



# A Pollution Prevention (P2) Plan for Nova Scotia Environment and Labour

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Presentation to C2P2 Roundtable 2006



**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Environment and Labour

# Towards a Sustainable Environment

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## a.k.a. “The Green Plan”

- ▶ *Released by Nova Scotia government in 2003*
- ▶ *Committed government to:*
  - ▶ *“promote pollution prevention”*
  - ▶ *develop a government Environmental Management Policy ( November, 2005)*
  - ▶ *take a leadership role by managing its own operations in an environmentally responsible manner*
  - ▶ *“adopt ...green- procurement standards”*

# Green Plan Commitments

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- ▶ *The **Green Plan** also committed Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (NSEL) to develop a pollution prevention plan for it's own operations*
- ▶ *In doing so, it could provide leadership to other departments*

# Overview of the Department

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*Approx. 473 staff in 23 offices across NS*

*Areas of responsibility include:*

- ▶ *environmental protection*
- ▶ *occupational health and safety*
- ▶ *building and equipment safety*
- ▶ *credit unions, pensions  
and, insurance*
- ▶ *alcohol and gaming regulation*



*= a variety of physical locations and  
a variety of corporate cultures*

# We do have an Impact !

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## **NSEL**

- ▶ **Purchases \$9 million of goods and services annually**
  - ▶ **opportunity for green purchasing**
- ▶ **Leases space in 23 buildings**
  - ▶ **opportunity for energy or water use reduction**
- ▶ **Maintains a fleet of 26 vehicles**
  - ▶ **opportunity for increasing fuel efficiency**



# Goals of the Department P2 Plan

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## ***Three Pillars:***

- ▶ ***Reduce our use of toxic substances***
- ▶ ***Reduce the amount of waste produced***
- ▶ ***Reduce the amount of green house gasses produced***



# Priority Focus Areas

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*Priorities identified by staff in focus sessions held in November 2003*

- ▶ *Greening our facilities*
- ▶ *Sustainable transportation*
- ▶ *Greening our purchasing*
- ▶ *Informing and engaging staff*



# Developing the Department P2 Plan

## Twin Track Approach

*On the ground projects to build and sustain momentum*

*Ongoing work on longer term policy framework required to support action*



# Where Are We Now ?

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- ▶ *Focus sessions with staff*
- ▶ *Main and sub committees established*
- ▶ *Intranet website established*
- ▶ *Baseline data collection (all regional and district offices visited in 2005 )*
- ▶ *Emails and contests (collect additional ideas from staff)*
- ▶ *Visits/presentations to all offices*

# The Policy Framework

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- ▶ **P2 Commitment Statement**
- ▶ **Green Procurement Policy**
- ▶ **Sustainable Transportation Policy**



# Greening Our Facilities

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- ▶ *Energy, water use pilot in Bridgewater office*
- ▶ *Energy efficiency audit in Halifax office in 2005*
- ▶ *Draft Janitorial Specs – piloted in 2 offices*



**NSEL Bridgewater Office**

# Sustainable Transportation

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- ▶ ***Sustainable Transportation Policy***
- ▶ ***Hybrid demos***
- ▶ ***Hybrid SUV (2 purchased )***
- ▶ ***Hybrid cars ( 2 Civics leased)***
- ▶ ***Fleet bike***
- ▶ ***Bike safety & repair sessions***
- ▶ ***Vehicle Maintenance / Tire Pressure clinics***



**Halifax Traffic**

# Greening Our Purchasing

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- ▶ ***Green procurement policy***
- ▶ ***Green purchasing specs***
  - ▶ ***Paper with recycled content***
  - ▶ ***Office printers***
  - ▶ ***Green meetings***
  - ▶ ***Bulk Print jobs***
  - ▶ ***Vehicles***
  - ▶ ***Janitorial services***
  - ▶ ***Phone book reduction from 250 down to 60 ( 76% reduction)***



# Informing and Engaging Staff

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## *Key messages ...*

- ▶ *NSEL is developing a pollution prevention plan*
- ▶ *The committees need help/input to create a plan that makes sense for every division*
- ▶ *P2 links strongly to the goals of our existing OHS program*
- ▶ *“Let’s all walk the talk” - NSEL should be setting the bar on both environment and worker health and safety*

# Engaging Staff

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## *Promoting small changes ...*

- ▶ ***“Sleep” or turn off computer monitor when not in use***
  - ▶ *Your monitor uses 75% of total energy used by your computer (source BC Hydro)*
- ▶ ***Use less paper – print only what you need – print double sided***
  - ▶ *Estimates suggest that up to 1/3 of printed material is never used or read and discarded immediately (source Morris Library – III.)*
- ▶ ***Vehicles maintenance***
  - ▶ *A poorly maintained vehicle can increase fuel consumption*
  - ▶ *Under inflation can substantially reduce tire life*

# Engaging Staff

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## *The challenge of engaging all offices*

- ▶ *Presentations*
- ▶ *P2 bulletin boards*
- ▶ *The “Green Network”*
- ▶ *Emails, events and contests*
- ▶ *Internal website “Think Green”*

# Engaging Staff

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## *Think Green Website :*

- ▶ ***Policies***
- ▶ ***Action plans***
- ▶ ***How- to fact sheets***
  - ▶ ***Vehicle Selection, Driving Tips, Highlander Hybrid, Escape Hybrid, Civic Hybrid, Greening meetings and Events, Greening Facilities, Green Bulk Printing, Paper Use Reduction, Records Management, Greening Your Office***
- ▶ ***Public requests – fact sheets and policies are doing double duty***



# Engaging Staff

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***Above all – have fun !***

- ▶ ***“Down with disposables “ – mugs***
- ▶ ***The S.O.T ( re: the dastardly disposable cup offence)***
- ▶ ***Vehicle Maintenance Clinic***



**The prize for “worst”  
tire pressure – Bedford  
Office**

# Lessons Learned ...

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- ▶ ***Top down + bottom up = success***
- ▶ ***Communication is key***
  - ▶ *and modify the message to fit the corporate culture(s)*
- ▶ ***Find your champion(s)***
  - ▶ *champions come from all over not just senior management (see bullet #1)*
- ▶ ***Learn by doing***
  - ▶ *an alternative to front end teaching*
- ▶ ***Ensure committee member ship is not static***
  - ▶ *new ideas and fresh perspectives are very important*

# Hundreds of little changes ...

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*If you think you are too small to make a difference  
...you've never been in a tent with a mosquito !*

