

Provincial and Federal Permits and Approvals Resource



The following table outline the various permits and approvals that may be required for the community solar gardens at the provincial and federal level.

Disclaimer: These tables do not provide an exhaustive list of permits and approvals, but instead provide a general overview to proponents in order to assist them in thinking about their project(s) from a regulatory perspective.

March, 2024

Provincial			
Department	Condition a permit or approval is required	Permit or approval required	Act/Regulations
Environment and Climate Change	Project is to take place in or adjacent to a protected wilderness area	Authorization by the Minister	Wilderness areas protection act S11, S17, S19
	Altering watercourses and/or withdrawing a volume of water greater than 23000 L.	approval from the department or notification to the department	Activities Designation Regulations 5A, 5B
	Wetland Alteration	Wetland Alteration Approval or Environmental Assessment	Environment Act and Nova Scotia Wetland Conservation Policy
	Storm drainage works	Storm drainage works approval	Storm Drainage Works Approval Policy
Communities, Culture and Heritage	Project requires development which will potentially disturb or alter the landscape, thereby endangering archaeological sites	Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment	Special Places Protection Act, S.8
	Project requires exploration for, or excavation of, fossils or archaeological sites	Heritage Research Permit	Special Places Protection Act, S.8
Natural Resources and Renewables	Project requires exclusive use of Provincial Crown Land.	Crown Lands Lease	Crown Lands Act, S.16
	Project requires non-exclusive use of Provincial Crown Land	Permit, Letter of Authority or License	Crown Lands Act, S.16
	Project requires use of Provincial Crown Land for access of project site or for transmission lines.	A Permit for Access Across Crown Land, A Right of Way, or Easement	Crown Lands Act, S.16
	Project requires removal of trees on Crown Land during construction	A Letter of Authority or Timber License	Crown Lands Act, S.28
	Project requires placement of structures on coastal submerged land	Coastal Permit	Beaches Regulations, S.5

Provincial (continued from Page 1)

Department	Condition a permit or approval is required	Permit or approval required	Act/Regulations
Natural Resources and Renewables	Project requires the set-up of test, experimentation equipment or instruments on Provincial Crown Land	Letter of Authority or License for the short-term use of Crown Land	Crown Lands Act, S.16
	Project requires the establishment or re-establishment of a legal survey, land boundary line or marker on or adjoining Provincial Crown Land.	Survey Order	Crown Lands Act, S.13
	Project requires the use or improvement of any road on Provincial Crown Land.	Permit for Access Crown Land, Right of Way, or consent of pre-existing Crown Land License	Crown Lands Act, S.16
	Project involves the potential disturbance of any species listed under the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act or designed critical habitat	Contact Wildlife Division at 902-679-6091 Biodiversity@novascotia.ca	Endangered Species Act, S.13
Service Nova Scotia	All proponents	Registration (depending on proponent type)	Cooperative Associations Act, S.14 Corporations Registration Act, S.5 Societies Act, S.6
Public Works	To move a vehicle on a public road in Nova Scotia which is over-sized or over-weighted.	Special Move Permit	Weights and Dimensions of Vehicles Regulations

Federal

Department	Permit/Approval/Regulation	Further Information
Canadian Environment Assessment Agency (CEAA)	A federal environmental assessment may be required when a federal authority provides financial assistance to the proponent; sells, leases or otherwise disposes of federal lands; or issues a permit, license or any other approval as prescribed in the Law List Regulations.	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada - Canada.ca
Environment Canada	Protected areas permits	Protected areas permits - Canada.ca
Parks Canada	If all or part of a proposed solar facility would occur on or over federal land owned by Parks Canada, or if it has the potential to affect a national park, national park reserve, national historic site, historic canal or national marine conservation area, the applicant is advised to contact the office administering the park(s) or site(s) in question.	Species at Risk: Permit Applications