

Canada also supports a domestic energy development strategy that includes policies and programs to implement environmentally safe, cost-effective energy systems. Objectives include promoting energy efficiency, reducing demand, increasing the contribution of new and renewable energy sources, and minimizing the adverse effects of energy consumption, often through voluntary actions.

Dealing with transportation issues is crucial to atmospheric protection. Canadian governments have introduced programs to reduce or eliminate price distortions, decrease vehicle emissions, and conserve resources. These actions are part of an overall pollution prevention approach that features a shift to redesigned processes and new technologies that reduce atmospheric impacts. They also form part of Canada's response to transboundary air quality issues with the United States.

Canada has made stratospheric ozone depletion a priority in its research, monitoring, and public information programs. It has met and exceeded its international commitments to eliminate ozone-destroying substances.

Protection of the Oceans and Other Seas

Canada is moving to an approach to oceans issues that integrates environmental and development priorities. The proposed Oceans Act is the legislative framework for an Oceans Management Strategy that will establish an ecosystem approach to the management of the oceans and coasts based on principles of sustainable development.

Protection of marine environments from land- and sea-based threats has been increased by governments through legislation, regulation, and programs. This is consistent with international commitments and domestic priorities. One of those priorities is protection of the Arctic Ocean. Canada is working in concert with other circumpolar states and with the indigenous peoples of the Arctic.

Fisheries issues have been an important part of ocean-related activity. The closure of important Atlantic fisheries has underlined the need for more sustainable approaches. New policies, better training, and more effective fisheries management are among domestic responses. Canada encouraged a complementary international response to protect adjacent high seas fisheries. Sharply improved controls on fishing by all states in the northwest Atlantic have been negotiated.

Canada also played a key role in the new high seas fishing agreement that will close a serious gap in the international legal regime for the conservation of fish stocks on the high seas. It has cooperated with other states, particularly developing countries, to address a range of other fisheries and marine pollution issues.

Natural Resources Canada has set new priorities for its Program on Energy Research and Development, including research initiatives on greenhouse gases, climate interactions, greenhouse gas abatement and disposal, and the overall impacts of Canada's strategy on the energy sector.