

CANMET also works closely with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) on a variety of international projects both to transfer Canadian expertise and to learn from other countries. Collaborative projects with CIDA have focused on such issues as strengthening technical and managerial environmental capacities and transferring technologies and know-how on mine closure.

CANMET, in partnership with the Canadian mining industry, also develops cost-effective technologies to reduce the potential negative impact of mine waste, effluent treatment, and waste management on the environment. Two CANMET programs on effluents and tailings and on waste rock are other examples of successful research, focusing on options and solutions to environmental challenges facing the mining industry for mine operation and closure.

Recycling

Because of their value, consistent performance characteristics, durability, chemical properties, and versatility, many mineral products and essentially all metal products can be re-used almost without limit. Recycling is a key component of the sustainable development of minerals and metals, offering environmental as well as economic benefits. It adds to the efficient use of minerals and metals, reduces pressures on landfills, saves energy relative to that consumed in producing metals from primary sources, and offers the potential for recovery and access to mineral resources for future generations.

In order to achieve the full potential of recycling, it will be important to review existing domestic and international regulations and remove impediments that may unduly restrict the movements of legitimate and essential raw materials, particularly in instances where movement controls may not be commensurate with the risks posed by the individual recyclable material.

An additional barrier to recycling occurs when materials destined for recycling are defined and regulated as wastes destined for disposal, as under the Basel Convention. It is important to clearly differentiate between recyclable materials destined for legitimate recovery operations and wastes destined for disposal, and to apply appropriate risk management controls in each case.

Other steps to encourage recycling may include promoting improved collection programs, supporting technical improvements in separating and recovering minerals and metals, encouraging the development of products that use recycled minerals and metals, and distinguishing between recyclable materials and materials bound for final disposal.

Canada's Response to Acidic Mine Drainage

Begun in 1989, the Canadian Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND) Program was a voluntary program to develop technology to prevent or reduce acidic mine drainage, which reduced liability by at least \$400 million. MEND 2000 is a new three-year initiative, focusing on technology transfer and the dissemination of up-to-date information on acidic drainage via workshops, reports, and on-line services. See <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mets/mend> for more details.