

### **1.1.5 SHARING OF JURISDICTION**

While the EPA is the federal agency responsible for developing and implementing legislation and regulations at the national level, each state has its own environmental legislation and regulations and its own agencies for applying them.

State legislation and regulations must be either similar to or more stringent than federal laws and regulations. The federal legislation - which applies to all the states - has to be taken as a starting point, an incentive to go further. States may also manage federal environmental programs by delegation. An example is the Hazardous Waste Management Program.

### **1.1.6 REGULATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**

In the 1990s, ecological and economic concerns have become clearly interdependent. Ever since the report of the Brundtland Commission in 1987, the talk everywhere has been of sustainable development. An awareness has taken shape that economic development built on a base of deteriorating resources is no longer viable, and that the environment cannot be protected if development strategies resist taking seriously the costs of environmental destruction.

All levels of government are introducing new laws to face this new environmental challenge. In so doing, they are opening the way for technological innovation and the creation of environmental services.

In the public sector, the development of new technologies is playing a major role. This can be seen in such varied areas as chemical processes, filtering, state-of-the-art biotechnological methods and lasers. U.S environmental legislation and regulations and their aggressive administration by the EPA should inspire Canadian firms to explore the huge American market and seek out partnership opportunities.