

Annual Report 2020-21



Conservation Council of New Brunswick
Conseil de conservation *du* Nouveau-Brunswick



Conservation Council of New Brunswick

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President's Report

BIG thank you to our Board of Directors:

- Lynaya Astephen, Deborah Carr, Annika Chiasson, John Crompton, Jim Emberger, Hannah Grant, Frank Johnston, David Macdonald, Susan Machum, Rowan Miller, Megan McCann, Allan Vallis, Nikole Watson and Seamus Watters
- The Executive Committee of the Board included: Susan (President), Allan (Treasurer), Nikole (Secretary), Hannah (Vice-President), John (Past President), Megan McCann (Member-at-Large) and Frank (Member-at-Large).



Board Highlights

- We continued to hold our quarterly Board meetings and monthly Executive meetings virtually due to covid-19 precautions
- The Finance and Executive committee held joint meetings to review quarterly financial reports.
- Treasurer's Report will provide more details, but we ended the fiscal year in a sound position
 - despite COVID times, running a tight ship by keeping expenses down and evenly matched with revenues
 - holding strong with about \$90,000 in donations from members and supporters; and,
 - a slight decrease in project revenue due mostly to large projects wrapping up

And CCNB Highlights

Staff presentations will provide more details, but significant events in this reporting year include:

- A new climate action web portal, For The Love of NB, with bilingual videos
- Popular letter-writing campaigns and sign-ons, including #BetterThanNormal
- Major effort on Crown Forest reform and glyphosate spraying during Standing Committee hearings
- Progress on new *Fisheries Act* implementation
- A new roof on Conserver House — as part of our ongoing renovations



Thank you to wide range of project funders:

- ✓ NB Environmental Trust Fund
- ✓ Pew Charitable Trust
- ✓ Dept of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- ✓ NB Department of Environment and Local Government
- ✓ Province of Quebec
- ✓ Climate Funders Canada
- ✓ Trottier Family Foundation
- ✓ Nature Funders Canada
- ✓ McConnell Foundation
- ✓ Shad Foundation
- ✓ ECHO Foundation
- ✓ NB Wildlife Trust Fund
- ✓ Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation
- ✓ NSERC Canada
- ✓ NB Youth Employment Fund
- ✓ Saint Thomas University



MASSIVE thank you to our incredible staff team

Matthew
Abbott

Louise Comeau

Lois Corbett

Giao Dang

Shannon
Goodine

Nadine Ives

Kristen Lyons

Jon MacNeill

Adam Mahoney

Stephanie
Phillips

Corey
Robichaud

Kylie Weir





Executive Director Report

Highlights

- New website design
- For the Love of NB climate action hub
- Movement on Crown Forest/glyphosate reform
- Fantastic, informative webinars
- Learning Outside program growth
- Marine team super-sized meetings
- Comms team successes
- COVID-19
- Open letter to Premier on climate/*Electricity Act*
- Weekly staff meetings
- Election readiness
- New opinion polls



Our strength is in our people

- Dedicated and conscientious volunteer Board of Directors
- Snap co-workers
- Let their work shine now:
 - Nature protection and Crown forestry reform
 - Freshwater Protection
 - Learning Outside
 - Climate and Energy Solutions
 - Marine Conservation
 - Communications



A photograph of a moose in a forest. The moose is dark brown and is walking towards the left. The forest has many tall, thin trees and a green undergrowth. The text "Nature Protection and Crown Forestry Reform" is overlaid in white, with a white underline under the word "Reform".

Nature Protection and Crown Forestry Reform

Highlights from 2020-21



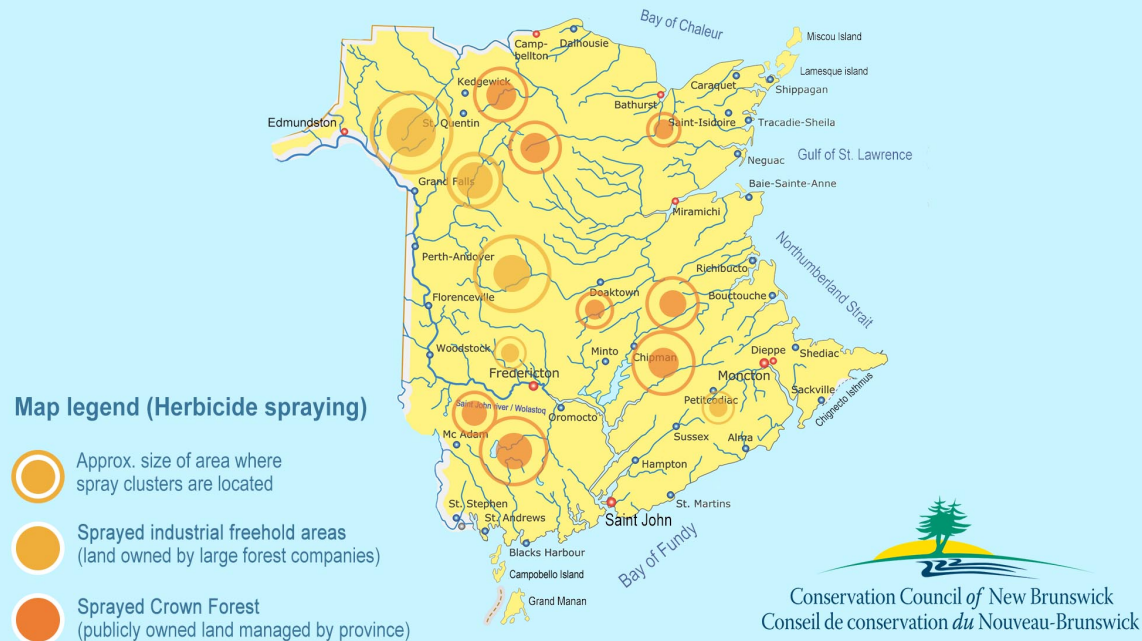
- Release of Conservation Council, CPAWS-NB, Atlantic Salmon Federation public polling results on NBers concerns, Crown Forest, Sept. 2020
- Secured platform commitments for protected areas and Crown Forest management reform, fall 2020, for provincial election
- Prepared education materials for citizens to use to press candidates about protected areas in both provincial election (Sept 2020) and federal campaign (Oct 2021)
- Secured platform commitments, federal parties, nature protection for federal campaign
- 600+ citizens signed on to CCNB-drafted wetlands protection letter

Glyphosate review at Standing Committee

- Major effort, expert presentations to Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, forestry reform and glyphosate use
- Held 10 briefing sessions with other presenters
- Co-hosted with St. Thomas University a special webinar on history of Crown Forest management in N.B.
- Reported on content of presentations from First Nations leaders and elders, September Committee hearings
- Special EcoNews: Jim Irving Gets The Last Word at Glyphosate Hearings
- 2020 and 2021 “spray maps” produced, over two dozen media interviews, government and opposition members briefing sessions

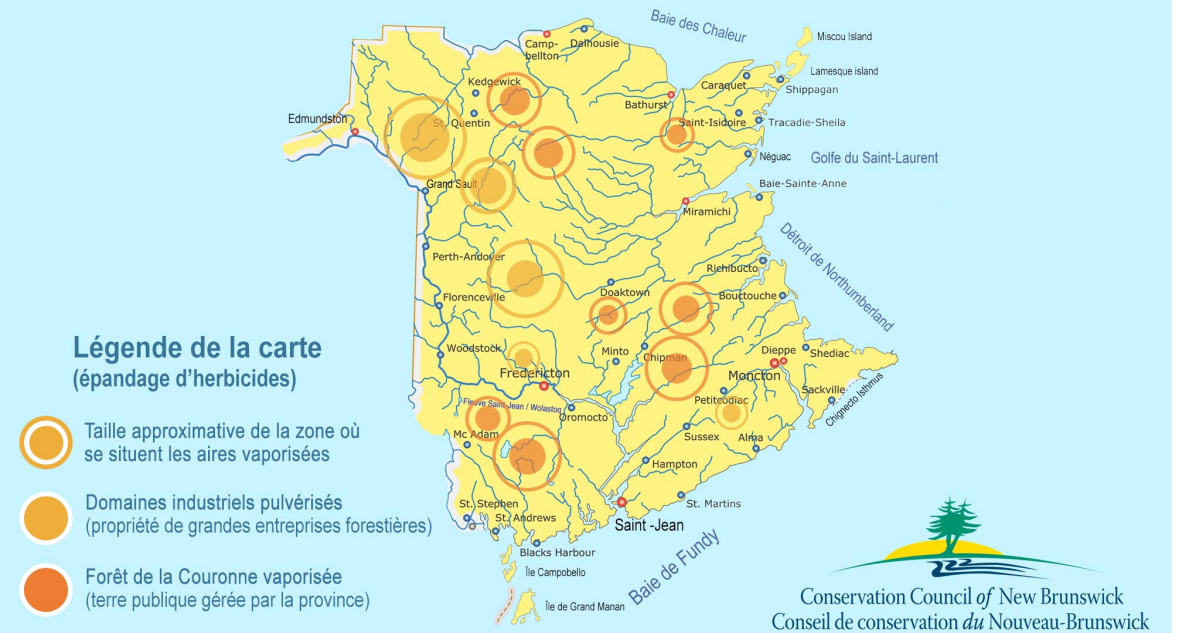


2021 herbicide spraying hotspots in N.B.




Source: GIS Forest Vegetation Management Program (Activity Map) for 2021 hosted by GeoNB from the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (geonb.snb.ca/herbicide/)

Principales zones soumises à l'épandage d'herbicides en 2021 au N. B.



Source : Programme de gestion de la végétation forestière du SIG (carte d'activités) de 2021 hébergée par GeoNB à partir du ministère du Développement de l'énergie et des ressources (geonb.snb.ca/herbicide/)

More hotspots maps available at conservationcouncil.ca



“

This is the most progress on this file in FOREVER! Great that you and CCNB continue to push this forward.

—CCNB Member, October 2021

”

Protecting Nature

- Working with NB Nature Trust, Nature NB, CPAWS-NB on N.B. Nature Legacy program
- N.B. gov't committed in 2019 to protect 450,000 hectares of Crown land
- Assisted numerous individuals and smaller groups in preparing their submissions for Legacy program
- Continued our work with Ecojustice, Maliseet Nation Conservation Council and others, endangered species
- Lobbied federal government to help increase DRED nature protection capacity



Barriers to increased Protected Areas

- Opposition from mining interests
- Opposition from forest companies
- Failure of government to negotiate fairly with First Nations



Successes, Incremental and Otherwise

- Nod to ecological forest management, Standing Committee report to the N.B. Legislative Assembly
- \$3.3 billion in 2021 federal budget for marine areas and land conservation, including provincial partnership funding
- Among other commitments, \$200-million Natural Infrastructure Fund program for Indigenous communities, municipalities, and community groups in federal Liberal platform



The Year Ahead (2021-22)

- Press members of the Legislature's Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship, forestry reform
- With Nature NB, NB Nature Trust and CPAWS-NB work on Protected Areas
- Webinars, CCNB Forest Champions
- Webinars with other ecological forest partners
- Continue working with First Nations leaders and elders
- Media, and citizen outreach
- Ongoing work with EcoJustice and East Coast Environmental Law Association



Supported by grants from
Schad Foundation, ECHO
Foundation, and
CCNB Forest Champions—
Thank you!





Freshwater Protection

Our History on Water Protection

- Saint John River (1969)
- Environ. Protection Act (1980)
- Underground Storage Tanks (1987)
- Bay of Fundy
- Bay of Chaleur/Northumberland Strait work
- Clean Water Act (1989)
- Lakes and rivers (2002)
- Shale gas and water (2010-16)
- Comprehensive watershed-based protections , i.e. water classification plus new legislation (2016-2021)



Setting the stage for improvement

- Undertook updated comprehensive public opinion survey, 1st quarter, 2020
- 500+ citizens surveyed
- Results used to both inform our communications strategy and to help empower government
- Released results Sept. 2, 2020
- In partnership with CPAWS-NB, Atlantic Salmon Federation



Top Line Messages

- 80% of those asked said that protecting water quality in N.B. rivers, lakes and streams was important, or very important when govt makes decisions (i.e. forest management plans, Protected Areas)
- Climate change, protecting waterways, protecting forests lead the issues identified by citizens as the most important issues facing N.B.
- 2/3rds of New Brunswickers say they participate in outdoor activities regularly, like canoeing, kayaking, fishing and hunting
- Previous research by CCNB shows citizens strongly believe governments are mismanaging fresh water:
 - 79% of those asked said they were worried about pollution going into rivers, lakes and streams
 - 76% are concerned about water quality



We asked New Brunswickers
what they love about their water



Full polling results available at: conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/freshwater-protection/

We asked New Brunswickers
what worried them the most



Full polling results available at: conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/freshwater-protection/

WHAT CONCERNS NEW BRUNSWICKERS ABOUT THEIR FOREST

Endangered species
Lacking protected areas
Low rivers and streams
Clearcuts
Climate change
Roads
Fires
Glyphosate
Pollution

Source: Conservation & Forestry Survey Report, Sept. 2020. Available at conservationcouncil.ca

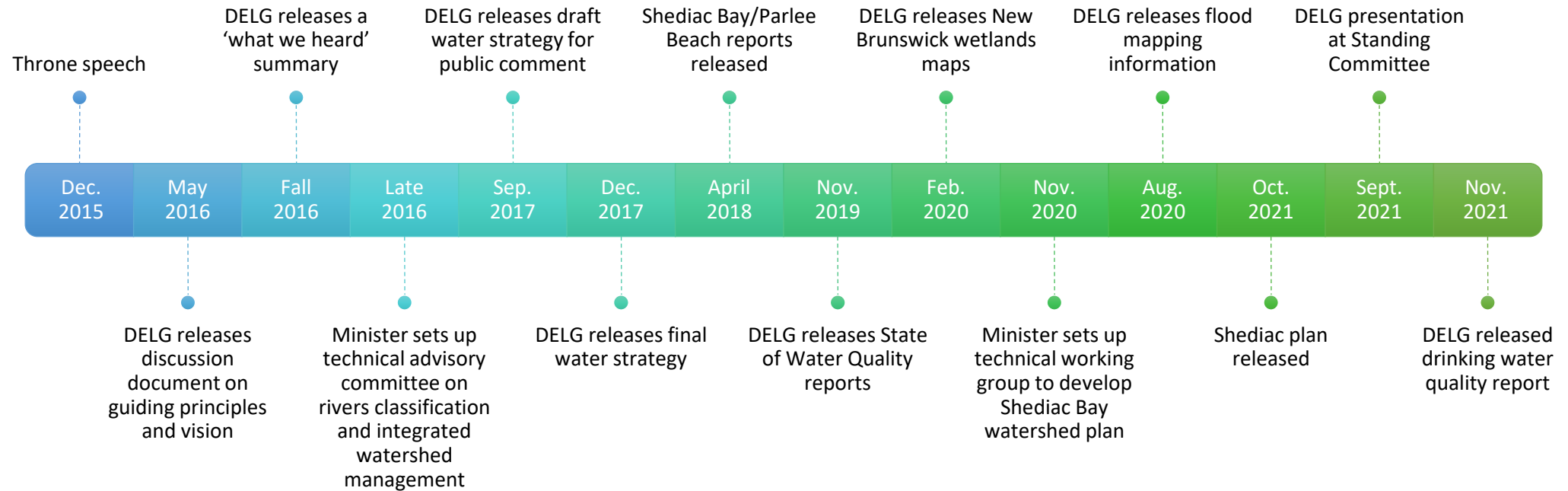
Full polling results available at conservationcouncil.ca

What does N.B. need to protect freshwater?

- Modern, comprehensive water protection strategy and regulations/legislation
- Watershed-based integrated management plans, and, in some instances sub-watershed plans
- Strategic partnership with federal government departments like Environmental and Climate Change, Fisheries and Oceans



Timeline of the current water strategy



Update: NB Water Strategy Progress, 2020-21

- Release of updated flood maps, August 2020
- watching for new online flood hazard maps for coasts and rivers, fall 2021
- Release of State of NB water report, late 2019, key issues include blue green algae, invasive species
- emerging concerns include pharmaceuticals, flame retardants
- watching for updated report, 2022
- Release of new wetland reference maps, early 2021, to be updated annually
- Release of municipal drinking water quality technical report, Oct. 2021
- Release of Shediac Bay Watershed Plan, fall, 2021



No progress (yet), on key recommendations

- Regulating water quality standards
- Updating forest management plans to protect rivers and streams
- Comprehensive watershed protection planning legislation/regulations — i.e. major update to *Clean Water Act*
 - Shediac Bay plan positioned as a 'voluntary pilot' by the gov't



Federal measures

- \$1-Billion commitment, August 2021
- Establishing Canada Water Agency
 - CCNB commented on draft paper, stressing, especially, transboundary watersheds
 - Working with other groups, Canadian Coalition for Healthy Waters
- *Fisheries Act* guidance, regulations, cumulative effects and fish habitat protection policy
- Toxic reduction plan, CEPA updates
- Plastics bans



Moving Forward: Key Activities Freshwater 2021-22

- Work collaboratively with First Nations
- Meet with Minister(s) and officials
- Brief MLAs and MPs
- Work collaboratively with groups along St. John (Wolastoq) River re: Canada Water Agency
- Work collaboratively with watershed caucus of the NBEN
- Push for fed/prov agreement, freshwater protection
- Work with national coalition, Fisheries Act regulations (cumulative effects, habitat protection)
- Update CCNB's freshwater website materials



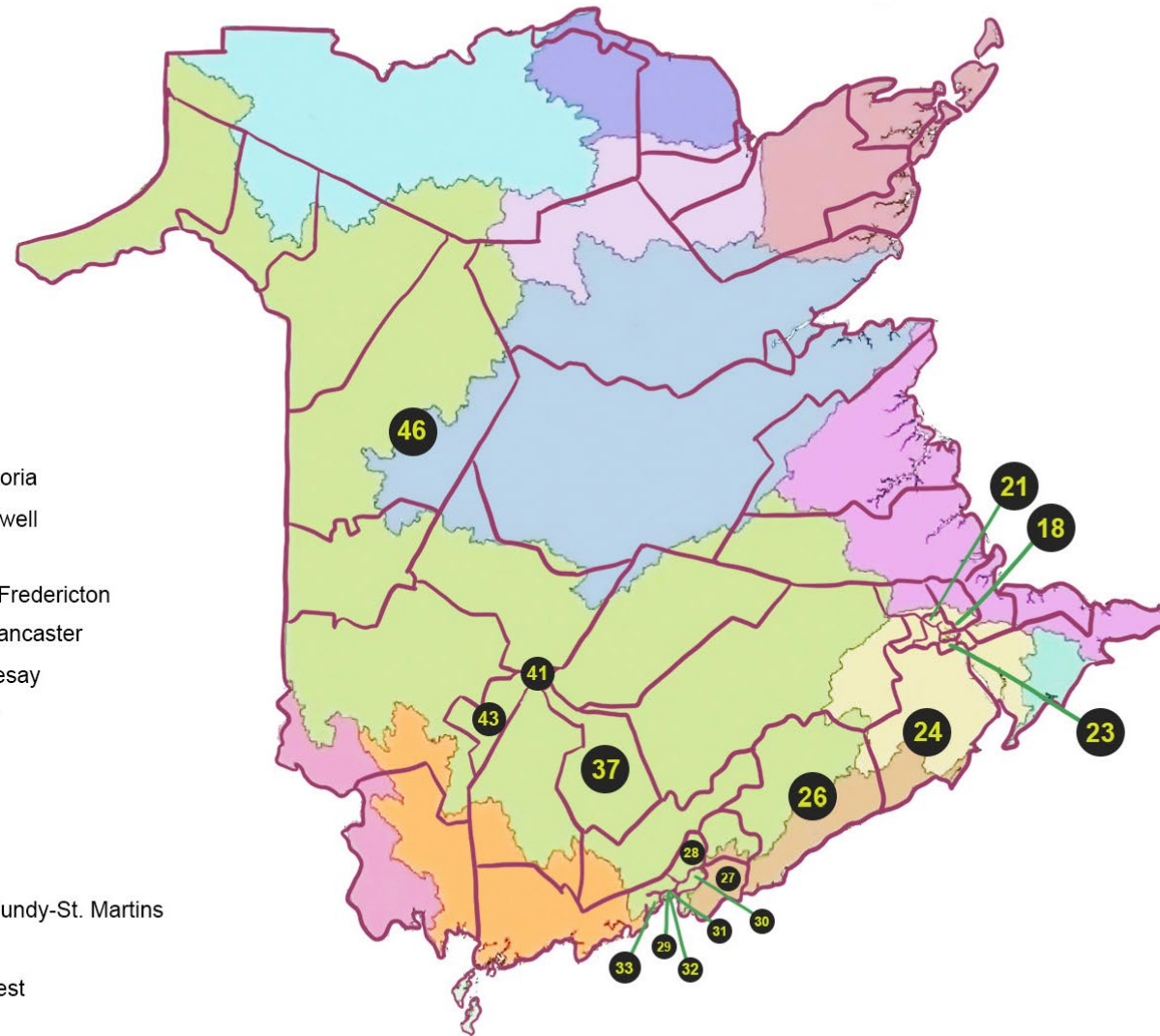
2020 N.B. Executive Council (Cabinet) Members / Watersheds

Legend

- 1 - Acadian Peninsula Composite
- 2 - Chaleur Bay Composite
- 3 - East Fundy Composite
- 4 - Fundy Isles Composite
- 5 - Inner Bay of Fundy Composite
- 6 - Miramichi River
- 7 - Nepisiquit River
- 8 - Northumberland Strait Composite
- 9 - Petitcodiac Composite
- 10 - Restigouche River Basin
- 11 - Saint John River Basin
- 12 - St. Croix River Basin
- 13 - West Fundy Composite

Members of the Executive

- (46) Margaret Johnson - Carleton-Victoria
- (43) Dominic Cardy - Fredericton-Hanwell
- (41) Jill Green - Fredericton North
- (37) Mary Wilson - Oromocto-Lincoln Fredericton
- (33) Dorothy Shephard - Saint John Lancaster
- (29) Hugh J.A (Ted) Flemimng - Rothesay
- (32) Arlene Dunn - Saint John Harbor
- (28) Blain Higgs - Quispamsis
- (31) Trevor Holder - Portland Simons
- (27) Gary Crossman - Hampton
- (30) Glen Savoie - Saint John East
- (26) Tammy Scott-Wallace - Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins
- (24) Mike Holland - Albert
- (21) Ernie Steeves - Moncton Northwest
- (18) Daniel Allain - Moncton East
- (23) Bruce Fitch - Riverview





Learning Outside

Project Overview

- The *Learning Outside* project encourages and supports teachers in taking their classes outside for curriculum-linked activities, incorporating learning about New Brunswick species and habitats.
- We develop and deliver fun, engaging activities and educational materials allowing teachers to share all the benefits of being outside with their students, while meeting curriculum outcomes.
- Our goal is to share our knowledge, but also to model activities that the teachers can then run by themselves. We make our activities and resources easily available for educators on our website (www.learningoutside.ca).



Highlights for 2020-2021

- **School visits:** Despite school closures and restrictions, we were able to run activities at **6** schools, reaching **418** students and their teachers.
- **Website:** The *Learning Outside* website was upgraded to a new platform and totally renovated and updated. With the new platform, we are able to upload materials on an on-going basis (which is a huge improvement!)
- **Youth Environmental Group:** Our youth group took part in virtual activities and then, once restrictions lifted, organised several outings over the summer of 2020.
- **Collaborations:** As a founding member of the Great Minds Think Outside program, we helped develop virtual professional development sessions for teachers and co-facilitated a number of these for teachers across NB and across Canada. It was wonderful to figure out a way to maintain this program despite the pandemic restrictions (<https://www.nben.ca/en/groups-in-action/great-minds-think-outside>). And, yes, we managed group activities over Zoom and had all participants go outside for nature activities!



Our new website!



More highlights

- Educational materials:** We expanded our bank of educational materials, adding activities to our Atlantic salmon modules and climate change in riverside ecosystems modules, as well as updating existing activities.
 - We collaborated on 3 colouring pages with the New Brunswick Invasive Species Council, including this one on Emerald Ash Borer (also available in French).
- Social media:** We were able to expand our social media presence with Facebook and Instagram posts for parents and educators during the lockdown and school closures. We emphasized the importance of being outside and in nature during a pandemic, provided 'backyard' activities and curriculum-linked activities for teachers. We also promoted outdoor learning as a key to healthy students when schools reopened.

Classification Schemes

Grade 6 Life Science

- Go for a walk in your neighbourhood and observe a variety of leaves from different plant species.
- Make sketches of the leaves in your notebook. Record any additional observations such as colour, texture, etc.
- Sort the leaves into groups based on shared characteristics. These characteristics may include colour, shape, and texture.
- How else could you have sorted the leaves?
- This activity can be repeated with insects or flowers.

Atlantic Salmon Life Stages Word Search

M	O	N	B	E	T	P	A	R	R
R	A	P	O	L	G	S	T	E	N
A	L	R	F	E	S	G	D	B	U
T	E	P	S	M	O	L	T	A	T
L	V	E	I	P	R	A	Z	L	C
A	I	J	C	Y	H	G	U	W	M
N	N	O	R	S	E	D	V	E	R
T	A	F	E	S	A	M	N	D	O
I	N	W	G	C	E	V	B	J	S
C	S	A	L	M	O	N	H	G	E

We are _____

Atlantic Salmon Word Search

Life stages, habitat & food

Name: _____

A	T	L	A	N	T	I	C	S	A	L	M	O	N		
I	L	A	F	R	Y	W	R	T	A	S	Y	S	T	R	
N	Q	A	E	V	B	Y	T	U	G	T	E	N	O	P	
V	U	F	S	E	W	B	D	I	O	L	N	A	D	Z	
E	G	F	R	M	O	L	L	V	N	O	S	X	S	A	
R	E	A	F	F	E	R	A	D	W	E	A	T	A	F	P
T	R	I	A	M	S	M	A	N	L	B	A	L	E	K	
E	R	D	B	J	O	H	O	T	T	S	E	H	P		
B	U	R	D	E	G	W	A	W	G	E	V	Y	T		
R	O	N	M	R	A	A	S	A	G	T	B	I	B	L	
A	D	U	L	T	T	I	T	E	T	R	A	N	E	T	
T	R	A	F	E	R	M	I	L	S	E	B	R	S	L	
E	L	Q	R	R	R	A	P	O	E	R	N	T	O		
S	Z	O	O	P	L	A	N	K	T	O	N	R	A	M	
X	A	G	R	A	V	E	L	P	A	Z	T	L	E	S	

Freshwater | Saltwater

Emerald Ash Borer: An Invasive Forest Pest

1. Emerald Ash Borer lay their eggs in the bark of Ash trees.
2. The larvae hatch and chew the bark of the tree to feed and the inner bark and sapwood, creating S-shaped galleries that kills the tree, leading to tree death.
3. The larvae pupae in the galleries.
4. The adult borer emerges and bores the tree through. It should exit holes on the trunk to start the cycle over.

Learning Outside | NBISC

Nature Neighbours: Moose

(Alces alces)

The moose is the largest member of the deer family with males standing as tall as 2 metres at the shoulder. They are an abundant species in New Brunswick, particularly in the northern area of the province. Bull moose have broad antlers that serve as a display of strength and vigour in the mating season. Two bull moose will spar, but often the smaller one will be scared off before actual contact. Most moose, both male and female, have something called a bell or dewlap - a piece of fur-covered skin about 30 centimetres long that hangs from their throats.

Moose require a range of habitats to meet their needs. They are found in wetlands, feeding on pond grasses and keeping cool in the summer. In winter, young forests provide browse and mature forests provide shelter. They are solitary animals, except for mothers and calves who stay together for about 18 months.

Learning Outside | NBISC

Many aquatic invasive species threaten our province's lakes and rivers, especially the Species at Risk that call them home. Can you identify the aquatic invaders at this scene?

Learning Outside | NBISC



(these are just some of the materials developed this year)

Future plans

- We plan to continue developing and sharing outdoor educational activities to help teachers and other educators take curriculum outdoors and encourage children and youth to develop an understanding and deep appreciation of the natural world (dependent on successful funding applications, of course).
- We plan to continue our partnerships with local schools and to develop new school partnerships (elementary, middle, and high schools).
- We plan to continue our wonderful collaborations with our network of nature and outdoor educators, including this new project with Nature NB on seasonal trail signs.
- We would like to rebuild the *Learning Outside* team, as so much more can be accomplished with additional staff.

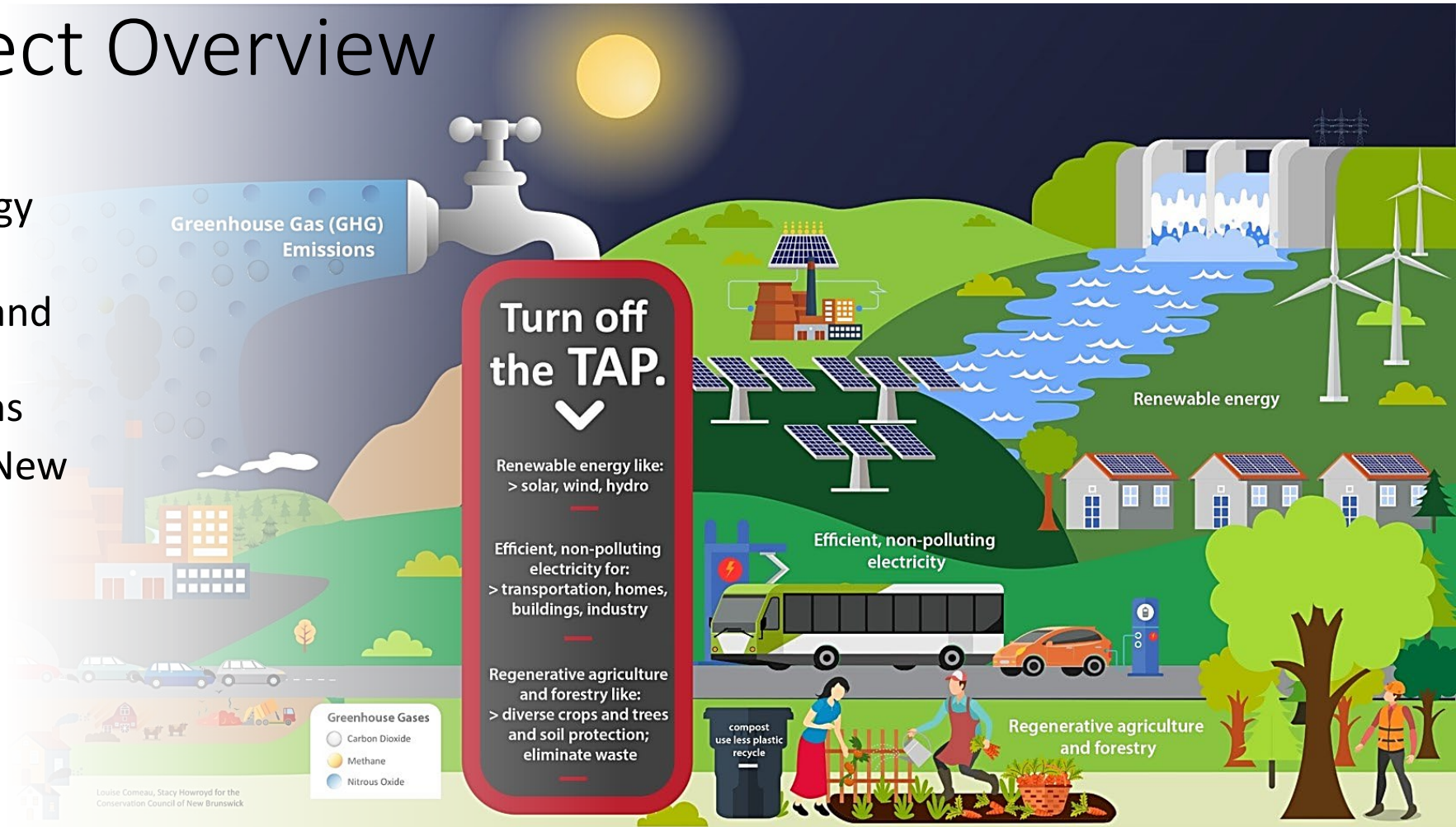




Climate Change and Energy Solutions

Program/Project Overview

- Climate Change and Energy Solutions Program
 - Policy development and analysis, Advocacy, Government Relations
 - Public Engagement: New pathways
 - Education: citizens, decision-makers and media
 - Research: Policy, communications and engagement



Highlights

- Largest-ever grant for our Electricity Transformation work, hired Adam Mahoney to assist on our climate change and energy program, completed most detailed study of Atlantic citizens' understanding of electricity issues using focus group and survey
- Environmental Trust Fund grant to complete two new For The Love Of videos featuring moms/grandmother perspectives. To be released this winter
- Transformative From Harm to Harmony program attracting almost 25 artists in two cohorts, with first cohort showcased at the UNB Art Centre



More highlights/specific project details

- Policy, Advocacy, Media Engagement, Government Relations

- Federal and provincial proposal submissions and engagement on coal-phase-out regulations, Carbon pricing, Output-Based Pricing System; Clean Fuel Standard; National coordination with ENGOs, Think Tanks

- Opening new Pathways to Engagement:

- From Harm to Harmony, two cohorts; For the Love of video series, Webinars engaging women

- Education:

- Climate change web portal promotion, three webinars:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWYOn7WoRcURubY0BvwUh2uSSk45s24fv>
 - Basics of Climate Change (Dec 8, 2020); Which Electricity Mix is most Affordable (Dec 2, 2020); Are our Laws Getting in the Way of Climate Action? (Nov25, 2020)

- Research: Electricity transformation analytical reports/Atlantic Vision, communications



Future plans

- Launch regional and national campaign with David Suzuki Foundation, Pembina Institute, Ecology Action Centre on Near Zero Grid by 2035. CCNB focus on *Electricity Act* reform, N.B. renewable energy target, Atlantic Loop, federal Clean Electricity Standard and the Social Determinants of Success. Will complete focus groups, case studies on wind in N.B., host Citizens' Assembly and deep listening canvassing with funding expected from the European Climate Foundation, Environment Grantmakers Canada
- Launch EV school bus campaign in partnership with Ecology Action Centre with grant from Trottier Foundation
- Propose electrification strategy for N.B. as part of provincial review of its climate plan
- Launch Art for Climate Action community of practice with grant from Echo Foundation
- Pending funding, hire at least one additional person to assist with campaigns; host citizens' assembly, start deep listening canvassing



A photograph of a seal pup resting on a large pile of seaweed. The pup is light-colored with dark markings around its eyes and is looking towards the camera. The seaweed is dark and textured, forming a large, rounded shape behind the pup. The text "Marine Conservation" is overlaid in white, centered horizontally, with a white horizontal line underneath it.

Marine Conservation

Marine Program Overview

A photograph of two shorebirds, likely sandpipers, on a beach. One bird is in the foreground, facing left and pecking at the wet sand. The other bird is in the background, facing right. The water is shallow and reflects the sky.

- Worked with partners on major restoration of the Skutik (St. Croix) River, a significant source of searun food fish for the whole Bay of Fundy.
- Engaged decision makers to advocate for effective *Fisheries Act* implementation and other responsible marine legislation
- Engaged public through presentations, conferences, media engagement, safe outdoor events, blogs, and social media to harness citizen enthusiasm for coastal and marine conservation.

Highlights

- Participated in 5th year of Peskotomuhkati (Passamaquoddy) searun fish restoration effort on Skutik River (a program we helped develop funded by DFO's Coastal Restoration Fund)
- Called for and supported NB Power plan to restore Salmon Falls on Skutik River by removing Milltown Dam. Conducted poll showing broad public support for restoration; engaged media and decision makers; and educated public and key stakeholders on merits of restoration.
- Worked closely with Indigenous Nations, tourism operators, and fishers to discuss conservation and protection opportunities off New Brunswick's coast. We are also contributing to the IMPAC5 international conference slated to be held in Vancouver in 2022
- Continued our decades of engagement in the Musquash Estuary MPA through monitoring, cleanups, leading hikes, attending advisory and planning meetings, and giving presentations to schools.



Highlights

- Worked with Anne Fauré, at the Université du Québec à Rimouski, and NBEN to organize a virtual conference about the blue economy in the baie des Chaleurs/Pagtapeg, kickstarting important local conversations.
- Worked with partners to monitor impacts from salmon aquaculture, challenge proposed expansion, and push for more responsible regulation.
- Participated in regional collaborations to track and remove large debris and ghost gear. Provided advice to organizations hoping to replicate our large debris removal program.
- Worked as core member of an Atlantic Canada-wide collaboration funded by Pew Charitable Trusts. Collaboration has three broad priorities: whale conservation, fishery rebuilding, and Marine Protected Areas.



Future plans

- In addition to continuing efforts to restore searun fish on the Skutik River, we will conduct a study into the potential for restoration of river herring (gaspereau) throughout Atlantic Canada. River herring are an ecologically-important foodfish and are well-equipped to weather the impacts of climate change in this region.
- Engage DFO, Indigenous Nations, fishers, tourism and other stakeholders on the long-awaited Marine Protected Area Network Plan, just released. It is critical that ENGO and others engage to ensure effective ocean conservation.
- In collaboration with other CCNB programs, increase French capacity and engagement in Acadian communities.



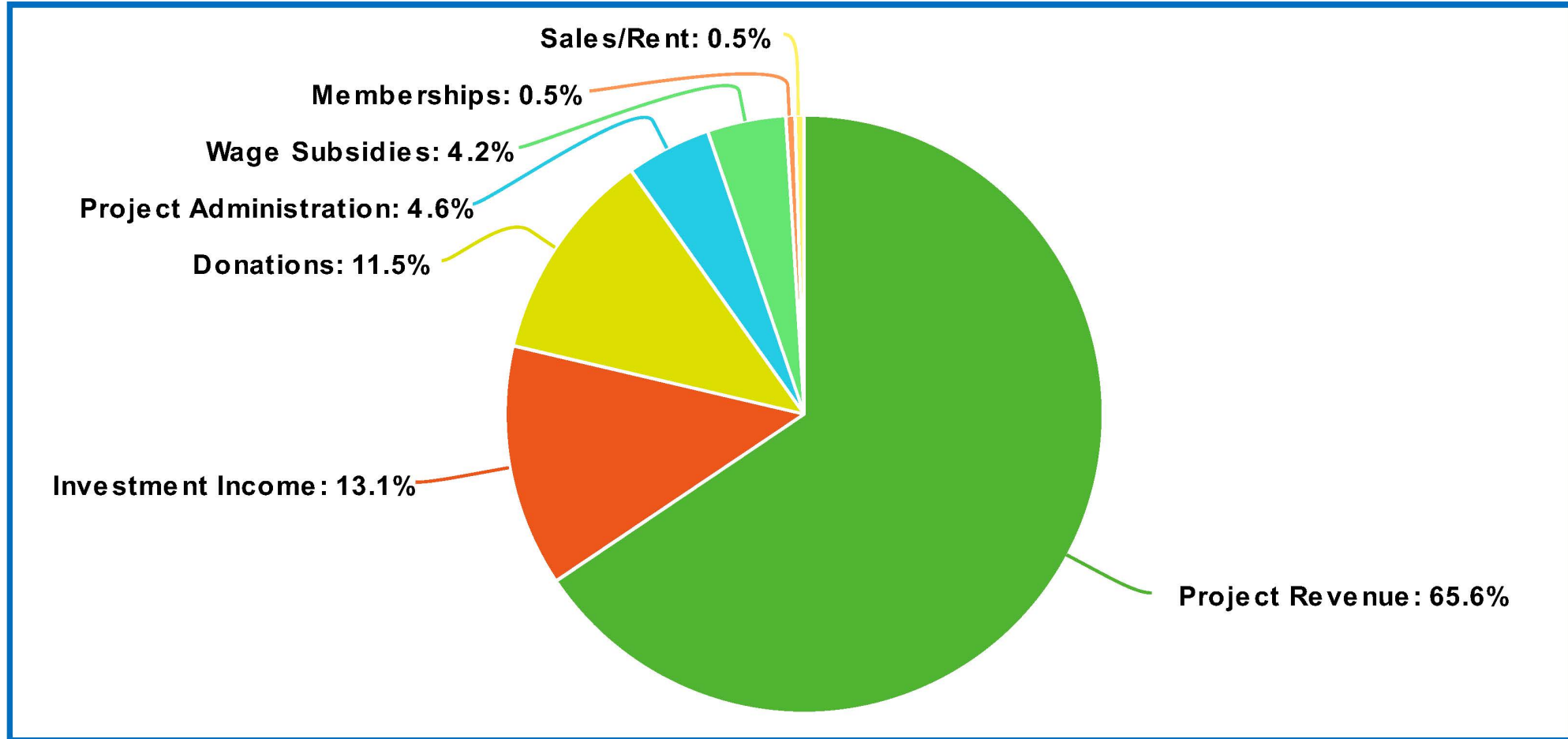


Report from the Treasurer: 2020-21 Audited Statements

Conservation Council of New Brunswick Annual Report

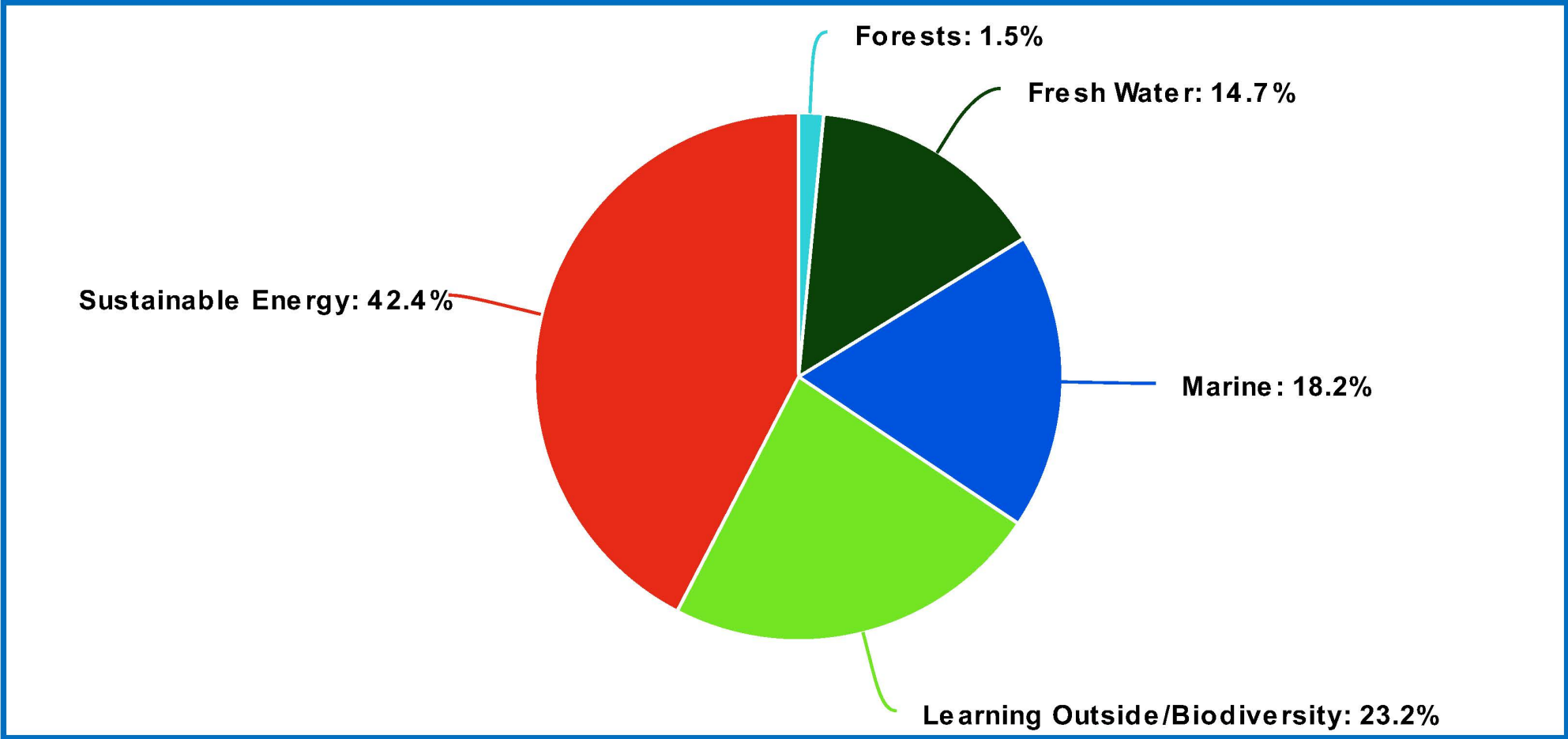
INCOME SOURCES

\$750,228 TOTAL



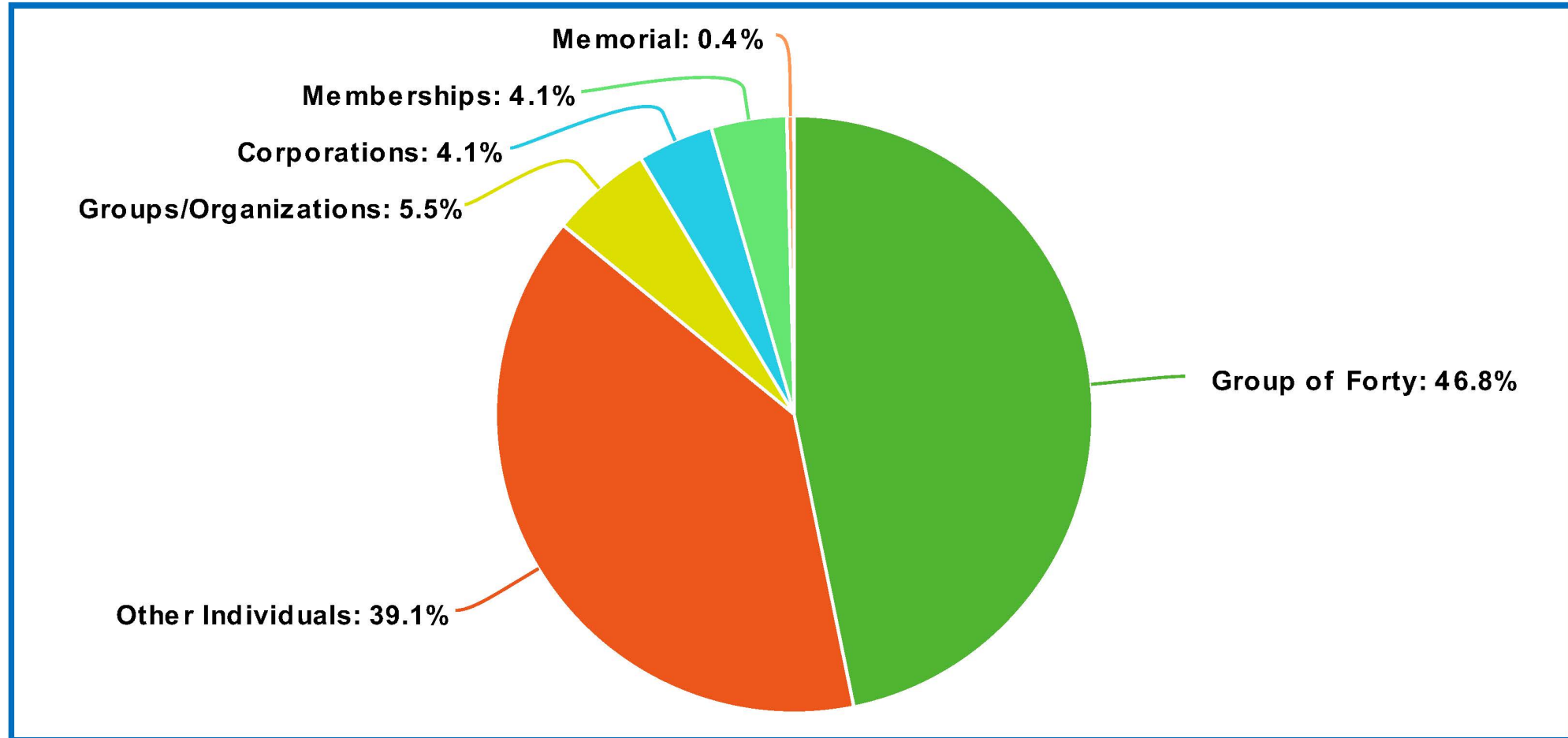
- Project Revenue
- Investment Income
- Donations
- Project Administration
- Wage Subsidies
- Memberships
- Sales/Rent

PROJECT INCOME
\$492,086 TOTAL



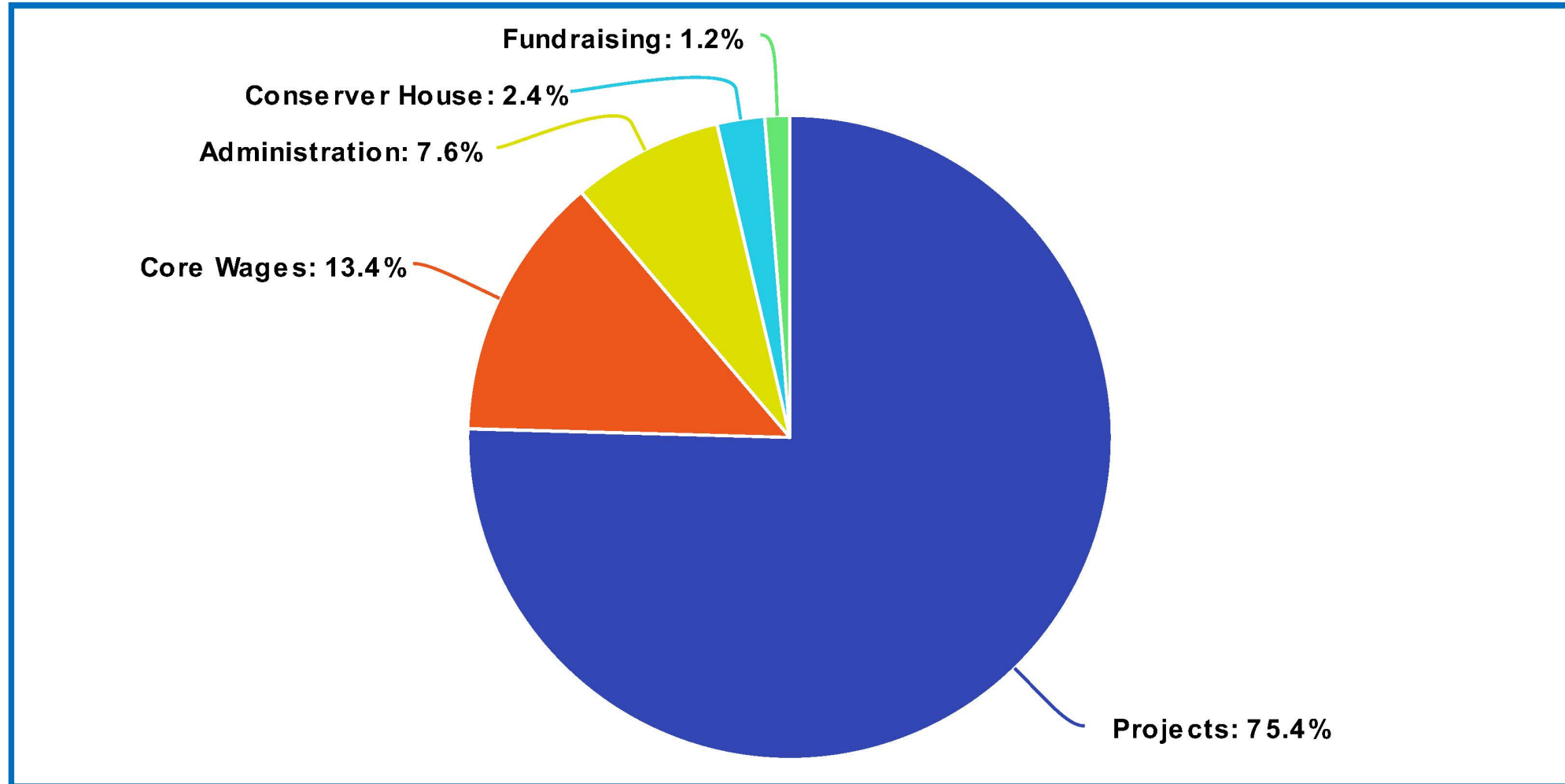
- Forests
- Fresh Water
- Marine
- Learning Outside/Biodiversity
- Sustainable Energy

DONATIONS
\$89,905 TOTAL



- Group of Forty
- Other Individuals
- Groups/Organizations
- Corporations
- Memberships
- Memorial

EXPENSES
\$695,287 TOTAL



- Projects
- Core Wages
- Administration
- Conserver House
- Fundraising