

Sweden, a technologically advanced nation with a strong export-driven industrial base, is one of the world's staunchest guardians of the Earth's environment. This small country (population 9 million) has been demonstrating strong leadership in environmental protection for decades, beginning in 1969 with the introduction of Sweden's first Environmental Law.

Climate change is also a growing issue in Sweden. The Swedish government has allocated 990 million Swedish krona (approximately \$154 million) over a three-year period and has set a national goal — far stricter than the Kyoto commitment — to reduce 1990-level greenhouse gases to 4% by 2010. Even more impressive is the fact that Sweden intends to reach this

- **Energy:** technologies supporting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency;
  - **Waste:** innovative technologies for waste reduction/recycling and hazardous waste treatment;
  - **Clean products and technologies:** alternatives to environmentally damaging compounds.
- For more information, contact

# Environmental protection: good business in Sweden

Following the introduction of the Environmental Code (an update to the Environmental Law) on January 1, 1999, and Sweden's adoption of fifteen environmental quality objectives, polluters are now feeling the full force of Swedish law. Swedes take environmental concerns seriously, paying strict attention to environmental reporting, ISO14000 certifications and eco-labelling schemes. Indeed, the market drivers for Sweden's environmental sector have gradually shifted in recent years from environmental regulations and economic instruments to industrial commitments and consumer awareness.

## Fighting pollution, the Swedish way

Although Sweden's traditional environmental industry strengths are in the fields of wastewater treatment and air pollution control, the country is now turning its attention to landfill regulations. The January 1, 2001 landfill tax has already produced an increase in materials recycling and incineration and waste composting. As of January 1, 2002, combustible waste is no longer permitted in landfills and, after 2005, landfills will no longer be permitted to accept organic waste. "Producer responsibility systems" are now in effect for such commodities as packaging material, paper, tires, cars and, as of July 1, 2001, electronic products.

goal without the use of either carbon sinks or flexible mechanisms such as trade or environmental investments in other countries. The Swedish government is also allocating 420 million krona (approximately \$63 million) for the remediation of contaminated sites in 2002, another 460 million krona will be invested in 2003, followed by a 590-million krona investment in 2004.

This aggressive environmental vigilance has paid off: according to the Swedish Waste Management Association, Sweden leads Europe in materials recycling and energy retrieval from waste.

## Opportunities

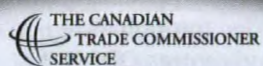
Although English is widely spoken as a business language, most environmental decisions are made locally by 23 county councils in Sweden's 289 municipalities. A Swedish partner can therefore be useful for translating bidding documents and legislation, and can help interpret regulation issues.

The following opportunities may be of interest to Canadian suppliers:

- **Air:** advanced industrial emission reduction technologies; measuring instruments; traffic emission prevention; indoor air quality improvement technologies;
- **Soil:** soil remediation and related technologies;
- **Water:** upgrading wastewater treatment facilities; measuring instruments; groundwater protection;

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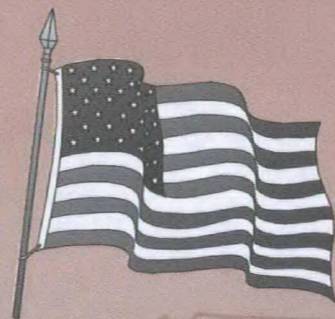


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