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CANADIAN HERITAGE

2014-17

Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy



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Federal Sustainable Development Strategy



Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability to meet those of future generations. It contributes to our quality of life by protecting human health, conserving the environment, developing resources wisely and strengthening long-term economic competitiveness. It requires the integration of environmental, economic and social priorities into policies and programs and requires stakeholder involvement at all levels - citizens, consumers, investors, and governments.

Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS)

The *Federal Sustainable Development Act* (FSDA) passed by Parliament in 2008 requires the Government of Canada to develop and implement a Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS). The FSDS is updated every three years to report on the measures taken to study sustainable development and to state the priorities remaining to be addressed.

The FSDS provides Canadians with a whole-of-government view of environmental priorities at the federal level. The FSDS also includes requirements to make environmental decision-making and performance reporting more transparent. The FSDS requires whole-of-government action to achieve common targets and objectives in key areas such as air and climate change, water, nature and shrinking the government's environmental footprint.

The first cycle of the FSDS, covering the period 2010-13, was tabled in Parliament in October 2010. For the first time, Canadians had a comprehensive picture of measures supporting the government's environmental sustainability initiatives.

Federal Sustainable Development Strategy 2013-16

The second cycle of the FSDS, released in November 2013, builds on the first cycle with a broadened view of the federal government's priorities and actions to achieve environmental sustainability.

The second cycle builds on three key improvements made to Canada's first FSDS, compared with previous federal approaches to sustainable development:

- An integrated, whole-of-government picture of measures and results for achieving environmental sustainability;

- A link between sustainable development planning and reporting and the government's core planning and reporting processes; and
- Effective measurement, monitoring and reporting for tracking and reporting on progress to Canadians.

Canadian Heritage's Sustainable Development Strategies

The Department of Canadian Heritage subscribes to the basic principle, set out in the FSDA, that “sustainable development is based on an ecologically efficient use of natural, social and economic resources and acknowledges the need to integrate environmental, economic and social factors in the making of its decisions.”

The Department of Canadian Heritage takes part in the implementation of the FSDS by developing and updating its own *Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy* (DSDS) as set out in the FSDA. This departmental strategy is integrated with the annual Report on Plans and Priorities (RPP), and the Department reports on it through the Departmental Performance Report (DPR).

Canadian Heritage's DSDS includes departmental objectives and action plans, reflects its mandate and is compliant with the FSDS, thus helping to achieve the purpose of the FSDA. Canadian Heritage's DSDS objective is to ensure that the environmental impact of the Department's decisions is understood, weighed and dealt with satisfactorily.

Over the next three years, the Department of Canadian Heritage will continue implementing the following measures:

- Integrate sustainable development in operational planning and governance structures¹;
- Contribute to sustainable development as part of the legislative mandate of the Department in compliance with the *Department of Canadian Heritage Act* and other statutes for which the Minister of Canadian Heritage is responsible;²
- Contribute to the *Federal Sustainable Development Strategy* by reducing the environmental footprint of its internal operations (Greening of Government Operations - GGO)³. The Department will continue to change the way it operates by ensuring that specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound objectives for greening government operations are developed and met.

The Department of Canadian Heritage will also continue to work with other federal departments and agencies to develop additional sustainable development strategies making it possible to gradually develop the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development.

¹ This relates to Section 5 of *Federal Sustainable Development Act* (FSDA).

² This relates to Section 11 of the FSDA.

³ This relates to Section 11 of the FSDA.

The Department of Canadian Heritage will carry out the following activities toward the tangible implementation of the DSDS:

- Information (inside the Department)
 - Dissemination of information and tools pertaining to sustainable development; and
 - Dissemination of information on sustainable development on the Department's intranet.
- Coordination and liaison
 - Participation by assistant deputy ministers (ADMs) and directors general on FSDS committees and in the working group; and
 - Attendance at Federal Interdepartmental Group on Sustainable Development (FIGSD) meetings.
- Reporting
 - Establish performance measurement indicators making it possible to describe supported projects that contribute to the FSDS; and
 - Development of RPPs and DPRs align with the FSDS.
- Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)
 - Performing an SEA when necessary under the Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals;
 - Departmental systematization of the SEA process; and
 - Application of the 2012 *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)* to projects supported by the Department.
- Communication
 - Update of the section on sustainable development on the Department's website.

Greening Government Operations and Internal Services

Through its "Internal Services" program the Department of Canadian Heritage is contributing to whole-of-government efforts to sustain environmental viability.

Internal Services bring together the internal operations that support program needs and other departmental obligations. Internal Services are an integral part of the Program Alignment Architecture. The Department's efforts for ongoing improvement of its internal services assist it in fulfilling its mandate and, thereby, in achieving the Canadian government's results.

Through Internal Services, Canadian Heritage is working to achieve greening government operations targets in support of Theme IV of the FSDS, "*Shrinking the Environmental Footprint - Beginning with Government*".

Departmental Decision-Making and Sustainable Development

Management of sustainable development within the Department of Canadian Heritage is the result of responsibility shared among various committees and sectors.

In order to support the process of integrating sustainable development, Canadian Heritage promotes it in the work setting, notably by mobilizing the Sustainable Development Working Group chaired by the Director General, Strategic Policy, Planning and Research.

The main partners of the Departmental Working Group for SDS are:

- Contracting and Material Management Directorate (Financial Management Branch);
- Facilities Management Directorate (within the Human Resources Workplace Management Branch);
- Corporate Services and Real Property, Canadian Conservation Institute (Citizenship and Heritage Sector);
- Strategic Planning Directorate (Strategic Policy, Planning and Corporate Affairs Sector);
- Cabinet and Parliamentary Affairs Directorate (Corporate Secretariate);
- Legal Services; and
- Regional offices.

Moreover, senior management approval for all sustainable development matters is obtained through the RPP and DPR approval processes.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

As set out in the Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals, a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is “the systematic and comprehensive process of evaluating the environmental effects of a policy, plan or program and its alternatives.”

Every department and agency must conduct an SEA of a policy, plan or program proposal when the following two conditions are present:

- The proposal is being submitted to an individual minister or to Cabinet for approval; and
- The implementation of the proposal may have significant environmental impacts, whether positive or negative.

Departments and agencies are also encouraged to conduct an SEA for other policies, plans or programs proposals if circumstances justify it, for example, to help implement departmental or agency goals in sustainable development, or to address public concerns.

The Department of Canadian Heritage supports the integration of this requirement into its decision-making process in order to achieve the Government's goals and targets of the FSDS. The Department prepares Memoranda to Cabinet and Treasury Board Submissions in accordance with A Drafter's Guide to Cabinet Documents, produced by the Privy Council Office, and the Detailed Guidance for Writers portion of the Treasury Board Submissions guide, produced by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat. These two guides include details on the requirements of the *Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program*

Proposals and the Guidelines for Implementing the Cabinet Directive. Within the Department, Cabinet and Parliamentary Affairs and the Financial Management Branch provide overall advice to the organization, in accordance with the above two guides, on the preparation of Memoranda to Cabinet and Treasury Board Submissions. To this date, no preliminary scan has identified environmental effects that required a strategic environmental assessment to be conducted.

Links

Canadian Heritage website: Publications, The Department, *Reports on Plans and Priorities*: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pc-ch/publctn/mindep-eng.cfm>

Environment Canada website, *Federal Sustainable Development Strategy for Canada*, November 2013: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/dd-sd/default.asp?lang=En&n=A22718BA-1>

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency website, *Cabinet Directive on Environmental Assessment of Policy Plan and Program Proposals*, 2010: http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/Content/B/3/1/B3186435-E3D0-4671-8F23-2042A82D3F8F/Cabinet_Directive_on_Environmental_Assessment_of_Policy_Plan_and_Program_Proposals.pdf

Public Works and Government Services Canada website, Greening Government Operations: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ecologisation-greening/index-eng.html>

Privy Council Office website, A Drafter's Guide to Cabinet Documents: <http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/index.asp?lang=eng&page=information&sub=publications&doc=mc/guide-eng.htm>