

- information that responds to the needs of a broad range of users, including citizens, policy makers, and resource managers.

## **Core Data Sets**

Core data sets form the foundation on which sustainable development information is built. These data sets take years to build and must evolve to meet changing demands for information. Following are examples of national databases that are maintained in Canada.

### **Land and Soil Resources**

The National Soil DataBase, maintained by the Canadian Soil Information System of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, is the national archive for land resources information on soil, landscape, and climate, collected by federal and provincial field surveys or created by land data analysis projects. The database includes GIS coverages at a variety of scales and the characteristics of each named soil series.

### **Topography**

The National Topographic Data Base is a digital data base developed by Geomatics Canada of Natural Resources Canada. It covers the entire Canadian landmass and contains the features normally found on topographic maps at the scales of 1:50 000 and 1:250 000: hydrography, hypsography (contours), vegetation, the road network, the rail network, the electric power network, designated areas, land forms, wetlands, and anthropogenic features.

### **Energy**

The National Energy Use Database Initiative supports the development of energy end-use data in all sectors of the economy by reviewing existing data and assessing information needs, expanding existing surveys or creating new ones to meet these data needs, and establishing energy end-use data and analysis centres at selected universities in Canada.

The Energy Statistics Handbook, jointly published by Natural Resources Canada and Statistics Canada in both print and electronic format, provides current monthly and historical annual energy data covering the last twelve years. It is a compendium of energy-related general indicators; data on energy commodity reserves; monthly and annual primary energy demand and supply data; energy trade, demand, and supply balances for individual energy commodities; and pricing and capital expenditure data.