Nova Scotia has all the pieces to achieve the net-zero GHG emission goal in the Sustainable Development Goals Act – a history of achieving Canadian leading energy savings, a large number of energy efficiency professionals, municipal finance policies, and an increasingly clean electricity grid which prepares the province to electrify transportation and heating.

Nova Scotia moves from fourth to third place in this year’s Scorecard rankings, and narrowly loses the top score in the programs policy area to Prince Edward Island. To re-capture the top spot in programs, Nova Scotia can target the higher energy savings levels achieved in leading American states (e.g. Vermont and Massachusetts).

STRENGTHS

Electricity savings: Nova Scotia has the highest electricity savings in this year’s Scorecard (equal to 1.2% of sales), and the third highest heating fuel savings (0.5% of demand). Efficiency Nova Scotia has consistently achieved savings at these levels or higher.

Inclusive programs: Nova Scotia spends the second highest on low-income and Indigenous programs.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Net-zero energy-ready building code: The 2020 version of the national model building codes outline performance tiers moving to a net-zero energy-ready standard. Nova Scotia can adopt the latest code when it becomes available, commit to requiring net-zero energy-ready buildings by 2030, and plan to achieve high levels of code compliance.

Transportation electrification: With a national target for zero-emission vehicles to comprise 10% of light-duty vehicle sales by 2025, electric vehicles were only 0.3% of Nova Scotia registrations in 2019. Nova Scotia also has fewer charging stations per road kilometre compared to the other Maritime provinces.