2024 to 2025 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy Report

Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario

Cat. No.: Iu93-13E-PDF
ISSN: 2818-6672

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Introduction to the 2024 to 2025 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy Report

The 2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) presents the Government of Canada's sustainable development goals and targets, as required by the *Federal Sustainable Development Act*. This is the first FSDS to be framed using the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, while providing a balanced view of the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

In keeping with the purpose of the Act, to ensure decision-making related to sustainable development is transparent and accountable to Parliament, the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario or the Agency) supports the goals laid out in the FSDS—through the activities described in FedDev Ontario's *2023 to 2027 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS)*. This report documents the progress related to FedDev Ontario's DSDS in the fiscal year 2024 to 2025.

The *Federal Sustainable Development Act* also sets out seven principles that must be considered in the development of the FSDS as well as DSDSs. These basic principles have been considered and incorporated in FedDev Ontario's DSDS and the 2024 to 2025 DSDS Report.

To promote coordinated action on sustainable development across the Government of Canada, FedDev Ontario's departmental strategy reports on Canada's progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and advancing the SDGs. The Agency is using the Global Indicator Framework (GIF) and Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets and indicators as support. The Report also captures progress on SDG initiatives that fall outside the scope of the FSDS.

Commitments for FedDev Ontario

GOAL 8: ENCOURAGE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN CANADA

Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) Context:

Through its grants and contributions programs, FedDev Ontario supports the Government of Canada's efforts to encourage inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Canada. FedDev Ontario programs support the development of equitable and sustainable employment and economic opportunities, helping workers, businesses and communities in southern Ontario to transition to a greener and more inclusive economy.

FedDev Ontario contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 primarily through ongoing regional programs that support business scale-up and productivity, strengthening regional innovation ecosystems and foster community economic development and diversification. These programs support businesses and organizations by:

- Investing in small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in southern Ontario to grow, innovate and compete in the long term.
- Investing in organizations that help businesses grow by supporting not-for-profit and community development organizations in southern Ontario.

In 2024 to 2025, FedDev Ontario invested over $172 million in projects that promote sustainable regional and economic growth and resiliency across southern Ontario communities through its ongoing regional programs. These projects leveraged over $3.20 for every dollar invested by the Agency and created or maintained over 3,500 jobs.

The Agency supported clean growth by prioritizing investments in projects with clear environmental benefits. This included projects focused on commercializing and adopting clean technologies, reducing carbon footprint and waste, building green communities, supporting circular economy initiatives, promoting zero-emission vehicles, and localizing supply chains. This year, the Agency invested over $77 million, through ongoing regional programs and the targeted Tourism Growth Program (TGP), and supported 92 projects that demonstrated clean growth outcomes.

Target theme: Support for workers and business

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal '**Encourage inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Canada**' but not a specific FSDS target

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Support workers, businesses and communities	FedDev Ontario will continue to support businesses and communities to transition to a greener economy through the following programs and initiatives: 1. Ongoing regional programs that provide funding to two groups: o SMEs o Organizations that help businesses to grow 2. National and temporary programs	**Performance indicator**: Annual FedDev Ontario expenditure in projects that support clean growth **Starting point**: On average, annual FedDev Ontario expenditures in projects that support clean technology were $24.8M from ongoing regional programs between fiscal years 2019–20 and 2022–23 **Target**: FedDev Ontario is committed to investing a minimum of $35M annually in projects that support clean growth by fiscal year 2025–26	Clean growth is about fostering economic growth that reduces environmental impacts and strengthens resilience to a changing climate. This is done through initiatives (e.g., projects, research and corporate activities) that promote and support clean growth outcomes (e.g., emissions reduction, waste reduction, sustainable jobs, etc.). This can include the introduction of practices to reduce carbon footprint or waste, the adoption or commercialization of clean technologies, circular economy initiatives, greening communities and supply chain localization. FedDev Ontario supports SMEs and organizations that support workers and businesses by implementing initiatives and programs that promote job creation, innovation, business development, clean and inclusive growth, and productivity across southern Ontario.	**Indicator result**: Invested over $77 million in projects that support clean growth in 2024–25 **Notes:** In 2024–25, the Agency supported sustainable economic growth by investing over $76.6 million in clean growth through ongoing regional programs. An additional investment of over $400,000 was made through the Tourism Growth Program.

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			Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition 8.5: Canadians contribute to and benefit from sustainable economic growth GIF Target 8.1: Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries GIF Target 8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value-added and labour-intensive sectors GIF Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	

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			GIF Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	

GOAL 10:
ADVANCE RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TAKE ACTION ON INEQUALITY

Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) Context:

FedDev Ontario contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10 by creating conditions for inclusive regional economic development and by delivering programs that are informed and developed through an intersectional lens. The details on FedDev Ontario's contribution are included in the table outlining initiatives that advance the 2030 Agenda and SDG 10.

During 2024 to 2025, FedDev Ontario continued engaging with Indigenous organizations in southern Ontario to advance the Agency's response to government-wide commitments, including economic reconciliation and implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. This included:

- Accepting applications from First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples on a continuous intake basis (in addition to a fixed program intake schedule for all Agency applicants).
- Ongoing outreach activities to raise awareness of available programming, guide Indigenous-owned and Indigenous-led businesses and organizations in navigating the Agency's programs, as well as connecting them with other federal and regional programming. These efforts have increased the pipeline of projects with Indigenous applicants and strengthened relationships with Indigenous communities.
- Promoting opportunities for Indigenous-owned businesses through the Agency's internal procurement processes.

Additional steps that FedDev Ontario is taking to advance implementation of the Act include ongoing engagement with Indigenous organizations and offering flexibilities, such as allocating dedicated funding for Indigenous tourism initiatives. In 2024 to 2025, the Tourism Growth Program (TGP) provided over $15.3 million in funding across 186 projects. Of this, approximately $2.5 million supported 27 Indigenous-led projects.

Furthermore, FedDev Ontario continues to work towards enhanced Gender-based Analysis (GBA) Plus practices when assessing projects and continues investing in projects to advance the economic participation of equity-seeking groups. From 2024 to 2025, FedDev Ontario invested over $138 million in more than 320 projects assisting diverse populations, including women, Indigenous Peoples, Black Canadians, racialized communities, youth, 2SLGBTQI+, members of official language minority communities, and persons with disabilities.

FedDev Ontario's champions for accessibility and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) continue to support the Agency's commitment to creating an environment that is accessible to all. Together, these champions work with employees to reduce barriers to entry for equity-seeking groups, contribute to a respectful and inclusive workplace and promote programs, policies, practices and services that reflect GBA Plus priorities. During 2024–2025, the Agency continued to work towards being accessible and barrier-free by undertaking action items in its published Accessibility Plan.

Target theme: Advancing reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis communities

Target: Between 2023 and 2026, and every year on an ongoing basis, develop and table annual progress reports on implementing *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada)

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Implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*	In support of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (the UN Declaration Act), include mandatory cultural biases and/or cultural competencies training that focuses on Indigenous Peoples in the learning path for all FedDev Ontario employees and managers **Program:** internal services	**Performance indicator:** Percentage of employees working at FedDev Ontario who have completed cultural biases or cultural competencies training that focuses on Indigenous Peoples **Starting point:** new initiative **Target:** 50% by March 2024 and 75% every fiscal year thereafter	FedDev Ontario employees play a role in reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities through performance of their duties with Indigenous clients, or in the workplace with their Indigenous colleagues. Understanding of the history and rights of Indigenous peoples and awareness of cultural biases will allow FedDev Ontario employees to address potential barriers to positive relationships	**Indicator result:** 87% as of March 31, 2025 **Notes:** FedDev Ontario is committed to advancing the implementation of the *UN Declaration Act* by providing employees with diverse training opportunities that support their ongoing learning journey.

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			Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced GIF Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcomes, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	To commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Agency hosted a fireside chat with an Indigenous business leader to raise awareness on the multi-generational impacts of the Residential School system and to discuss Indigenous Economic Prosperity in the context of reconciliation. In addition, employees were also encouraged to explore a range of internal and external training opportunities that enhanced their cultural sensitivity and deepened their understanding of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples in Canada. These activities included Canada School of Public Service (CSPS) courses, online workshops (e.g., Moose Hide Campaign), Ontario Indigenous Pow Wows, the Kairos Blanket Exercise, the Indigenous Cultural Competency Training Program offered by Ontario Friendship Centres, as well as non-traditional learning options such as community-based events, films, and books.
Implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*	Per the Directive on Procurement Management and the UN Declaration Act Action Plan for 2023 to 2028, ensure a minimum of 5% of the total value of contracts are held by Indigenous businesses	**Performance indicator:** Annual total percentage of contracts with Indigenous businesses **Starting point:** 5% annual target	FedDev Ontario supports Indigenous peoples' full participation in southern Ontario economy by increasing opportunities for First Nations, Inuit and Métis businesses through internal procurement of goods and services	**Indicator result:** 6.66% in 2024-25 **Notes:** FedDev Ontario's Procurement team encourages all Project Authorities (PAs) to

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	Program: internal services	**Target:** At least 5% annually	**Relevant targets or ambitions:** CIF Ambition: Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced GIF Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status GIF target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	consider Indigenous vendors for all tendering processes. FedDev Ontario has taken targeted measures to invite Indigenous businesses to bid on specific procurement projects for the Agency. In addition, all procurement officers at FedDev Ontario have completed the Indigenous consideration in procurement training through the Canada School of Public Service.

Initiatives advancing Canada's implementation of SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

The following initiatives demonstrate how FedDev Ontario's programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Inclusive growth and regional coverage are cross-cutting investment priorities for FedDev Ontario. The Agency prioritizes projects that create new opportunities for underrepresented groups and promote growth across urban centres and small and rural communities alike.	Through these initiatives, FedDev Ontario contributes to advancing: • The CIF ambition of "Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced" • The GIF Target 10.2: "By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status" • The GIF target 10.3: "Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard"	• In 2024–25, FedDev Ontario invested over $138 million in more than 320 projects assisting women, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples, Black Canadians, racialized communities, youth, 2SLGBTQI+, members of official language minority communities and persons with disabilities. • The Agency also supported the Government of Canada's commitment to increasing rural economic growth, investing nearly $57 million in more than 190 rural projects during the 2024–25 fiscal year.
FedDev Ontario will continue to implement targeted strategies and initiatives, and leverage key relationships to broaden access to Agency programs and services, including: ○ **The Black Entrepreneurship Program (BEP) Ecosystem Fund**, a time limited initiative that supports Black-led not-for-profit organizations to develop new services or expand those they already offer, such as mentorship, networking, financial planning and business training for Black entrepreneurs. ○ **The Economic Development Initiative (EDI)**. See description under Goal 8. ○ A dedicated service to provide southern Ontario's Indigenous-owned businesses and not-for-profit organizations with guidance and support in navigating the Agency's available programming, and resources to increase participation of First Nation, Inuit and Métis Peoples in the southern Ontario economy.		• In 2024–25, FedDev Ontario supported over 900 Black Canadian business owners and entrepreneurs through the BEP Ecosystem Fund to help overcome barriers to improving their businesses. • Through the BEP Ecosystem Fund and EDI, the Agency invested nearly $10 million in 27 projects. • Through its outreach activities, FedDev Ontario continued to work with Indigenous partners to find pathways and identify opportunities to invest in and advance the interests of these communities.
Through voluntary self-identification in funding application forms, FedDev Ontario collects inclusivity data and identifies applicants that are part of an underrepresented group. This self-identification helps identify any existing gaps regarding program reach and also supports FedDev Ontario in prioritizing projects that can demonstrate how they support inclusive growth and increase the participation of underrepresented groups in the economy.		In 2024–25, FedDev Ontario delivered the TGP for the second consecutive year, and supported over 185 projects, invested more than $15.3 million, and created or maintained nearly 600 jobs across the region. The Budget 2021 recovery initiatives, including the JGF, TRF and ARRI, concluded on March 31, 2024, and therefore did not contribute to investments made during 2024–25.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
FedDev Ontario also reports annually in its Departmental Results Reports on the reach of its investments, including in projects that advance the economic participation of underrepresented groups. This includes reporting results from initiatives such as the Tourism Growth Program and temporary initiatives identified in Budget 2021. The Tourism Growth Program (TGP) which supports southern Ontario's tourism sector, including Indigenous-owned businesses and tourism organizations with growth-oriented project proposals. Budget 2021 initiatives offered support for up to 100% of eligible project costs for projects led by Indigenous businesses and organizations. One of the priorities of these initiatives is to support projects that improve diversity and inclusion. Budget 2021 recovery initiatives, which ends March 31, 2024, include: • The **Jobs and Growth Fund (JGF),** which provides funding to businesses and organizations to help create jobs and position local economies for long-term growth. • The **Tourism Relief Fund (TRF**), which supports tourism organizations to adapt their operations while investing in products and services for future growth. • The **Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative (ARRI),** which supports SMEs in the Canadian aerospace sector to emerge from the pandemic with the capacity to compete on the global stage. Under the TRF, dedicated funding has been allocated to support Indigenous tourism initiatives.		

GOAL 12: REDUCE WASTE AND TRANSITION TO ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES

Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) Context:

FedDev Ontario is committed to supporting the transition to a low carbon economy through its grants and contributions programs and by greening its operations. Together, these activities help to advance the Government of Canada's target of net zero emissions by 2050 and prioritize a more circular economy.

Through its grants and contributions programs, FedDev Ontario is:

- Prioritizing investments in clean growth, including zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) that enable both short- and long-term emissions reductions. Since 2015, FedDev Ontario has invested over $122 million in electric vehicle-related projects and the Minister and Agency officials have been actively engaged with ZEV stakeholders and communities at the forefront of the transition.
- Continuously improving programs to emphasize our support for projects that accelerate adoption of productivity-enhancing technologies, and help traditional, emerging and critical sectors adopt new, cleaner technologies or processes.

As a small federal organization, FedDev Ontario does not own real property facilities. However, the Agency is taking action to reduce waste by implementing strategies that improve the environmental performance and sustainability of the organization. This includes:

- Continuing to align our procurement practices with the Greening Government Strategy.
- Ensuring that procurement personnel are knowledgeable on procurement processes to improve environmental performance and adopt practices that will favour the procurement of goods that contribute to waste reduction, as well as sustainable disposing of assets.

Target theme: Federal Leadership on Responsible Consumption

Target: By 2030, the Government of Canada will divert from landfill at least 75% by weight of non-hazardous operational waste (All Ministers)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Maximize diversion of waste from landfill	IT assets scheduled for disposal and not accepted by the Computers for Schools Plus (CFS+) program will be disposed using an e-waste program which disposes of IT assets safely and securely **Program:** internal services	**Performance indicator:** percentage of IT assets scheduled for disposal and not accepted by CFS+ that will be disposed using an e-waste program **Starting Point:** 100% in 2022–23 **Target:** 100% of IT assets that are scheduled for disposal by 2027	E-waste, if not disposed of safely, can be harmful to human health and the environment. Additionally, the parts that make up electronics, such as steel, glass, copper, aluminum, iron, plastics and precious metals, can be recovered and made into new products. Through participation in an e-waste program, FedDev Ontario supports safe disposal of e-waste and its re-use and recycling. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** **CIF Ambition/Target:** Canadians consume in a sustainable manner **GIF Target 12.5:** By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse **GIF Target 12.7:** Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	**Indicator result:** 100% of IT assets scheduled for disposal in 2024–25 that were not accepted by CFS+ were disposed of through an e-waste program.
Maximize diversion of waste from landfill	Reduce the intake of paper proposals from supplier community by establishing an	**Performance indicator:** percentage of competitive procurement proposals received through an e-bidding process	FedDev Ontario supports waste reduction efforts by preventing and reducing the	**Indicator result:** 100% in 2024–2025

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	e-bidding requirement in competitive processes **Program:** internal services	**Starting Point:** 90% in fiscal year 2022–23 **Target:** Maintain 90% annually	generation of paper waste through the procurement intake process. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** CIF Ambition/Target: Canadians consume in a sustainable manner GIF Target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse GIF Target 12.7: Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	**Notes:** FedDev Ontario accepts primarily bids/quotes electronically for all tendering processes. Procurement documents are available in digital format and are shared with the project authority.

Target: The Government of Canada's procurement of goods and services will be net-zero emissions by 2050, to aid the transition to a net-zero, circular economy (All Ministers)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Strengthen green procurement criteria	Ensure all procurement and materiel management specialists are trained in green procurement (such as the Canada School of Public Service course on green procurement, or equivalent) within one year of being identified for training **Program:** internal services	**Performance indicator:** percentage of specialists in procurement and/or materiel management who have completed the Canada School of Public Service Green Procurement course or equivalent **Starting point:** 100% of procurement and materiel management team in 2022–23 **Target:** 100% annually	Through increased promotion and awareness of environmental sustainability in procurement processes, FedDev Ontario supports transition to a sustainable, circular economy. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** CIF Ambition/Target: Canadians consume in a sustainable manner GIF Target 12.7: Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	**Indicator result:** 100% in 2024–25 **Notes:** All procurement officers at FedDev Ontario have completed the green procurement training through the Canada School of Public Service. Green considerations are included in all requests for proposal tendering processes, where applicable.

GOAL 13: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) Context:

While FedDev Ontario does not own real property assets, it is committed to taking action on climate change and its impacts that will support the Government of Canada's transition to climate resilient operations by 2050.

FedDev Ontario invests in clean growth. The Agency supports economic growth that reduces environmental impacts and strengthens resilience to a changing climate. Through program improvements implemented in 2023, the Agency's programming emphasized clean economic growth (e.g. emissions reduction, waste reduction, etc.). This includes asking all funding applicants to describe and measure how their proposed projects support clean growth outcomes, and also to report on the clean growth benefits of projects that receive FedDev Ontario funding. In addition, the Agency contributed to greening the government's operations by reducing waste through the donation of surplus IT equipment by leveraging the Computers for Schools Plus (CFS+) program.

Target theme: Federal Leadership on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions and Climate Resilience

Target: The Government of Canada will transition to net-zero carbon operations for facilities and conventional fleets by 2050 (All Ministers)

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Implement the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience, and green the government's overall operations	Offer surplus IT equipment to the Computers for Schools Plus (CFS+) program **Program:** internal services	**Performance indicator:** Percentage of surplus IT equipment offered to CFS+ program **Starting point:** 100% in 2022–23 **Target:** 100% of all IT equipment to be disposed of on an annual basis is first offered to the CFS+ program	Through participation in the CFS+ program, FedDev Ontario helps extend the usable lifespan of electronic equipment, thereby reducing multiple impacts associated with resource extraction and energy use, including greenhouse gas reduction, solid and hazardous waste reduction, reduced emissions to air and water as well as other environmental benefits, thereby greening the government's operations **Relevant targets or ambitions:** CIF Ambition/Target 13.1: Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions GIF Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	**Indicator result:** 100% of IT assets scheduled for disposal in 2024–25 were offered to CFS+. **Notes:** CFS+ received a range of IT assets scheduled for disposal, including laptops, monitors, and desktops. A portion of the items scheduled for disposal were designated as e-waste due to age or condition.

Integrating Sustainable Development

FedDev Ontario supports the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) and the *Federal Sustainable Development Act* by integrating sustainable development principles, including economic, environmental and social factors, into its internal policy and operational processes in the following areas:

Policy and program design

FedDev Ontario integrated sustainable development into policy and program design by:

- Aligning policies and programs to support Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS) commitments and targets, including integrating investment priorities to support clean growth and clean technology, and developing a tool for assessing clean growth impact of project proposals.
- Reporting on investments in clean growth, and FedDev Ontario's contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the Departmental Results Reports.
- Conducting strategic environmental and economic assessments (SEEA) for all budget proposals and memoranda to Cabinet.
- Engaging stakeholders and conducting research on various industry sectors, including automotive/zero-emission vehicles, clean technology, and clean energy to inform the Agency's strategic investment decisions to support sustainable development in southern Ontario.
- Contributing to the Clean Growth Hub's collection of administrative data on projects that include federal support for clean technology.

Ryan Bray / Parks Canada

- Collecting clean growth data related to projects in program application forms, and assessing clean growth impacts to inform investment decision-making.
- Enhancing the Agency's methodology for tracking clean growth investments. This included expanding focus to investing and tracking efforts that support clean growth.
- Strengthening the presence of government-wide initiatives, such as GBA Plus, in its internal policies, programs and tools.
- Continuing to stay informed on best practices for collecting inclusivity data to best reflect government priorities in these areas.
- Continuing to improve project development, assessment and contracting tools and templates to better understand project details, including whether a project is led by equity-seeking groups or if the organization will influence growth.
- Conducting targeted outreach with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Conducting outreach and engagement with Indigenous businesses, organizations and communities.

Program delivery and business services

FedDev Ontario integrated support for sustainable development in program delivery and business services by:

- Supporting DSDS clean growth targets through program delivery.
- Tracking projects that contribute to clean growth and Indigenous economic development, and that support equity-seeking groups through the Agency's grants and contributions system.
- Determining whether projects are subject to the requirements of the *Impact Assessment Act*.
- Helping Indigenous-owned businesses and organizations in southern Ontario navigate programming and services available.
- Requiring recipients to sign contributions agreements that incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) considerations.

Communications

FedDev Ontario featured sustainable development projects that support clean growth for all Canadians and Indigenous economic reconciliation on the Agency's website, social media channels, and email newsletter.

Internal Services

Through internal services, including human resources, procurement and information technology, FedDev Ontario supports its DSDS commitments and contributes to the Greening of Government Strategy and reconciliation with First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

- FedDev Ontario participated in initiatives to improve its environmental footprint, including participation in Computers for Schools Plus (CFS+) and a battery recycling program enabling employees to recycle old batteries so they do not end up in landfill.
- The Agency promoted Indigenous businesses through its internal procurement of goods and services, such as office furniture, computer and office equipment and supplies, training and translations services, and temporary staffing needs. In addition, to support the growing use of Indigenous businesses and to better understand procurement nuances, all procurement staff have completed mandatory training from the Canada School of Public Service related to Indigenous procurement.

Strategic environmental and economic assessments

FedDev Ontario will continue to ensure that its decision-making process includes consideration of FSDS goals and targets through its strategic environmental and economic assessment (SEEA) process. A SEEA for a policy, program or regulatory proposal includes an analysis of the climate, nature, environmental and economic effects of the given proposal.

Public statements on the results of FedDev Ontario's assessments are issued when an initiative that was the subject of a detailed strategic environmental and economic assessment is implemented or announced. The purpose of the public statement is to demonstrate that the environmental and economic effects—including contributions to the FSDS goals and targets—of an initiative have been considered during proposal development and decision-making.

FedDev Ontario did not have any proposals subject to a detailed SEEA that were announced or implemented in 2024–25.