

PART II, SECTION III

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

TECHNOLOGY

Introduction

A fundamental tenet of Agenda 21 is that significant advances in the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies are essential in achieving sustainable development. During the 1992–1995 period, Canada made solid progress in transferring technology both within the country and abroad. Key elements in this progress include the development of public policies that encourage the use and transfer of clean technologies; a strong Canadian environment industry; private sector initiatives; as well as work between governments, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and other domestic and international partners.

Public Policies and Initiatives

Canadian governments have established policies and initiatives that facilitate the use and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. The federal policy on pollution prevention, for example, encourages industry to focus on innovative "clean" technologies and practices and to move away from "end-of-pipe" solutions. The use of various environmental management tools such as regulations, voluntary actions, and economic instruments also help shape the technology transfer and advancement process. Governmental "green industry" initiatives, such as the Canadian government's Canadian Environmental Industry Strategy (CEIS), foster Canadian technologies and the environment industry.

The Canadian Environment Industry—An Enabling Industry

Canada has developed a strong environment industry sector that is expected to grow annually by 10 percent over the next five years. Sales are expected to reach \$22 billion by the year 2000. The sector is now represented by the Canadian Environment Industry Association, an umbrella organization for nine autonomous provincial/territorial associations. The industry meets emerging technological needs in many other industrial sectors in Canada as well as abroad. Environmental technologies, processes, products, and services developed domestically play an instrumental role in developing Canada's resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. For example, new technologies