

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A Canadian Perspective

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, economic progress has been greatly influenced by the development and use of energy. Energy is the essential common factor in lighting, heating, cooling, food storage and preparation, the transformation of raw materials into finished products, transportation, and communications. Over time, societies have developed by expanding the range of these energy services and by adopting more efficient and less disruptive ways of providing them.

Energy will continue to fuel economic activity and social development in Canada and other nations. At the same time, energy production, transportation, and use have significant environmental implications. Energy must be managed efficiently and responsibly to ensure that increased economic output is accompanied, domestically and globally, by improvements in the overall quality of life, including the quality of the natural environment. In short, energy is an integral element in meeting the objectives of sustainable development.

This monograph provides a Canadian perspective on the issues of energy and sustainable development, from both domestic and international standpoints. As will be illustrated in this document, Canada is a leader in devising and implementing energy options for sustainable development and is committed to working with other members of the global community to pursue this crucial objective worldwide.

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CANADIAN CONTEXT

Evolution of the Energy Economy in Canada

Canada is fortunate to have secure, reliable, and diverse sources of energy, which have played an important role in the country's economic growth, helping major industries become established and compete internationally. Over the decades, major investments in Canada's energy infrastructure have supported this economic development and contributed to the quality of life enjoyed by Canadians.