

There is a requirement to address two separate but interconnected methodological problems associated with indicator development. One is the aggregation of data. The other is the creation of composite indices.

There is also a need to improve the contextual presentation and marketing of indicators, both to encourage and to assist decision makers to use them. Environment Canada is investigating creative ways to target packages of indicators for decision makers. This work will also help to assess how decision makers use indicators.

Disputes over environmental issues are encouraged by uncertainty and contradictory evidence. Widely accepted indicators at local, regional, and national levels can provide a common basis for reaching better decisions. The delivery of timely and understandable indicators to decision makers will help them make decisions based on sound scientific data and will foster a better informed public.