

Clean Nova Scotia

126 Portland Street, Dartmouth.
(902) 420-3474
Charlene and Heather
www.clean.ns.ca

Introduction

Clean Nova Scotia is a very active NGO dedicated toward creating a more sustainable province. Their building was built in the 1960s and has been home to CNS since 1997. As a non-for-profit organization with 45 employees, they are doing their best to green their building despite being faced with a tight budget.

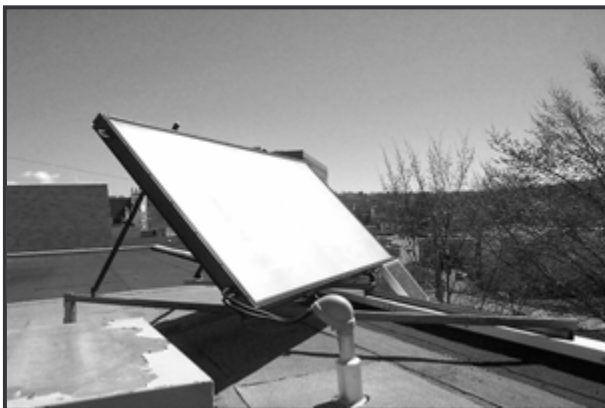
Energy and Water Conservation

After performing an energy audit, CNS improved the air sealing throughout the building. They have a solar panel from Thermodynamics on their roof to that is used to heat their hot water. CNS also purchases biofuel from Wilson's to fill their oil tank. Biofuel is a mix of diesel and fish oil. To preserve water, Clean Nova Scotia uses aerated faucets and has turned off one of the two taps in the washroom. Studies have shown that the more taps there are, the longer people will stand at the sinks washing their hands, and talking.



'Greening the Staff'

CNS works hard to promote sustainable behavior among staff. Everyone is strongly encouraged to take his or her own dishware for lunch (even for a salad at Tim Hortons) to reduce packaging waste. Lights are only turned on when necessary and extensive water consumption is discouraged. Although recycled paper is more expensive, CNS uses it whenever possible. In addition, waste is carefully sorted and biodegradable cleaning products are used to clean the building.



CNS has a committee that meets to plan green improvements to their building and to discuss maintenance problems that have arisen. According to CNS, this building committee is necessary to effectively maintaining and improving a sustainable working space.

Problems Encountered

Because the staff is very transient and often working in short term positions, staff is frequently being retrained to be conscious about consumption habits. In doing so, the staff benefits from immersion in sustainable living.

Future Initiatives

Clean Nova Scotia has had some difficulties securing grants from the government to complete further green renovations on the building. Eventually they would like to increase their insulation and install a green roof.