

How can you get involved?

NSPIRG believes that effective social change can only happen through direct participation, and we encourage all members to get involved and actively assist in creating a socially/environmentally sustainable campus and community. You can get involved by joining any of the **working groups, campaign teams** or **committees!**

Committees

The operations of NSPIRG are managed through committees composed of Board members, staff and volunteers. Each committee is assigned to specific operations of the organization and assist the Board in giving NSPIRG direction.

Campaigns Committee: This committee oversees the operations and progress of all NSPIRG campaigns by coordinating efforts with community groups and organizing public events in response to their needs. Volunteers in this committee can choose to focus their energies toward any specific campaign, or toward the coordination of all.

Outreach Committee: This committee manages NSPIRG's outreach efforts on and beyond the student campus. Activities include organizing social events and poster campaigns, designing leaflets and websites, as well as developing new ways to attract new volunteers.

Resource Committee: This committee oversees the management of NSPIRG's public resources, including the library, and helps further develop NSPIRG's available resources by recommending new book or video acquisitions, or by writing reviews of current ones. The committee also oversees the production of any new research and NSPIRG publication.

Policy Committee: This committee re-examines current policy and drafts new ones in order to ensure that NSPIRG always fulfills its mandate and always remains accountable to its members.

Human Resources Committee: This committee oversees the hiring procedures of any new staff members at NSPIRG, and also manages the professional and supportive relationship between NSPIRG and its current staff.

Finance Committee: This committee acts as a team of treasurers that ensure the management of NSPIRG's financial operations.



Interested in volunteering for NSPIRG? Get in contact with our volunteer coordinators at nspirg.volunteer@gmail.com

Our coordinators can help you get involved in any NSPIRG campaigns, working groups, committees, or research for NSPIRG publications relevant to your interests.

For more information about NSPIRG and any of its activities, email info@nspirg.org



NSPIRG

Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group



What is NSPIRG?

NSPIRG (Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group) is a non-profit, non-partisan and non-governmental organization. Our mandate is to link research with action for social and environmental justice within an anti-oppression framework.

Research → Education → Action

Research: We initiate original research around environmental and social issues.

Education: We translate our research into education for all through independent publications and public events.

Action: Guided by our research, we develop and support campaigns that address social or environmental injustices.

Anti-Oppression

Power and privilege can play out in group dynamics in destructive ways. Working within an anti-oppression framework means challenging discriminatory practices which marginalize, exploit, exclude or de-humanize others. NSPIRG is committed to being inclusive and accessible to all.

Organization

Board: The NSPIRG Board of Directors is a volunteer board comprised of 7 Dalhousie students, 1 non-Dal student, and 2 member of the broader Halifax community. The Board makes decisions about the organization, and how it serves students and the wider community. Financial, planning and policy decisions are made by the Board.

Staff: NSPIRG hires two staff members to coordinate the organization's resources and campaigns. NSPIRG also hires short-term staff to coordinate specific projects such as the Seymour Green Garden according to need.

Volunteers: All students and community members are invited to participate in all NSPIRG efforts. It's NSPIRG's volunteers that allow the organization to thrive!

www.nspirg.org

info@nspirg.org

What does NSPIRG do?

Campaigns

NSPIRG is involved in partnership campaigns that focus on human rights and environmental conservation. Whereas the initiatives of our working groups largely centre around campus-based initiatives, our campaigns seek to connect our membership with broader community issues. We generally provide supportive research, legal and political advocacy, media support, and awareness-raising initiatives toward public education. Through our campaigns NSPIRG is in direct partnership with other groups in the broader Nova Scotian community.

Resisting/Replacing Atlantica: A campaign to oppose and provide alternatives to the Atlantica Initiative, which is a transportation and energy corridor and free trade zone that encompasses the Atlantic provinces and the northeastern US. The Atlantica Initiative is seen as a serious threat to labour and environmental standards in the region.

Save Lincolnville! A campaign which seeks to expose and challenge systemic discrimination in the province and stop environmental racism epitomized recently with the Lincolnville Landfill placed in an area populated largely by African Nova Scotians. The campaign demands that the rights and dignity of African Nova Scotian communities and First Nations communities be upheld and that all future resource management projects be consensual, democratic, and just.

No One Is Illegal: This campaign focuses on migrant justice issues locally and is grounded in a commitment to defending the rights of all migrants to live with dignity and respect.

Rooting Out Racism: This campaign takes aim at the systemic problems with the education system, causing the exclusion of youth categorized in marginalized racial groups and creating a crisis of literacy and unemployment, which is connected to the high rates of poverty and incarceration as a result of crime.

Project Assistance and Resources

Funding and other support: NSPIRG offers grants as well as logistical and material support to grassroots initiatives in the student body and in the larger community that also work toward our mandate.

Library: We have large selections of books, magazines, reports, zines, and videos for loan. We are open from 10am - 4pm, Monday to Friday. A lot of material is not available in other HRM libraries. Come check it out!



Working Groups

A working group is comprised of a group of volunteers who work on specific social justice or environmental issues. Working groups have a unique relationship with NSPIRG because they are autonomous in their activities, but receive financial, logistical and material support from NSPIRG. Working Groups' activities include, but are not limited to, educational endeavours, advocacy, event hosting, coordinating actions, workshops and forums, conducting research, and other positive and creative initiatives. Every Dalhousie student has the opportunity to start a working group through NSPIRG, so long as it fits within NSPIRG's mission statement, mandate and anti-oppression framework. Encouraging Working Groups allows NSPIRG to support a larger number initiatives aimed a broader array of issues that it otherwise could on its own.



Student Coalition Against War: SCAW focuses on non-violent activism, organizing, advocacy and above all, reform. SCAW aims to address and propose solutions – in a definitive and comprehensive manner – to the major social, economic and political issues, which induce, promote and sustain contemporary war, in all its forms worldwide.

Campus Action on Food: CAF aims to work towards food justice on campus by striving to create space for choices that are representative of student diversity and accessible to people of low income.

People's History Project: P-H's design is to try and achieve greater public awareness about the many histories in Halifax and surrounding communities that have been white-washed and/or stuffed under the rug and de-prioritized, including histories of working class struggles, First Nations and women's achievements.

Seymour Green Community Organic Garden: Seymour Green is a communal gardening space on Dalhousie Campus – open to students and Halifax residents of all ages and backgrounds. Interested gardeners are invited to become a part of a group of people that care for the garden throughout the spring, summer and fall.

Cinema Politica - Halifax: Part of a national touring network, CP-Halifax coordinates film screenings made available as part of national tours. The films are presented free of charge and followed by open forums to encourage discussion on a range of issues.

