

Sustainable Consumption and Production

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Sustainable Development continues to evolve

- Stockholm Conference, 1972
- World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), 1983
- Brundtland Report, 1987
- Rio Earth Summit (Agenda 21), 1992
- World Summit Sustainable Development, 2002
- Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (10-year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production)

along with the concepts of Sustainable Consumption & Production

- The emphasis of *sustainable production* is on the supply side of the equation focusing on improving environmental performance in key economic sectors.
- *Sustainable consumption* addresses the demand side, looking at how the goods and services required to meet basic needs and improve quality of life can be delivered in ways that reduce the burden on the Earth's carrying capacity.

At the world summit, nations re-committed to advancing SCP

- Established 10-year Framework of programs to advance sustainable consumption & production
- Endorsed by G8 Environment Ministers (2003)
- Encourages integration of sustainable consumption and production into national “sectoral policies”
- Many countries and regions of the world have established policies and programs aligned with the “10 year framework”
- 2nd Experts Meeting to take place in September

Canada is responding to the challenge.

- Primary focus of governments was on pipes and stacks
- Recognize need to better position Canada to address key issues in both production and consumption
- Development of Competitiveness and Environmental Sustainability Framework
- Recognition of highly complex nature of the “sustainability challenge”

The Competitiveness and Environmental Sustainability Framework sets the direction.

- Framework includes Sector Sustainability Tables which will focus on the “value chain”
- Sustainable consumption is key to implementation of the Framework
- Responding to increasing demand from communities and cities for leadership and expertise
- Follow-up to international commitment to advance Sustainable Consumption and Production


There is an important role for business, municipalities, SMEs and individuals

- Create conditions to improve environmental performance
- Identify & generate innovative improvements
- Provide leadership & expertise
- Provide capacity to utilize information
- Influence development of sustainable approaches
- Create conditions to adopt patterns of sustainable consumption

Role of Communities

- Urbanisation and population growth, coupled with increasingly unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, are placing severe strains on the global environment
- Need to better address the link between environmental sustainability, economic competitiveness, and quality of life
- UNEP's Cities as Sustainable Ecosystems (CASE) model and the Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities

Concluding Remarks

- Canada has programs in place that address the production or “supply” side of the equation and, the CESF will enhance that approach
- Canada also has experience in providing information on the “demand” side where Canadians can make informed decisions
 - Environmental Choice Program 
 - EnerGuide
 - Energy Star
 - The focus of the demand side is being expanded to include, for example, “One Tonne Challenge.”

Next Steps

- Develop a federal policy on Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Integrate life cycle assessment and management into Sector Sustainability Tables
- Engage provincially and internationally to send same signal to producers and consumers