



Source: Environment Canada

**Domestic and international milestones mark Canada's transition toward sustainable development.**

focused primarily on cleanup and abatement, more recent legislation has emphasized pollution prevention. We have seen the exploration of economic tools and regulatory reform as ways to achieve Canada's environmental goals at reduced cost. While fiscal restraint has reduced funding for environmental programs and services, it has also accelerated the review and abolition of government subsidies that have negative environmental impacts.

Canada has seen **new and more open processes** as all sectors of society take much greater responsibility for their actions. Many businesses have improved management practices as well as technical processes through the implementation of corporate environmental management systems. They have also taken part in voluntary efforts to address various environmental priorities.

Communities, governments, and industry have worked together in processes that bring the widest range of people and interests together to resolve issues. Round tables on the environment and the economy draw on a wide cross section of interests and perspectives to identify and resolve sustainable development issues. Some local governments have developed broadly based sustainable development strategies and local versions of Agenda 21, which was drawn up at

the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Others are pursuing regional sustainable development strategies and solutions.

Efforts to find results by building linkages across sectors have drawn on the increasingly organized and effective work of nongovernmental and community organizations. They have been matched by similar processes in many places to deal with land use policies and choices, competing resource use pressures, and environmental conservation and protection concerns.

Another aspect of changing governance in sustainable development has been Canada's active support for **international efforts** to address sustainable development concerns. Canada recognizes the global nature of environmental issues and that we must work with other nations to develop solutions. We have played a major role in support of many regional and global environmental agreements. These agreements reflect the importance of a consistent international response to shared concerns; the need for solutions that respect environmental, social, and economic considerations; and the need for cooperation between developed and developing countries. Moreover, Canada has been an active player in the international dialogue on the reform of multilateral