

changing lifestyles. It is hoped that as public awareness of the links between consumption and the state of the environment grows, it will be possible to take greater action to shift consumption patterns.

SOE reports have been produced by governments and industry. To date, for example, in addition to the national SOE report, the governments of six provinces have produced SOE reports for their jurisdictions.

SOE reports such as those produced by Canada and British Columbia focus on the health of entire ecosystems. This effort at ecosystem tolerance modelling attempts a far more integrated analysis than might be the case with a report that focussed on the levels of specific pollutants.

As part of understanding changes in the Canadian environment, Canada is developing a national set of environmental indicators that will be understandable, scientifically credible and useful to decision makers and the public. The development of indicators, such as energy consumption and municipal water use, that can track consumption patterns is currently under way.

(b) International Activities

Both CIDA and the IDRC are working to promote more sustainable patterns of consumption and production in other countries. One example from CIDA is its work with Nicaragua to improve and expand portions of that country's electrical transmission network. The \$10-million project will reduce electrical system losses and therefore the need to burn fossil fuels. If the project meets its expectations, it will result in a reduction of approximately 60 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

Developing National Policies and Strategies to Encourage Changes in Unsustainable Consumption Patterns

Major groups and governments in Canada have strategies designed to encourage more sustainable consumption patterns. Examples of these initiatives can be organized under the headings of the Agenda 21 chapter on consumption as follows.

(a) Encouraging Greater Efficiency in the Use of Our Resources

The Environmental Partners Fund of the federal government's Environmental Citizenship Initiative has targeted part of its funding to assist community groups in carrying out composting and recycling projects. Although recycling projects have dealt specifically with reducing the amount of waste entering landfills, a large percentage of these projects have also included a component to inform the public about recycling and to encourage reduction and reuse of products.

Electrical utilities in Canada are moving from supply-side management to demand-side management to reduce peak demands (thereby delaying major capacity additions) and