

The programme's current successes have also clearly demonstrated that good environmental management makes good business sense. Greening the Hill is a solid example of environmental stewardship and it is hoped that the experience of the House of Commons will help persuade others in both the public and private sector to recognize their own stewardship responsibilities as well.

Speaker, the programme has been successful in reducing the amount of solid waste generated by the House of Commons while also ensuring that many House practices are conducted in the most environmentally responsible manner. Second, environmental practices carried out by the House have also made good economic sense at the House of Commons.

This economic analysis was undertaken at the Speaker's request. The intention was to provide the fullest disclosure of the programme's total cost and benefits. Initiated at a time when environmental concerns were higher in the public mind, Greening the Hill must now demonstrate that it is able to meet environmental challenges in the context of economic restraint.

In this analysis, every effort has been made to provide as thorough and comprehensive a picture as possible of all factors associated with each greening initiative. The analysis also includes figures on measures taken by the House for environmental reasons but for which savings were not generated or re-invested.

To date, Greening the Hill has achieved energy cost savings of more than £200,000. Over the next five years, the programme will save an additional estimated £2.7 million, a figure likely to rise significantly if and when new greening initiatives are undertaken. Other savings and benefits highlighted throughout the report include:

- projected annual net savings of £340,000;
- 78% reduction of House refuse as a result of recycling;
- cumulative savings of over £200,000 from paper-reduction initiatives;
- over £15,000 in revenue generated to date from the paper recycling programme;
- 2,500 tonnes of paper recycled to date (based on a 100% recycling rate);
- conversion to energy efficient lighting in one building so far, generating savings of £27,500 annually; and
- a saving of 200 litres through conversion of vehicles to natural gas.

From an environmental perspective, no exact dollar value can be placed on all of the Greening the Hill accomplishments. As cost-benefit accounting practices are only now evolving to incorporate environmental and resource depletion costs. However, even if the programme's costs and savings resulted in a break-even position, Greening the Hill would be deemed a success, as the tangible environmental improvements identified in this report have been realized at no additional cost to the taxpayer.