

Since 1990, disposable cutlery and dishware has been replaced with china and silverware at a cost of \$64,000 as well as the one-time cost of \$11,000 for a dishwasher. This investment was essential to demonstrate the environmental commitment of the House of Commons and to reduce single-use disposable and packaging waste as much as possible. In order to further reduce disposables, creamer machines were installed to replace individual creamers at a cost of \$7,300.

#### 4.7.3 Miscellaneous Examples

Other impressive examples of creative environmentalism employed by the House follow:

- plastic parking permits issued at the House of Commons are now in reusable form and half the previous size. Although the initial conversion cost was \$2,000, this has eliminated the need to produce more permits, thereby providing a \$2,000 annual saving;
- the House Postal and Distribution branch has purchased Direct Impression Printing equipment for mail. This new technology has not only increased processing efficiency, but also utilizes vegetable-based inks. As well, the process has eliminated the need for over 6.6 million paper labels, which in 1992 cost the House \$45,200;
- block heating timers have been installed for House of Commons vehicles at a one-time cost of \$500. These timers ensure that during the winter months block heaters for House vehicles are not running all night, reducing required electricity by approximately 75%; and
- water filters have been installed in all buildings at the House of Commons to ensure healthier drinking water. The cost associated with this measure was \$20,000.