolarPower Europe's Agrisolar Best Practice Guidelines (Version 2). Energy Managers are available to answer questions regarding whether your system is considered an agrivoltaic system. Crop and livestock selection for agrivoltaic applications remains the responsibility of the applicant. The total possible incentive amount for agrivoltaic projects still remains as \$30,000.00.

5. QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW

Projects will be randomly selected for a detailed quality assurance review within 12 months following project completion. Site visits by program staff may be required to verify installation. Successful applicants should maintain account records for 6 years following project completion in case of auditing.

6. APPLICATION LIMIT

Farmers can reapply in subsequent calls for proposals, however, funding is limited to one project per year per farm registration number.

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7. PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

- Eligible project proposals will be evaluated based on the amount of GHG reductions per funding dollar requested.
- Additional project evaluation considerations will be assessed beyond GHG reduction to capture industry benefits. This could include operational savings, job creation, or community impact (e.g., lower cost of production, employee comfort, and economic growth).



1. SUBMIT

Agriculture Beneficial Management Practices Program Application to **BMP@efficiencyns.ca**. Energy Managers are available to support the completion of application.



2. EXECUTE

An Energy Manager will contact you to advise on the next steps.
If the application is successful, the Energy Manager will provide a claim form.



3. CLAIM PAYMENT

Once the project is completed, follow the steps outlined on the claim form to submit it (and all supporting documents).

All Claims must be submitted prior to the project completion date noted on the claim form and must be completed and claimed by March 15 of the current application year. Extensions may be granted at Efficiency Nova Scotia's discretion upon written request as noted on the claim form.