

and climate change solutions), connect businesses with providers of environmental services.

Government Web sites offer a unique opportunity to make information about sustainable development and government services available to Canadians. Government On-Line is the Government of Canada's initiative to deliver programs, services, and information over the Internet and a key component in its plan to improve service to Canadians. This multiyear project will allow citizens to receive information, programs, and services and interact and do business with the Government, all electronically. Government On-Line complements other ways in which services are delivered to Canadians—in person, by mail, and by telephone.

Although the Internet is fast becoming a leading way for Canadians to access information, the Government of Canada uses a variety of means to convey information. Over the past fifteen years or so, many government sustainability reports have been designed for, and made available to, both decision makers and the interested Canadian public. These reports make environmental information more accessible by integrating it, presenting it in a reader-friendly style, and interpreting it in light of sustainability goals for Canada. For example, federal and provincial/territorial departments' reports on the state of the environment, as well as Environment Canada's *The State of Canada's Environment—1996*, provide comprehensive information on the status of, and trends in, the Canadian environment.

Public Awareness

To inform the public of sustainability issues and offer concrete ways that these issues can be tackled at the grassroots level, the Government of Canada runs a variety of public information programs. It also offers information tools to help in making household and business decisions that support sustainable development. The following are three examples.

- The EnerGuide program for appliances, heating and cooling equipment, houses, and vehicles helps consumers consider energy-efficiency ratings when purchasing these items.
- The Auto\$mart Program encourages motorists to buy, drive, and maintain their vehicles in ways that reduce fuel consumption, save money, and benefit the environment.

Canadian Environmental Solutions

Canadian Environmental Solutions is a portable, multimedia information tool designed to provide an instant response to specific environmental problems or situations encountered by all sectors of the economy in both domestic and international markets. Through the use of widely accessible media, such as CD-ROM or the Internet, it provides a compendium of problems encountered in the environment worldwide and the products, technologies, and services that Canadian companies can deliver to resolve them.

The Green Lane

The Green Lane, Environment Canada's Internet presence, is a large and diverse information resource on sustainable development, climate change, clean air, water, weather, and nature. Following a strategic review of the site, Environment Canada is renewing content, navigation, and infrastructure and will place increased emphasis on ongoing audience research to ensure the information provided meets the information needs of Canadians.