

Benefits of Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a proactive approach to environmental protection and management. Assessments are coordinated, transparent, and effective.

EIA IDENTIFIES:

- ✓ Potentially harmful environmental effects of development projects early on.
- ✓ Actions to avoid adverse environmental effects or reduce them to acceptable levels before they happen.

The Department of Environment and Local Government (ELG) coordinates and leads EIA reviews. Reviews are a streamlined process for coordinated assessment of development projects, benefitting developers and New Brunswickers.

Within 30 days of registration, proponents receive a letter including a list of permits or authorizations required with key contacts, feedback from subject matter experts, and direction to proceed with any required field studies. Local, provincial, and federal government departments, the public, and First Nations also participate in the process.

IN NEW BRUNSWICK, EIA REVIEWS HAVE PROTECTED:

- **Human health** by identifying water quality and quantity issues and identifying required treatment to ensure safe drinking water.
- **Human safety** by identifying potential areas at risk of flooding and incorporating mitigation measures.
- **Wetlands** through the redesign of developments to avoid or mitigate impacts.
- **Road safety** through traffic studies that identify needed lane, signage or traffic flow modifications.
- **Habitat** through the management of mine tailings.
- **Fish populations** by managing the introduction of non-native fish species to New Brunswick.
- **Air quality** through management of emissions from projects.
- **Archaeological artifacts** through the identification and avoidance of archaeologically significant areas.



EIA began in the United States in the 1970s and was formally introduced in Canada by the federal government in 1973. It is now one of the most widely used environmental management tools in the world.



TO LEARN MORE

Visit: [GNB.ca/Environment](https://www.gnb.ca/Environment)

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