

SEEA Process Bulletin 2026-x1: Use of the Climate, Nature and Economy Lens

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This bulletin supersedes and replaces SEEA Process Bulletin 2024-1

As part of implementing the Cabinet Directive on Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment (SEEA), departments and agencies are requested to use a structured and common questionnaire, the Climate, Nature and Economy Lens (CNEL) template.

The CNEL template facilitates consistent, high-quality analysis across organizations and ease of review by Central Agencies and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

Developing an organization-specific version of the CNEL reference template

Organizations may customize the generic CNEL reference template in certain areas to improve its overall administration and use the tool for complementary and organization-specific assessment purposes. The *‘Proposal Identification’* and *‘Approvals’* sections of the CNEL reference template may be customized to align with organization-specific nomenclature and approval processes. However, no changes should be made to the pre-defined analytical questions as well as their numbering. Additional questions may be appended to any section or sub-sections of the CNEL, but the existing question and their hierarchical numbering shall remain intact. Part D of the template may also be populated with customized questions to allow consideration of specific environmental and economic considerations of importance to the departmental mandate and circumstances that are not covered by the pre-existing sections.

Once the analysis is completed for a given proposal, drafters may delete sections where the preliminary screening questions indicate a ‘no’ response. For example, if the proposal indicates “no” for preliminary screening question 1, the screening question and response should be retained, but the corresponding blank section of the detailed analysis (i.e. A-100) can be deleted. This will increase the readability of the template for the relevant sections.

Review Process

ECCC, in consultation with departments and agencies and relevant external experts, and with the approval of Central Agencies, will review and update the CNEL template as required.

Additional Resources

For additional resources and guidance, drafters should contact the SEEA experts within their department or agency. Questions from SEEA experts can be directed to the SEEA Secretariat at ECCC at ees-seea@ec.gc.ca.

A fillable version of the CNEL template and related guidance can be found on the [SEEA GCXchange page](#).