

In Europe, Austria is successfully promoting commercial and residential wood pellet and wood chip heating systems. Brazil's new government has pledged to save the rainforests of Amazonia, and local initiatives are being taken to remediate coal mines and contaminated waterways. Toyota of Japan has a seven-seat gasoline/ electric hybrid van on the market and is developing a hydrogen/ electric hybrid.

Now that Canada has ratified the Kyoto Protocol, our goals must be to find the best ways to implement it in order to meet its targets of greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Many corporations are already taking a lead. TransAlta has bought VisionQuest Electric; a traditional energy company now owns wind farms. Suncor and Enbridge, traditional energy giants, are partners in the Sunbridge Wind Farm in Saskatchewan. Ontario Power Generation has a new wind farm in Kincardine, Ontario.

The European Union has over 20,000 megawatts of wind power. Although we lag behind that number, we are catching up as government incentives and private-sector vision spur on the industry. The proposed Nai Kun Off-Shore Wind Power project in the Hecate Strait, off the Queen Charlotte Islands in B.C., would alone add 750 megawatts of wind power to Canada's present capacity.

Wind and solar power, hydro power, urban greening and environmentally efficient architecture and construction are all helping to reduce the country's toxic emissions. In Canada and around the world, solutions are being sought for the recycling of solid, electronic and hazardous wastes and their disposal, as well as for solutions to clean air, water and soil. These solutions will be found. Our roles as a nation, corporations and individuals are to each do our share in implementing not only the Kyoto Protocol but all manner of behaviour which can result in a sustainable, clean and healthy environment.

My work is to continue to monitor environmental innovations and follow the progress of sustainable development in Canada and abroad. I will then report to Cabinet on my findings.

Together, as well as individually, we can and must make a difference.

Hilbert Parent

Conferences Attended as Speaker and/or Participant

American Council on Renewable Energy, Washington, D.C.

- spoke on Canada's renewable energies and technologies

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2002, New Delhi, India

- spoke on governance structures and processes for sustainable development