

Environmental priorities for property and materiel management are not mutually exclusive. Decisions made in one area can, and often will, have a direct impact on another area.

**a. Procurement**

The federal government is the single largest enterprise in Canada, with annual expenditures of about \$125 billion. As such, the federal government can make a substantial contribution to the development of improved environmental technologies and products through its purchasing power.

DFAIT has a particular opportunity to use its procurement practices to promote Canadian environmental technology and services abroad.

At missions abroad, the quality of goods and services varies widely and it is sometimes difficult to meet Canadian manufacturing and disposal standards in foreign jurisdictions.

**b. Waste Reduction**

Landfill sites for solid waste are under increasing pressure and costs of garbage disposal have increased four to six times in the past decade. As well, restrictions are being placed on types of materials accepted at landfill sites.

While DFAIT makes only minimal use of toxic and hazardous materials at DFAIT facilities, care needs to be taken to ensure their proper management and disposal.

In the typical DFAIT office environment, paper waste accounts for 60-80% of the total waste stream. The challenge is to reduce this waste and manage it in an environmentally sound way.

Two essential elements of successful waste reduction program are:

- a.) employee support and participation in a waste reduction program; and
- b.) user friendly waste management facilities.

A waste audit and waste management plan for the Pearson Building have been initiated.

**c. Energy and Water Conservation**

The use of "green" appliances and equipment offers considerable potential for operational cost savings and reducing energy and water consumption.

Under the Federal Buildings Initiative, federal government properties across Canada are being retrofitted to reduce energy consumption. To date, the initiative has not been applied to DFAIT properties in Canada or abroad.

**d. Fleet Management**