

Under the NO_x/VOC Management Plan, new emission guidelines have been developed for power plants, gas turbine and compressor engines, and a range of other sources such as fuel and volatile compound storage and handling facilities. Stricter standards for vehicles and industrial emission sources such as boilers are being developed.

The National Pollutants Release Inventory is a legislated, nationwide, publicly accessible database of pollutant releases and transfers in Canada (Web site: <http://www.doe.ca/pdb/npri.html>). It provides information on on-site releases to air, water, and land, as well as the transfer, off-site in wastes, of 176 substances. Data are collected annually from over 1800 facilities representing all major industries.

The Challenge of Sustainable Transportation

Canada's transportation priorities put an emphasis on safety, resource conservation, and the prevention, reduction, or elimination of pollution. Through developing cleaner vehicles and fuels, investing in energy-efficient transportation systems, and reducing travel demand through influencing lifestyle choices and urban planning, Canada is attempting to reduce undesirable emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds.

A Transportation and Climate Change Collaborative has produced recommendations on full cost transportation pricing and other related issues. These recommendations will help Canada to develop sustainable transportation systems by decreasing market distortions caused by subsidies and other externalities. The recent endorsement of the recommendations of the Task Force on Cleaner Vehicles and Fuels will result in new standards for cleaner gasoline and diesel fuel in Canada and initiate a new program for low-emission vehicles no later than 2001.

The National Biomass Ethanol Program is designed to increase ethanol use. Financial support is also available for vehicle conversion to natural gas and to establish natural gas refuelling stations. The use of auto propane to provide markets for excess refinery by-products is being encouraged in Newfoundland and New Brunswick. Canadian industry, automobile manufacturers, auto-parts manufacturers, and natural gas distributors have recently formed a Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV) Alliance to increase NGVs in Canada from 38,000 to 300,000 by 2005. Natural gas buses operate in nine Canadian cities.

British Columbia's "Air Care", Canada's first in-use vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program, has tested one million light-duty vehicles. The result is 113,000 fewer tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and 25 million fewer litres of gasoline consumed in British Columbia's lower mainland.

Promoting Pollution Prevention

The federal pollution prevention strategy (Pollution Prevention: A Federal Strategy for Action) encourages firms to move away from end-of-pipe solutions toward anticipating and preventing damage to the environment. The results are new products, technologies, and processes that reduce stresses on the environment.

Voluntary programs under way build on existing regulatory and economic measures. These measures include initiatives such as the Accelerated Reduction/Elimination of Toxics Program, which has been discussed in previous reports.

Raising Awareness of Conservation

Last year's CSD report noted in the sections on land use, biological diversity, and agriculture and rural development that Canadian governments have set aside protected