

- society enjoys important benefits from the use of these natural resources in conjunction with their sound management;
- certain mineral- and metal-containing products may pose risks to human health or the environment and, as a consequence, need to be managed throughout their entire life cycle;
- naturally occurring inorganic substances, such as minerals and metals, behave differently than synthetic organic chemicals and, as a consequence, require different risk management approaches; and
- minerals and metals, in and of themselves, are not candidates for bans, phaseouts, or virtual elimination.

Recycling

Metals recycling, practised since ancient times, embodies the spirit of sustainable development. While virgin materials will remain the primary source of minerals and metals for a growing world demand, recycled materials are an increasingly vital component in the materials supply chain. Recycling extends the efficient use of minerals and metals, reduces pressures on landfills and incinerators, and results in major energy savings relative to the level of energy inputs required to produce metals from primary sources. Recycled materials account for between 30 and 60 percent of the total world consumption of metals and are a major component in the availability of minerals and metals for future generations as minerals and metals are not "consumed" in the way other nonrenewable resources are. Although it may be years before they are recycled, most minerals and metals remain available for new uses.

Science and Technology

The policy recognizes that science and technology play a critical role in the health and well-being of Canadians, our ability to protect the environment, and our success in creating jobs and fostering economic growth. It sets out a strategic framework for