

Canada intends to expand its national database to track changes to ambient air quality and atmospheric deposition more comprehensively and to estimate contributions from transboundary (interprovincial and international) sources.

Canada is expanding its setting of critical loads (level of deposition causing insignificant environmental harm). These limits are established through broad consultation between federal and provincial governments, industry representatives, and public interest groups. Objectives for atmospheric pollutants are being expanded to include hazardous air pollutants. The research examines the appropriateness of setting objectives for some pollutants that have direct negative impacts on human health.

Toward Sustainable Energy Development

Canada supports environmentally safe, cost-effective energy systems. Promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources minimizes the adverse effects of energy consumption and may promote opportunities for new businesses.

Canada's National Action Program on Climate Change (NAPCC) sets the course for meeting Canada's commitments under the Framework Convention on Climate Change in the areas of climate change mitigation, adaptation, research and education, and international cooperation. All provincial and territorial governments have now committed to the NAPCC and will be reporting on their initiatives to reduce the rate of increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases. Most of this activity relies on more efficient use of energy resources and substitution with renewable sources where feasible. Canada intends to stabilize its emissions of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels by the year 2000 and to develop sustainable options to achieve further progress in the reduction of emissions by 2005. Several jurisdictions are promoting efficiency based on the opportunities to reduce other environmental impacts, including deterioration of ambient air quality and acid deposition.

The Efficiency and Alternative Energy Program consists of thirty-seven regulatory, information, and research and development initiatives. It encourages, for example, using model National Energy Codes for buildings and houses, setting voluntary energy-efficiency targets, and fostering the adoption of emerging, more energy-efficient technologies and alternative transportation fuels.

Several Canadian municipalities intend to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent of 1988 baseline levels by 2005. These municipalities have formed the "20% Club" to share cost-effective strategies for mitigation.

Internationally, Canada helps build capacity in developing countries so that they can begin to address the environmental consequences of energy development and use. Much of this work is accomplished through multilateral vehicles like the Global Environment Facility, where Canada is an active participant. Canada also contributes to the secretariats of various conventions (climate change and biodiversity), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank.

The Government of Canada recognizes that it must show leadership by putting the federal house in order. The federal government will aim, with respect to its own operations, to surpass the goal to stabilize its greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000 and to reduce them by 20 percent by the year 2005.