The Climate Policy Landscape in Nova Scotia

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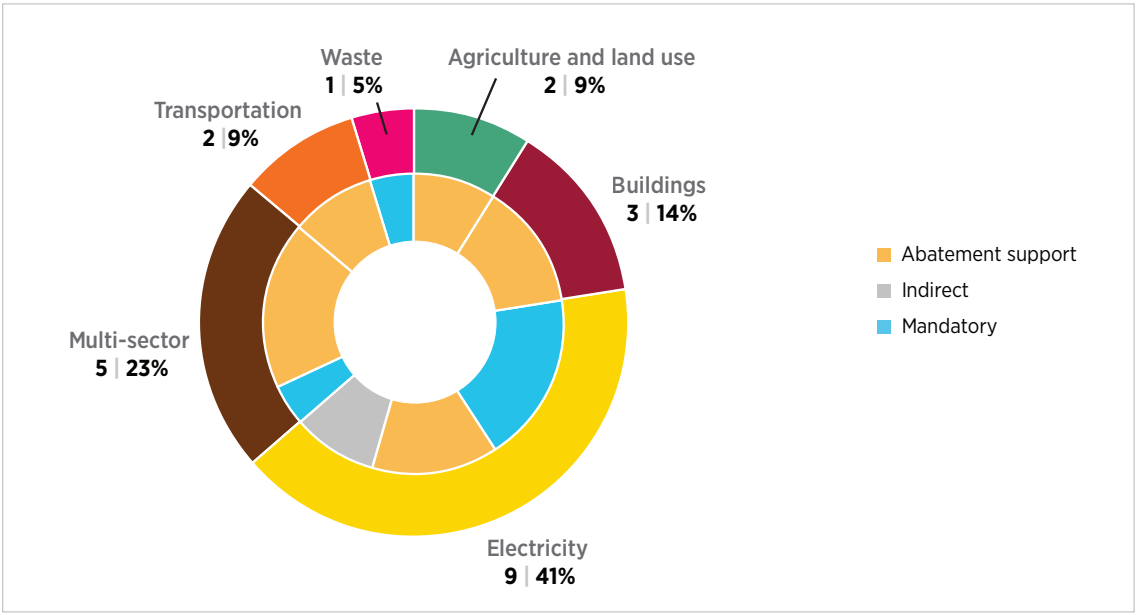
Of the 359 total emissions-reduction policies in the **Canadian Climate Policy Inventory**, Nova Scotia has 22 active policies (six per cent) and no inactive policies. The Government of Canada has the largest number (74 active policies).

Figure 1 shows the active policy instruments employed by the Government of Nova Scotia, categorizing them by sector. The inner ring highlights the share of instrument types — abatement support, indirect or mandatory — by sector, while the outer ring indicates the percentage of total policies targeting each sector.

Policies are classified by instrument type based on how they reduce emissions: mandatory, abatement support, and indirect. Mandatory policies impose a compulsory requirement on regulated parties (e.g., regulation). Abatement support policies incentivize voluntary adoption or development of lower emissions processes or products (e.g., consumer subsidies). Indirect policies do not require or directly incentivize abatement but nevertheless contribute to emissions abatement (e.g., enabling legislation and information). Mandatory policies are generally considered to be more effective in reducing emissions than opt-in abatement support or indirect policies. Active policies are those currently requiring compliance or providing support, including policies that are proposed or announced. This category also includes abatement support policies (e.g., consumer subsidies) that are fully subscribed but still have ongoing projects. Inactive policies are those that have concluded as scheduled, or have been suspended or cancelled.

Figure 1: Policy Instruments Employed by the Government of Nova Scotia by Sector



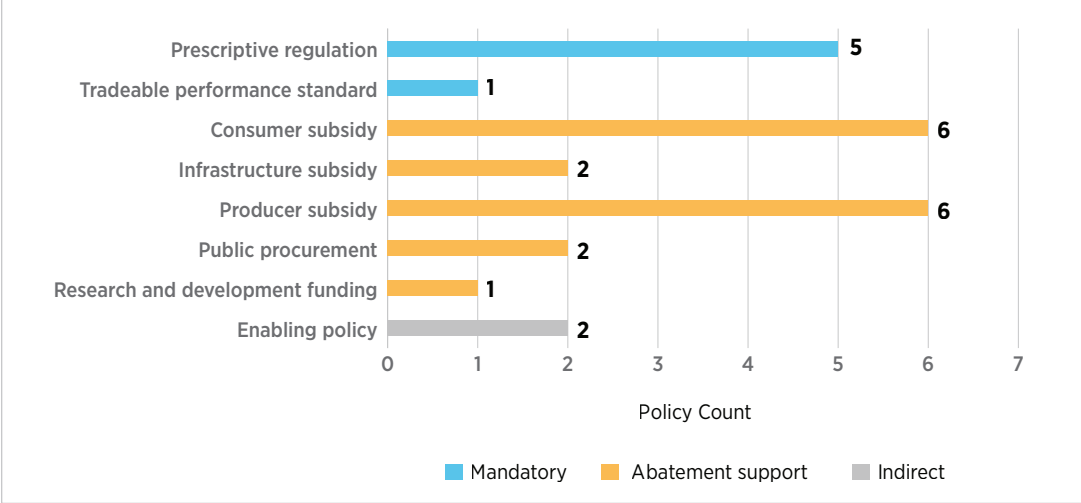
Source: Canadian Climate Policy Inventory, Version 6.

KEY FACTS

- In Nova Scotia, carrots (abatement support) dominate instrument type compared with sticks (mandatory action). Carrots: e.g., the Green Choice Program. Sticks: e.g., Renewable Electricity Regulations.
- There are 19 implemented policies and two announced policies.
- Since publication of the first version of the C2P2 database in **August 2024**, one policy has been implemented, and one new policy has been added.
- There are 68 active federal policies that apply in Nova Scotia (nine mandatory, 55 abatement support, and four indirect policies).
- Most policies reduce emissions through end-use fuel switching.
- Policies targeting the electricity sector account for most emissions-reduction policies in Nova Scotia (e.g., Nova Scotia Electricity Efficiency Regulations).
- Notably, Nova Scotia does not have any sector-specific policies targeting heavy industry or the oil and gas sector.
- Broadly applied policies are common (e.g., Nova Scotia Clean Fuels Fund).
- Narrowly applied policies that are technology or project-specific are less common (e.g., Low Carbon Communities Program).

Figure 2 displays the number of policies by the policy instrument applied to mitigate emissions.

Figure 2: Number of Policies by Instrument



Source: Canadian Climate Policy Inventory, Version 6.
Note: The abatement support policies can be implemented using a combination of instruments, making the total number of instruments greater than the total number of Nova Scotia policies.

ABOUT C2P2

The Canadian Climate Policy Partnership (C2P2), led by **Dr. Jennifer Winter**, provides publicly accessible information on Canadian climate policies, supporting effective strategies to adapt and mitigate climate change, improving resilience, and helping Canada meet its net-zero emissions target.

Partners and funders include the Alberta Real Estate Foundation, the Canadian Climate Institute, CIRANO (Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherche en Analyse des Organisations), the Government of British Columbia, the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund, Mitacs, Quebec Net Positive, Royal Roads University, the Smart Prosperity Institute, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Office of the Vice-President (Research) at the University of Calgary, and the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary.