

*Private Members' Business*

program planning as well as day-to-day operations of the federal Government of Canada across our land.

It will also ensure that operations and activities of the federal government not only meet but exceed the standards and practices that the government recommends to others. Indeed, this is a tall order but it is a strong objective that we must put and hold forward in front of us all the time, working towards.

Like the green plan itself, the stewardship initiative will be comprehensive, covering a wide range of issues rather than just one or two environmental areas. It is also similar to the green plan by taking a long-term approach, recognizing that there is no overnight solution.

This involved not just the changing of law, but in fact it involves the changing of attitude of legislators, of Canadians and the whole society needs to start thinking in these environmental terms.

It is not going to be easy to change these attitudes, but if we do not start now, it of course is never going to occur. We have to do this in a comprehensive and methodical manner as well.

The code that we will first establish will be complimented by a list of specific targets or objectives covering a number of issues from waste generation to energy efficiency, both the kinds of things that have been talked about by the hon. member. These objectives will be government-wide, applying to all departments and all agencies. This kind of comprehensiveness was not thought of 10 years ago. I am glad to see that it is at least being thought of and I wish the government success and, in fact, being this comprehensive and all inclusive.

Because of the nature of departmental operations, some targets will be implemented to a greater extent in some departments than others. We have to recognize, in the initial years, that some departments have a greater capacity to respond than others but, of course, we have to take it as it comes and we have to be diligent to the over-all comprehensive view.

For example, only about 20 departments are custodial departments, meaning that they own real property. Of course, through that ownership, ownership is equated to control. An objective relating to real property management such as efficient water use, for example, could only

be instituted by custodial departments. Therefore, we can move a little faster in these areas.

It might also be possible to realize more significant reduction in water usage in some special purpose buildings such as laboratories than others such as a general public office building where in fact we have public use of a public facility. We, again, have some limitations and that gets to the issue of educating the public generally.

Some other departments are tenants of Public Works Canada or even of the private sector. Tenant behaviour will always have a role in such initiatives, but not nearly to the same extent as facility modifications.

Each department and agency will be required to develop an environmental action plan, indicating how they will implement the code and the targets in their operation. These action plans will be made public and reports on progress will be made regularly. It will be in these plans that the unique aspects of departmental operations will be reflected since the government-wide objectives can only relate to common, environmental issues which apply to a broad scope of departmental operations.

Departmental action plans will be updated every year or, in some cases, more frequently if required. As departments assess their operations in greater depth, they will gain a better understanding of what needs to be done and appropriate time frames and cost estimates established. Some of the initial aspects of the plan will likely be assessing situations and gathering the necessary data and information to implement the targets.

To facilitate the adoption of the code and targets, an office of environmental stewardship will be established. This is a very important announcement and step to take. First of all, have to establish a structure and this will have to be done through this office of environmental stewardship. It will act as a focal point for the initiative providing co-ordination, information and guidance to the departments. It will also establish a series of stewardship directives at federal employees to raise their awareness and encourage their co-operation in implementing the codes and the target. I know we have spoken of this often in the environment committee. You can implement a program, but without an adequate education program to teach people how and why and the importance of it and to gain their commitment, in fact it will never be fully implemented. So I am very pleased that