

Environmental network grades N.S. political parties on green policies

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HALIFAX — A coalition of 60 environmental groups has graded Nova Scotia's campaigning political parties on their commitment to green policies, awarding highest marks to the Green party.

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network sent a questionnaire to all four parties.

They were asked to outline their proposals on a wide range of environmental issues including energy efficiency, green jobs, transportation, pesticides, clear-cutting, and biosolids.

The Green party was awarded a B-plus, followed by the New Democratic Party with a B, the Liberal party with a C-plus, and the Progressive Conservatives got a C.

"While no party failed this questionnaire, this is not a report card your mom would stick on the fridge at home," Gretchen Fitzgerald, director of the Sierra Club of Canada's Atlantic Chapter, said in a news release on Monday. "What struck me was an inability of some of the parties to seize the economic transition we are in to create green jobs."

Cheryl Ratchford, energy co-ordinator of the Ecology Action Centre, said the network is happy that all parties have committed to the creation of an independent energy efficiency agency and would place emission caps on the electricity sector.

"With this degree of consensus, we hope to see the creation of this agency as the first act passed by our new government," she said.