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A Path to Sustainability

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IV 2007–2010



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Canada 

Health Canada is the federal government department responsible for helping Canadians maintain and improve their health. We assess the safety of drugs and consumer products, help improve the safety of food, and provide information to Canadians to help them make healthy decisions. We work with the provinces to ensure health care is based on need and not on ability to pay. We provide health care services to First Nations people living on reserve and to Inuit communities.

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A Message From the Minister

Canadians trust their government to help them maintain and improve their good health. In order to live up to these expectations, Canada's new government is working hard to strengthen the health care system and improve access to quality care. We are also addressing a broad range of factors that influence health directly and indirectly.

At a direct level, for instance, we know that specific measures such as immunization and tobacco control will help prevent illness and premature death, while the regulation of consumer products will reduce the likelihood of injury.

We also know there are many other things that can be done, at an indirect but equally important level, to safeguard the health and well-being of Canadians, such as cleaning up the environment.

Few people today would question the link between clean air, soil and water, and better human health. Indeed, a significant majority believe that pollution is threatening their health and that of their children. What's striking is that so many of the hazards responsible for pollution are entirely preventable.

With a view to taking corrective action on this front, Canada's new government is rolling out an environmental agenda that will protect the health of Canadians. Our approach recognizes that a healthy environment is essential to good human health, as well as to the economic well-being of Canadians, now and in the future.

This line of thinking also underlies Health Canada's newest Sustainable Development Strategy. It recognizes the complex relationships between health, the environment, the economy and a range of social elements. The Strategy, which has been coordinated with other federal departments, contains a clear and bold vision for the next three years, and is supplemented by a concrete commitment to action.

Health Canada acknowledges and accepts the challenge of sound environmental practices.

With detailed objectives and a rich toolbox of information and resources, this strategy will guide us toward the realization of a healthy social and physical environment, while showing us ways to minimize the environmental footprint left by our departmental activities.

I am confident you will find this publication both inspiring and affirming—inspiring because it will enable us to contribute to a healthy environment for all Canadians, and affirming because it builds on our established environmental commitments, and sets a clear and compelling path to the future.

Tony Clement
Minister of Health

A Message From The Deputy Minister

Health Canada's Sustainable Development Strategy 2007 - 2010 sets forth the commitments and activities that will enable the Department to achieve its sustainable development objectives over the next three years. With the emphasis that Canadians place on their health as it relates to the environment, the Department will continue to find ways to incorporate sound sustainable practices in its work towards a healthier environment for all.

The Strategy draws on the Department's mandate—to help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health—by incorporating economic, social and environmental elements. The notion that a society will prosper if its citizens are healthy, and that citizens will be healthier if their society prospers, also applies to the workplace. The first part of the Strategy looks at the links between sustainable development and health, and gives employees a primer of how these concepts relate to their daily activities and decision making.

The second part of the Strategy is the action plan that lays out the broad objectives and specific targets, and how the Department intends to achieve them. The Strategy establishes a number of clear and measurable commitments that Health Canada will achieve, to conform to federal government efforts to build coherence and strengthen sustainable development activity across departments. This is best demonstrated through Health Canada's leadership inter-departmentally to develop a course on sustainable development through the Canada School of Public Service.

More broadly, and perhaps most importantly, the Strategy proposes activities that will benefit Canadians. Collective federal progress in areas like clean air, clean water and sustainable communities will benefit us all.

This is the fourth Sustainable Development Strategy developed by the Department, and builds on our previous successes to promote a pollution prevention approach and sustainable operation and management of facilities within the Department. I am proud of the progress Health Canada has made to date to reduce its ecological footprint in the communities in which the Department operates and look forward to equal progress in policy integration.

In reading the Strategy, I invite you to find ways to incorporate sustainable practices in your work, and engage in creating healthy environments for all Canadians.

Morris Rosenberg
Deputy Minister of Health

Overview

This is Health Canada's fourth Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) since the 1995 amendment of the *Auditor General's Act*. This Act created the position of Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and requires 32 federal departments to submit sustainable development strategies every three years. A key role of the Commissioner's office is to monitor and report on these strategies, and to provide feedback that has been incorporated into SDS IV.

The current Strategy builds on Health Canada's long history of work in the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, understanding and addressing the key determinants of health. It outlines Health Canada's commitments with respect to health and sustainable development over the next three years (2007–2010) and beyond.

The focus of this Strategy is on moving forward from what we know about sustainable development and health to *how* we can incorporate sustainable development principles into everyday activities and decision-making. SDS IV is for the Canadian public as well as for you, Health Canada employees, and our partners to work towards a shared vision for a sustainable future.

SDS IV is a toolbox of information, resources and guiding actions required to work towards this vision. It includes a set of guiding principles of sustainable development, a review of where we are now with respect to health and sustainable development, a clear vision of where we would like to be in the future, and practical

tips to help integrate sustainable development into everyday activities, planning and decision-making. The shining star of the Strategy is Health Canada's Action Plan for 2007–2010, which outlines where we want to go with respect to health and sustainable development and what we need to do to get there.

The Action Plan is guided by three main themes, or desired long-term outcomes: **1) helping to create healthy social and physical environments; 2) minimizing the environmental and health effects of the department's physical operations and activities; and 3) integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes and advancing the social pillar of sustainability.**

Under each of these goals, the Action Plan outlines objectives and targets that address federal sustainability goals and other key issues identified by Health Canada, including clean air, clean water, sustainable communities, food safety, and greenhouse gas emissions.

SDS IV incorporates lessons learned since the first Sustainable Development Strategy in 1997 and feedback from a wide variety of sources. To ensure its value as a road map for achieving health and sustainable development, it is built with practical, reliable and measurable indicators to judge where we are and how much farther we need to go.

Overall, SDS IV is a tool, and like any tool it is only as good as those who use it. All of us are the drivers of the change we wish to see, and together, with SDS IV as our guide, we can reach our vision of a healthy and sustainable future.

For More Information Contact:

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Phone: (613) 954-3859

1. Introduction

As Canadians, we can all contribute to sustainable development, and as Health Canada employees, you are all in a unique position to work towards sustainable development. Health Canada's mission, *to help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health*, is by its very nature at the crossroads of the three pillars of sustainable development: economy, social/cultural and the environment. The health of every Canadian is determined by factors in each of these sectors, and the experience each of you has working in these areas provides us with a solid foundation to progress towards a sustainable future.

Success Story: Atlantic Recycling Program

In 2005, the Atlantic Regional Office (Maritime Centre) remodelled its existing program of recycling paper and collecting refundable bottles and cans. The new program introduced a clear system of separating waste into items that are recyclable, refundable or compostable (organic waste). After only eight months in operation, the new and improved program has resulted in a reduction of almost 50% in the amount of waste being sent to the landfill!

Health Canada's fourth Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS IV) is about moving forward; taking this knowledge and experience in health, social issues and sustainability, building on lessons learned from past strategies, and documenting a plan on how to work towards sustainable development from a health perspective. It is about integrating sustainable development principles into everything we do, making better decisions and contributing to a nation that is ecologically sound, socially ethical,

culturally diverse and economically prosperous. It is about working together—as a team at Health Canada, with other federal departments, non-governmental organizations, and community groups—to address the challenges of sustainable development and health in Canada.

This Strategy is for you, Health Canada employees, to help you take the next steps in incorporating environmental, economic and social considerations in all of your daily activities, planning and decision-making. It is also for our partners, stakeholders and the Canadian public to see our current progress towards sustainable development and health, and the direction we are headed to add to those achievements.

New to this Strategy is a coordinated approach to sustainable development goals across all federal departments. Health Canada's objectives and targets are aligned with the six federal sustainability goals, as well as with key issues identified under a health mandate. This coordinated effort is in direct response to the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development's report on the need for coordination among federal strategies, and will ensure that

Success Story: ECOPASS Transit Program

Health Canada was among the first federal departments to participate in the ECOPASS Transit Program by offering discounted transit passes to its employees in the National Capital Region. For those who committed to using the program for one full year (which offers a 15% savings yearly compared to the cost of a monthly pass), the cost of the ECOPASS was paid via payroll deduction or through preauthorized payments for public transportation in Ottawa and Gatineau. The program was launched in February 2005 with approximately 675 Health Canada employees enrolled. As one bus replaces up to 50 cars, that's fewer exhaust pipes on the roads of our communities, which contributes to a cleaner environment. The success of this program can be attributed to commitment from Health Canada employees, hard work by our compensation advisors and the ongoing support of senior management.

strategies in different departments complement each other. This coordination is important as we work towards a common vision of sustainable development and a long-term federal sustainable development strategy.

All of us, as Health Canada employees, are the drivers of this change. All of us have a shared responsibility for reaching sustainable development, whether we design programs with communities, oversee projects, conduct research, or manage the office. SDS IV is a tool to do just that—to guide us not only in where we want to go, but in *how* we are going to get there. It represents a communication tool for Health Canada's targets and objectives, a road map for the future, and a record against which to measure progress.

SDS IV looks at the links between sustainable development and health, summarizes the key characteristics of this Strategy, and provides you with tips and tools on how to strengthen sustainable development principles in your decision-making and day-to-day activities. It sets the stage for Health Canada's Action Plan (described in section 5) by letting you know where we are now, where we want to go, and what we need to do to get there.

Section 5 of SDS IV lays out Health Canada's Action Plan—the objectives and targets that will be met over the next three years and beyond on our path to sustainable development. These targets aim to support Health Canada's three overarching themes for sustainability and health: helping to create healthy social and physical environments; minimizing the environmental and health effects of the department's physical operations and activities; and integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes, and advancing the social pillar of sustainability.

By working together and using SDS IV as our guide, we will progress further towards our goals for health and sustainable development for all Canadians.

Success Story: Sustainable Development in Health Canada Policies

Since 1997, the importance of the link between human health, the environment and the economy has been recognized in Health Canada's *Report on Plans and Priorities*, a report summarizing all of Health Canada's intended activities and policies for the coming year.

Success Story: Composting Paper Waste in the National Capital Region

Large quantities of paper towels and bathroom tissue are used in all of our office buildings. Composting paper towels and purchasing supplies with the highest amount of recycled and post-consumer content are two ways to help reduce this waste. Health Canada is composting paper towels from the Jeanne Mance and the Brooke Claxton Buildings in the National Capital Region with an employee base of more than 2000 people. Since November of 2004, the cleaning staff has collected used paper towels from washrooms and kitchenettes daily for composting. A contractor collects and takes them to a composting facility. This program had the potential of diverting 18% of waste that would usually go to a landfill. The next audit will determine how much we have actually diverted. Other buildings occupied by Health Canada employees, such as the Graham Spry and the Finance Buildings, are targeted to be next! For information on “green” paper products with a high recycled content, contact Green Seal, a non-profit organization that identifies and promotes environmentally preferable products and services (<http://www.greenseal.org/>).

Success Story: Sustainable Development at Work in Alberta/NWT

Communication and training has been a key priority for the Alberta/NWT Sustainable Development Regional Officer. Since 2003, employees at the Alberta/NWT Regional Office have participated in a four part workshop on “sustainable living”, National Waste Reduction Week, National Fair Trade Week, Environmental Week, the Commuter Challenge and the One-Tonne Challenge. Other communication activities regarding sustainable development have included articles for Intranet, quizzes, tip sheets, presentations for branches (at staff meetings), and presentations at orientations for new employees.

2. Where are we Now?

Health and Sustainable Development at the Start of the 21st Century

Sustainable Development: Key Principles

It would be difficult to find someone who has *not* heard of sustainable development today. Since its most notable world debut at the 1987 meeting of the World Commission on Environment and Development, sustainable development has become a recognizable term. Most definitions are necessarily vague to include the wide variety of concepts associated with the term (see box below). But the main idea that was planted at the 1987 meeting is the need for the integration of and balance between economic, social and environmental considerations—the “three pillars” of sustainable development—in everything that we do.

Sustainable Development Defined

“...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987

“...a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the orientation of the technological development, and institutional change are made consistent with future as well as present needs.”

Our Ecological Footprint, Wackernagel and Rees, 1996

“Sustainable development is based on the efficient and environmentally responsible use of natural, human and economic resources.”

Office of the Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development, 2005

Key International Meetings on Sustainable Development

- **1987 World Commission on Environment and Development** (“Brundtland Commission”). This was the first key report calling for global cooperation in environment and development challenges. It promoted the guiding principles for sustainable development that are generally understood today.
- **1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro.** 178 governments signed *Agenda 21*, a global program of action on sustainable development. *Agenda 21* recognized 5 key action areas for health: 1) meeting primary health care needs, especially in rural areas; 2) achieving control of communicable diseases; 3) protecting vulnerable groups; 4) meeting urban health challenges; and 5) reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards.
- **2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg).** Governments from around the world came together to talk about global challenges in sustainable development 10 years after the Rio conference. Health was singled out as one of the five priority areas, along with water, energy, biodiversity and agriculture.

We are all familiar with the consequences of *un*-sustainable development: ozone depletion, hazardous waste contamination and biodiversity loss; poverty and unequal access to health care; and higher costs for cleaning up the environment and for health care. Economic progress that does not consider and mitigate impacts on social, cultural and environmental conditions is simply not sustainable over the long term. Rather than taxing the economy, sustainable development adds value to our society by allowing us to achieve a greater potential without the ill effects of unlimited economic growth and with corporate social responsibility.

Cutting across the diversity of definitions are several **key guiding principles of sustainable development**, assembled and promoted by Health Canada. It is these principles that we all need to consider in our daily work, planning and decision-making if we are to make progress towards a sustainable future:

- **Shared responsibility** — Sustainable development is a shared responsibility among federal departments and agencies and between other levels of government,

the private sector, voluntary and community-based organizations and individual Canadians. Health Canada is committed to forming and working in partnerships on sustainable development.

- **Integrated approaches** — Making progress on sustainable development requires integrated approaches to policy development, planning and decision-making — approaches that take account of environmental, social/cultural and economic factors and a precautionary perspective. Health Canada is committed to considering these interdependent factors in all its activities and ensuring that the sustainable development benefits are optimized to the fullest extent possible.
- **Equity** — Sustainable development requires an equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of development within Canada, among different nations and between generations. Health Canada is committed to evaluating environmental, social/cultural and economic costs and benefits of its decisions and activities.

- **Accountability** — Accountability for making progress on sustainable development should be clearly defined, recognizing that sustainable development is a shared responsibility. Health Canada is committed to ensuring that accountability for its SD responsibilities is clearly assigned and monitored.
- **Continuous improvement** — An approach based on continuous incremental improvement is required to make progress on sustainable development. Health Canada is committed to building on its experience and incorporating best practices in its work to achieve sustainable development over the long term.

Essentially, sustainable development is about thinking in the long term, considering the impacts an activity today could still have 25, 50, 100 or more years into the future; understanding how the economy, society and the natural environment link together and influence each other, and learning how to improve these three “pillars” in harmony with each other; working *together* to find solutions to common problems, building partnerships, among governments, non-governmental groups, and local communities, and involving those who are most affected into the decision-making process; and integrating sustainable development into everything we do in order to make better decisions and contribute to better governance.

We need to think of sustainable development not as *one way* to go about our daily lives, but as *the only way*.

How Does Sustainable Development Relate to Health?

Sustainable development and health are inseparable; sustainable development cannot

occur without a healthy population to lead it there, and the health of the population cannot be maintained without a healthy environment and strong economy. The validity of the correlation between population health and these factors is reflected in the use of citizens’ health as an indicator of the health of a country’s economy.

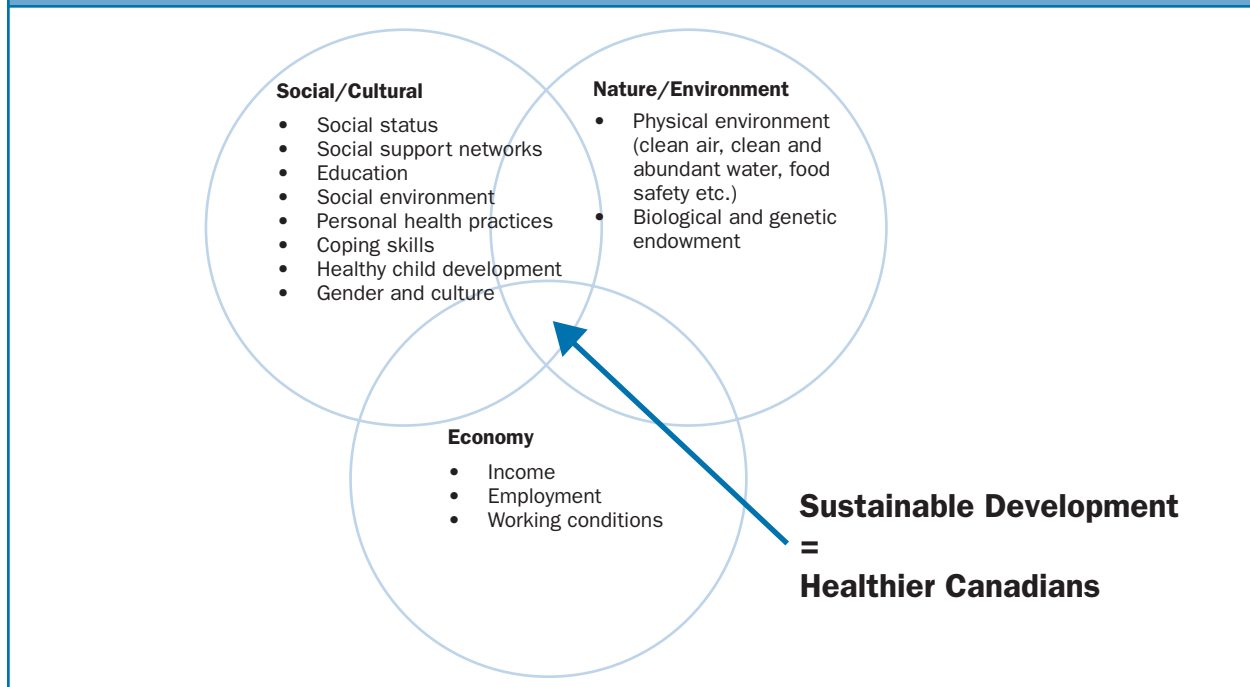
Since *Agenda 21*, health has become increasingly recognized as a central component of sustainable development. However, inequities among development, the environment and health are still seen worldwide. For example, children from the poorest families in the world have a mortality rate 2.5 times higher than the rate for children from the wealthiest families¹, and environmental hazards are responsible for 25 per cent of diseases worldwide².

Although Canadians generally have a good level of health in comparison to other countries’ populations, our health is still affected by environmental, economic and social determinants (Figure 1). Environmental pollution can affect human health through the contamination of water or air quality. Unequal distribution of wealth can result in unemployment, higher levels of poverty, and lack of access to health care, all impacting health. Children in socially marginalized communities have fewer opportunities and resources for healthy childhood development. By addressing economic inequalities and environmental health, thereby balancing the three pillars of sustainable development, we are also finding balance among the key determinants of health to achieve better health and well-being for Canadians (Figure 1).

1 World Health Statistics. 2006. World Health Organization <http://www.who.int/whosis/en/>

2 Health and Environment Linkages Initiative, World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/heli/en/>

Figure 1: Key Determinants of Health and Their Relation to the Three Pillars of Sustainable Development



Health Canada's Key Interests in Sustainable Development and Health

Health Canada's mandate (Appendix A) puts us all in a unique position to work towards sustainable development. Our policies and activities that try to understand and improve the key determinants of health for Canadians, such as the *Canada Health Act*, *Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999*, *Food and Drugs Act* and *Pest Control Products Act*, have a strong base in the social pillar of sustainable development. Through the SDS IV and other activities, Health Canada is actively working towards ensuring that these and other programs respect all three pillars of sustainable development.

Specific issues in health and sustainable development that continue to be of concern to Health Canada today include:

- **Air Quality** – Air pollution is a factor in 5,900 deaths per year in eight of Canada's major cities (Québec City, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Calgary and Vancouver)³. Emissions from unsustainable growth of industry and transportation, including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and ozone, cause significant decreases in local air quality. Individuals with asthma and elderly persons are especially sensitive to these chemicals that can cause breathing problems and suppress immune systems. Poor air quality is having a large impact on the health of our children; it has been pointed to as the cause of 30 per cent of asthma and 5 per cent of cancers in children in urban areas.⁴
- **Water Quality** –The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development identified safe drinking

3 Clean Air Online. 2006. Environment Canada. http://www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-airpur/Health_Concerns-WSC8A1FE65-1_En.htm.

4 Health Canada. 2006. Report on Plans and Priorities.

water as a key area of concern. Despite Canada's extensive supply of fresh water, not all Canadians have access to clean water. Bacteria and viruses in the water that carry disease are responsible for 90,000 cases of illness and 90 deaths a year in Canada.⁵

- **Food Safety** – A safe food supply is a major contributing factor to the health of Canadians. Reducing or eliminating the risk of adverse health effects from chemical contaminants or food-borne illnesses and ensuring the safety of processed food is an essential part of a sustainable future. Unsustainable development, which impacts poorly on the environment and increases poverty through economic inequality, increases the health risks of Canadians with respect to a safe food supply.
- **Sustainable Communities** – A sustainable community is one in which the three pillars of sustainable development come together at the local level to provide a healthy environment, strong social structures, and a robust economy. This type of community ultimately ensures good health for all members. Poverty, reduced access to health care, substance use and abuse and exposure to chemicals in the workplace and environment continue to be a health threat for many communities in Canada. Despite significant improvements in the last 20 years, First Nations and Inuit peoples still have a higher infant mortality rate, lower life expectancy and a higher prevalence of chronic diseases, such as rubella and tuberculosis, than do individuals in the rest of Canada.⁶
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** – Greenhouse gas emissions, linked to climate change, are a result of our current economic development path of industrial

development and transportation. These emissions, which increased by 20 per cent between 1990 and 2000⁷, have strong negative impacts on our country's health, economy and environment. Some of the health risks these emissions pose include the increase of events such as smog days, heat waves, contamination of water and food, spread of diseases, exposure to UV radiation from ozone depletion, and extreme weather events. Aboriginal communities in the North are particularly vulnerable to changes associated with climate change, especially impacts associated with global warming.

Addressing these issues is an important part of SDS IV and all of Health Canada's policies; doing so will achieve a healthy and sustainable future.

Progress in Sustainable Development at Health Canada

All of you have played a role in the achievements to date in addressing sustainable development and health at Health Canada.

Established in 1999, the mandate of the Environmental Management Systems Division (EMSD) at Health Canada is to implement the departmental Environmental Management System (EMS) including the development of associated environmental policies, procedures, best practices and supporting tools. The departmental EMS provides the framework to ensure environmental compliance, due diligence, prevention of pollution and continual improvement to reduce the environmental impacts associated with departmental operations. In support of our departmental EMS, HC issued, in 2001, its Environmental Management Policy.

5 Statistics Canada. 2003. *Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics 2003*

6 Health Canada. 2005. 2000 Statistical Profile on the Health of First Nations.
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/pubs/gen/stats_profil_e.html

7 Statistics Canada. 2003. *Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics 2003*

In 2000, we were the first federal department to develop a Sustainable Development Policy (see Appendix B) expressing our commitments to fully consider environmental, social, cultural and economic factors in legislation, regulations, policy and programs. The Office of Sustainable Development (OSD) oversees the sustainable development policy and coordinates the preparation of the department's sustainable development strategies. The OSD is your key resource, as an employee, for resources on sustainable development and how to integrate it into everything you do. For further information call (613) 954-3859 or email osd@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Since 2004, Health Canada has made significant progress on the objectives and targets described in the last Strategy, *Sustainable Development Strategy 2004–2007: Becoming the Change We Wish to See*.⁸ Some of the key achievements made since the last sustainable development Strategy include the following:

- Adoption of a Health Canada policy on Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and the development of a working group, an internal database, and training surrounding SEAs;
- The conduct of a department-wide survey about sustainable development to provide guidance for future sustainable development training and activities;
- Continued development of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality to address health risks to Canadians from drinking water contaminants;
- Continued participation in improving the monitoring, risk assessment and mitigation of pesticides under the *Pest Control Products Act*;
- Addition of 104 new nursing positions through the Nursing Transformation Strategy in support of our efforts to ensure an adequate and stable supply of nurses to meet the needs of First Nations and Inuit communities;
- Funding of eight pilot projects through the Health Integration Initiative (HII), which focused on improving the integration of federally funded health services in First Nations and Inuit communities with provincial and territorial health services;
- Development of a guide book to assist program staff in identifying and prioritizing departmental-specific environmental issues and adopting a pollution-prevention approach;
- Completion of a guidebook to assist facility managers in managing the environmental aspects of their operations, *Making a difference in our facilities and the environment—A guide on environmental management best practices for Health Canada and Agency facilities*; and
- Food safety education on *E. coli* and ground beef through advertising campaigns.

SDS IV builds on these and other achievements to create an even stronger Strategy for improving our approach to sustainable development and health.

⁸ The Final Report assessing the progress made on SDS III will be published in late 2007 with more detail on the achievements made between the two strategies.

3. Where Are We Going?

Health Canada's Vision For Health And Sustainable Development

Health Canada's Vision for Sustainable Development: Working Today for a Cleaner, Safer, Healthier Tomorrow

Having a clear vision for sustainable development is like having a destination in mind on a long road trip. Although the path to get there may change, that cabin in the woods serves as the guiding light to get you through any bad road conditions. Health Canada's vision goes beyond having improved health and sustainable development *incorporated* into everyday practice—rather, they *are* the practice. This vision is the guiding force for the actions and targets outlined in the Action Plan for SDS IV.

Health Canada's vision of the future is one where:

- Canadians will enjoy a better quality of life;
- Individuals in all regions and population groups across the country will be healthier;
- Canadians will be empowered to maintain and improve their health;
- Canadian communities will improve their ability to react to environmental health hazards;
- Canadian communities will be in a better position to promote healthy lifestyles and create strong social support networks;
- Human health improvements will support the development of secure economies, which will further enhance the status of human health; and

- Canada will remain a world leader in providing citizens with high and healthy standards of living.⁹

Through SDS IV and other policies, we will strive to achieve this vision by ensuring we manage all of our programs' sustainability for the future. Health Canada will support employees in doing so through an increased emphasis on creating tools and training for employees to better understand and integrate sustainable development into their activities.

Building a Progressive Strategy

The development of SDS IV was a cooperative effort among representatives from the following branches of Health Canada: Health Policy, First Nations and Inuit Health, Corporate Services, Healthy

⁹ Health Canada Sustainable Development Strategy III, p. 7

Environments and Consumer Safety, Health Products and Food, Chief Financial Officer, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency and all of Health Canada's regional offices. Several documents were used for guidance, including *Health Canada's SDS IV Guidance Document*, Environment Canada's *Coordinating the Fourth Round of Departmental Sustainable Development Strategies*, and Public Works and Government Services Canada's *Greening Government Operations*. The results of the 2006 Health Canada Employee Survey on Sustainable Development and feedback on the third Sustainable Development Strategy were especially important in developing SDS IV.

Health Canada's Strategic Outcomes

1. Strengthened knowledge base to address health and health care priorities
2. Access to safe and effective health products and food and information on healthy choices
3. Reduced health and environmental risks from products and substances, and safer living and work environments
4. Better health outcomes and reduction of health inequalities between First Nations and Inuit and other Canadians

Integration was one of the key guiding principles for the development of SDS IV. Efforts were made to ensure that activities and targets aligned with Health Canada's existing strategic outcomes (see Appendix C for more detail), federal level sustainable development goals, and national commitments to sustainable development and health, including *Agenda 21*, the 2002 World Commission on Sustainable Development and existing standards such as ISO 14000. The targets and activities

therefore complement and enhance existing policies and plans at Health Canada.

For the fourth round of sustainable development strategies, the federal government developed six horizontal sustainable development goals, which integrate and complement the objectives set earlier in *Greening Government Operations Guidance for Organizations Developing Sustainable Development Strategies (2007-2009)*. By linking Health Canada's activities with these broader federal goals, we can get an overall picture at the federal level as to how we are working together to improve quality of life for Canadians, identify where the gaps are in our activities, and strengthen the accountability of our actions. Activities in Health Canada's Strategy that support progress towards federal goals are indicated throughout the Action Plan. For more information on federal goals and greening government operations, visit www.sdinfo.ca.

Six Federal Long-Term Sustainability Goals

1. Have clean and secure water for people, and for marine and freshwater ecosystems
2. Ensure clean air for people to breathe and for ecosystems to function well
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
4. Cultivate communities that enjoy a prosperous economy, a vibrant and equitable society, and a healthy environment for current and future generations
5. Use only development strategies that are sustainable particularly through the use of natural resources
6. Strengthen federal governance and decision-making to support sustainable development

Cooperation and partnership was another guiding principle in developing the Strategy. Multiple activities outlined in this Strategy are the result of partnerships within Health Canada and with other federal departments, including Environment Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Although the new Public Health Agency of Canada (created in 2004) is developing its own strategy, we have worked closely with this organization to ensure that the strategies complement each other's activities. (For more detailed linkages see Appendix D).

The learning process in implementing sustainable development is cyclical; each round of preparing the previous three strategies has provided valuable lessons on how to improve our path to reach our vision and goals. Both the 2005 Report by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development and an internal review pointed out several areas of improvement for SDS III, including the need for a clear vision and objectives, the need for clear measurable outcomes that are linked to the vision and objectives, and the need for meaningful, reliable and practical indicators to assess progress. SDS IV has taken these and other lessons to ensure a progressive Strategy that builds on past experience.

How Is This Strategy Different?

Several characteristics of SDS IV make it stand head and shoulders above Health Canada's previous sustainable development strategies:

- **Clear Targets** – The targets in SDS IV are clear and understandable, following the Commissioner's 2005 recommendations. As well, they are linked to the six main federal goals for sustainable development, which ensures that Health Canada is aligned with federal objectives.
- **Performance Measurement** – The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development noted that our previous sustainable development strategies lacked reliable targets against which progress could be measured. SDS IV sets out targets that are practical and measurable (within a specific time frame) in order to clearly assess our progress towards the goals and vision for sustainable development and health.
- **Practical Tools** – Employees who took the Health Canada Sustainable Development Survey expressed the need for a guidance document and workplace tools. SDS IV therefore serves as a guidance document, but moves beyond that to actually provide employees with tools they can use. Adding this practical element to the strategy shifts the emphasis from "here's what we know about sustainable development principles" to "here's how we can achieve sustainable development in practice."
- **Integrated Actions** – SDS IV is closely integrated with existing departmental strategic outcomes, plans and programs and other strategies at Health Canada, while simultaneously pushing these programs forward to achieve sustainable development goals.
- **Challenging** – SDS IV challenges all of us at Health Canada to think beyond our normal work activities and policies. We must learn how to integrate sustainable development into every decision we make and turn this type of thinking into common practice.
- **Long Term** – SDS IV is built around three long-term themes: achieving sustainable communities, reducing the ecological footprint of Health Canada's services and operations, and integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-

making and management processes. In addition to new targets that will be introduced over the next three years, a small number of targets are carried over from the last Strategy and extend beyond the life of the current Strategy.

- **Responsive** – SDS IV is responsive to government priorities, feedback from the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, results of our Sustainable Development Survey to Health Canada employees, and feedback from stakeholders and the Canadian public. It also reflects sustainable development guidance received from Central Agencies, Environment Canada, and Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC).

4. How Do We Get There?

SDS IV: A Tool Kit for Change

By creating tools to move forward in achieving sustainable development, SDS IV continues to build our unique role as a “social” department addressing key social issues in Canada today that affect health. The three themes or goals from SDS III were carried over to SDS IV to continue to build on Health Canada’s commitments to sustainable development. The three main themes, or long-term outcomes or goals that guide the SDS IV are as follows:

- **Theme 1: Helping to create healthy social and physical environments.** Targets under this theme involve integrating environmental, social and economic considerations into Health Canada’s policies, plans and programs in order to help create the conditions we need to reach our vision of sustainability and health. In keeping with the long-term focus of sustainable development, the targets in this theme are forward-looking and extend beyond the life of this Strategy.
- **Theme 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department’s physical operations and activities.** Actions under this theme involve addressing sustainable development not only in what we do, but where *and how* we work. This theme takes the practices we know and do so well at home and applies them to the more than 750 Health Canada buildings, its fleet of 600-plus vehicles, as well as other key components of Health Canada’s operations. It involves reducing the ecological footprint of all Health Canada operations and activities and contributes to the federal goals outlined in *Greening Government Operations*

developed by Public Works and Government Services Canada in 2006.

- **Theme 3: Integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes and advancing the social pillar of sustainability.** Targets under this theme consider the three pillars of sustainable development—environmental, social/cultural and economic factors—in decision-making and management processes to ensure that policies, plans, programs and activities reflect Health Canada’s long-term vision for sustainable development. This theme highlights how our social and cultural conditions shape the way we perceive and interact with the world, and how they can have a profound affect on health.

The Action Plan documents Health Canada’s commitments to achieving sustainable development and health under each of the three long-term outcomes described above. Under each theme, commitments are organized by **objectives**, which are the key areas of concern identified under the six federal long-term sustainability goals and

those identified by Health Canada (described in Section 2 of this Strategy document). Under each objective are **targets**, which indicate key commitments Health Canada will make with respect to that objective, a **rationale statement** for why that target is important, and an **outcome statement** demonstrating the impacts of achieving that target.

The targets demonstrate ways in which Health Canada's policies and programs, as currently planned, will support sustainable

development for the next three years. Though these targets have been developed for the purposes of this report, the Minister and the Department retain the capacity to amend the targets as government policy warrants.

The table below pulls out some of the highlight activities in SDS IV that will address each of the key issues discussed in Section 2. Further on, Section 5 describes these and other activities in greater detail.

Table 1: Highlights from Health Canada's SDS IV		
Issue	Health Canada will...	Key Outcomes
THEME 1 – Helping to create healthy social and physical environments		
Clean Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create regulations banning the use of lead in candlewicks. • Work to reduce the risk of, and improve communication about, health impacts from indoor/outdoor air pollution. • Develop tools and information materials relating to potential health impacts of a changing climate. 	Reduced risks to human health and well-being caused by poor air quality
Clean Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) efforts to improve the technical capacity of First Nations communities to manage water systems. • Develop and apply water management plans to reduce health risks on passenger conveyances. • Improve water quality by ensuring mercury from dental practice does not enter wastewater. • Support the development of environmental and drinking water quality guidelines for priority pesticides. • Establish strategies to help address and prevent incidences of drinking water contamination. • Develop and update a minimum of 5 water quality guidelines for specific contaminants annually. • Coordinate tools to assist and support federal drinking water purveyor departments. 	<p>Drinking water quality and wastewater management is improved, such as on federal lands and First Nations reserves.</p> <p>Marine and freshwater ecosystems are protected from contamination</p>

<p>Sustainable Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure continuous improvement of environmental management of First Nation health facilities. • Provide guidance on the development of non-regulatory agri-environmental performance standards for pesticides. • Make publicly available a pesticide sales database on a regional level and report on the same annually. • Develop the Canadian Pesticide Risk Indicator to assess trends in risks posed by pesticides. • Develop outreach communications and mechanisms to allow Canadians to contribute information on pest-control products. • Collaborate with the Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides to harmonize classification of domestic products in Canada. • Provide support to encourage the creation of smoke-free spaces. • Develop risk communication material, and undertake risk management strategies, on priority substances. • Conduct assessments and risk management of new substances. • Develop National Guidelines for Environmental Assessment related to health impacts of noise. • Complete assessments of high-priority health substances. • Assist federal departments in assessing and reducing human health risks related to federal contaminated sites. 	<p>Risks to human and ecosystem health from harmful substances are reduced (including clean up of federal contaminated sites).</p>
<p>Food Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen all natural health products to ensure ingredients do not include anything derived from endangered species. • Continue to develop the Environmental Assessment Regulations for new substances contained in products regulated under the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i>, establishing and convening a working group to provide strategic advice. • Provide open and transparent communication to stakeholders regarding the development of the Environmental Assessment Regulations. • Develop a framework to improve the transparency and regulatory process for novel foods. • Establish policies and standards related to the nutritional quality of foods. • Develop intervention strategies to reduce exposure to priority pathogens, increase awareness of risk avoidance practices, and update risk management strategies to limit exposure to chemicals in foods. • Amend regulations on priority allergens. • Expedite grower access to lower-risk pest control products. 	<p>Access to safe and effective health products and food and information for healthy choices.</p> <p>Reduced risk to human health caused by unsafe food</p>

THEME 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities		
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to government-wide objectives for green procurement, building energy and green fleets through activities such as purchasing ethanol-blended gasoline, conducting energy audits, training employees on how they can contribute to reducing greenhouse gases, and piloting a sustainable business transportation plan. 	Reduction of Health Canada's "ecological footprint" associated with physical buildings and operations
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve green procurement by increasing the ratio of Energy Star computers and monitors, improving the tracking system to monitor green purchases, and developing a policy on responsible paper use. 	Sustainable development principles are integrated into all plans, policies, programs and decision-making with good governance
Training and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and deliver new Government of Canada Sustainable Development training material. Increase the ratio of existing training courses offered by the Health Canada Learning program that will include a module on employee environmental responsibilities. Distribute a Sustainable Development and Environmental Management Awareness package to nursing stations across Canada. Implement a bi-ennial fuel storage tank operator training program. 	Increased awareness among Health Canada employees, health care practitioners, and the Canadian public on health and sustainable development
THEME 3: Integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes and advancing the social pillar of sustainability		
Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish how the Department is best able to address the social pillar of sustainability through policy integration and engagement of stakeholders. Pilot application of a sustainable development lens with select policies and programs. 	Sustainable development principles are integrated into policies, and forward departmental visioning on sustainable development incorporates fuller external stakeholder perspectives

5. Departmental Targets

Theme 1: Helping to Create Healthy Social and Physical Environments

Healthy social and physical environments are a key factor in maintaining and improving the health of Canadians. Water and air quality, climate change, pesticide management, health product and food safety and access to health care all affect our overall health and well-being. These issues are broad in scope and require continued collaboration and cooperation with our partners and stakeholders to make further progress. In keeping with the long-term focus of sustainable development, the targets in this theme are forward-looking and extend beyond the life of this Strategy.

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.		
1.1 Clean Air		
Objective – Reduce the risks to human health and well-being caused by air quality		
Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
Target 1.1.1 Regulations banning the use of lead in candle wicks by September 2008. (Federal SD Goal II)	This target removes hazardous consumer products containing toxic elements released into the air during reasonable foreseeable use.	Emissions of and exposure to harmful indoor and outdoor air contaminants are reduced.
Target 1.1.2 During the period 2007-2010, Health Canada will work to reduce the risk of health impacts from indoor and outdoor pollution, including development of risk/benefit assessments of fuel options, priority lists for assessing indoor air contaminants, and development of air quality guidelines/objectives. (Federal SD Goal II)	In order for the federal government to fulfil its mandate to help Canadians improve and maintain their health, as well as to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment, it needs to take a proactive approach to assessing, communicating and managing the health and environmental effects of indoor and outdoor air pollution.	Clean air solutions are supported and promoted.

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.		
1.1 Clean Air		
Objective – Reduce the risks to human health and well-being caused by air quality		
Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.1.3 Between 2007-2010, Health Canada will work to improve management and communication of the health risks of indoor and outdoor air pollution, including fact sheets, finalization of the Air Quality Health Index and further development of the Air Health Indicator. (Federal SD Goal II)</p>	<p>In order for the federal government to fulfil its mandate to help Canadians improve and maintain their health, as well as to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment, it needs to take a proactive approach to assessing, communicating and managing the health and environmental effects of indoor and outdoor air pollution.</p>	<p>Clean air solutions are supported and promoted.</p>
Objective – Increase resilience to a changing climate		
<p>Target 1.1.4 During the course of SDS IV, Health Canada will develop tools and information materials, including a summary of the Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment, to better prepare Canadians and health professionals to deal with potential health impacts associated with a changing climate. (Federal SD Goal II)</p>	<p>Public health decision makers, and Canadians more broadly, are concerned about the expected impacts of climate change, including those on health and well-being. However, they currently do not have enough information about the expected scope and magnitude of the health risks to take effective actions to protect health.</p> <p>In order for federal agencies, provinces, territories and communities across Canada to know how to manage climate change health risks they need information about the vulnerability of specific populations (e.g., seniors, children, social disadvantaged, those living in Canada's North etc) and on the effectiveness of current policies and programs in protection health.</p> <p>Health Canada provides federal leadership on climate change and health issues with research and adaptation of communities in Canada. To fulfil its mandate and help Canadians maintain and improve their health, as well as to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment, Health Canada works in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada, including through participation in relevant committees and working groups. In addition, Health Canada provides public health professionals with the latest knowledge of the health risks of climate change. This information will be useful to decision-makers in the development of policies and programs.</p>	<p>Impacts of climate change are understood and vulnerability is reduced.</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.

1.2 Clean Water

Objective – People have access to clean water

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.2.1 By March 2010, Health Canada commits to having trained 525 community-based water monitors in 700 First Nations community sites with water distribution systems (piped with five or more connections, public access facilities and trucked systems) across Canada. (Federal SD Goal I)</p>	<p>Health Canada through FNIHB works in partnership with more than 700 First Nations communities south of 60 degrees parallel to ensure drinking water quality is adequately monitored. If not properly monitored, potential health risks from unknown waterborne contaminants could impact the public health of First Nations communities. In order to ensure that First Nations communities have continued access to sufficient and reliable quantities of clean and safe drinking water, it is necessary to build First Nations capacity in water quality monitoring. This can be achieved through training of community-based water monitors and the delivery of water quality public awareness strategies, such as workshops, information sharing sessions, media reports, special events and presentations.</p>	<p>First Nations communities have safe, potable water as other comparable Canadian communities.</p>
<p>Target 1.2.2 Starting April 2007, development and application of water management plans by Health Canada to reduce the risks to health on passenger conveyances. (Federal SD Goal I)</p>	<p>Potable water on conveyances is a public health issue which the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development identified in her report of September 2005. The commissioner identified water on aircraft as a particular concern.</p>	<p>Drinking water quality and water management is improved.</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.**1.2 Clean Water****Objective – People have access to clean water**

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.2.3 By March 2010, Health Canada commits to maintaining or replacing where needed International Organization for Standardization (ISO) specified Amalgam Particle Separators in existing dental clinics located in First Nations communities in order to ensure maximum capture of mercury alloy and prevention of mercury alloy from entering the environment through waste water. (Federal SD Goal I)</p>	<p>Health Canada is responsible for the delivery of dental treatment services in many First Nations and Inuit communities. As part of these services, dental amalgams are used for the restoration of tooth decay. Dental amalgam particles contain 50% by weight mercury bound in alloy form. While dental amalgam particles have not been linked to a proven mercury pollution problem, removing as much of the particles as possible at the therapy site will reduce the amount of mercury entering the environment thus reducing the potential for future pollution problems. ISO specified Amalgam Particle Separators are a class of dental equipment designed to retain a minimum of 95% amalgam particles carried in the waste water from the therapy site in order to reduce the number of particles and therefore the total mass of amalgam entering the environment through waste water.</p>	<p>Maintenance and replacement of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) specified Amalgam Particle Separators in First Nations communities' dental clinics will help ensure a maximum capture of mercury alloy and reduce the potential for future environmental problems.</p>
<p>Target 1.2.4 Health Canada, in collaboration with Environment Canada, will support the development of environmental and drinking water quality guidelines for priority pesticides by 2010. (Federal SD Goal I)</p>	<p>To support more effective monitoring of pesticides and easier interpretation of the results of monitoring, Health Canada will identify the need for and support the development of up-to-date water quality guidelines for the pesticides that pose the greatest risks to Canadians and their environment.</p>	<p>Strengthened health and environmental protection</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.

1.2 Clean Water

Objective – People have access to clean water

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.2.5 During the period 2007-2010, Health Canada will establish and/or implement strategies, including a national waterborne contamination and illness response protocol, to help address and prevent incidences of drinking water contamination across jurisdictions, including for small systems and in small, rural and remote communities. (Federal SD Goal I)</p>	<p>While drinking water management has evolved considerably over the last decade, vulnerabilities remain. An information base and “real time alert” communications on waterborne illness and contamination are lacking, and there are information barriers between jurisdictions and communities. There is a need for a comprehensive, integrated, national information system on waterborne contamination and threats, particularly in small, rural and remote communities. The majority of Boil Water Advisories occur in small systems. The issue of small systems has been recognized internationally as a priority, including by WHO and U.S. EPA. This target addresses the Millenium goal, to halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015. The Protocol and the Boil Water advisory module will provide a stepping stone to a consistent approach to addressing these challenges.</p> <p>Collaboration is needed between and within governments and communities to determine where it makes sense for jurisdictions to work together rather than developing separate tools/strategies.</p> <p>We need to ensure that information is available for decision-making, e.g, surveillance/monitoring programs, incident reporting.</p>	<p>Drinking water quality and water management is improved</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.**1.2 Clean Water****Objective – People have access to clean water**

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.2.6 During the course of SDS IV, Health Canada will develop and update a minimum of 5 water quality guidelines for specific contaminants annually, including drinking and recreational water. (Federal SD Goal I)</p>	<p>In Canada, the responsibility for making sure drinking water supplies are safe is shared between the provincial, territorial, federal and municipal governments. The day-to-day responsibility of providing safe drinking water to the public generally rests with the provinces and territories, while municipalities usually oversee the day to day operations of the treatment facilities.</p> <p>In order to know whether their drinking water management plan is working, Health Canada plays a leadership role in water quality science and research. Its mandate and expertise lies in protecting the health of all Canadians by developing the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality in partnership with the provinces and territories. These guidelines are used by every jurisdiction in Canada and are the basis for establishing drinking water quality requirements for all Canadians.</p> <p>The key to ensuring clean, safe and reliable drinking water is to understand the drinking water supply from the source all the way to the consumer's tap. Health Canada supports and promotes the development of strategies to ensure the protection of water resources from source to tap. This multi-barrier approach to water quality means that the protection of source water quality is an important component, as it is the safety of grey water re-use to reduce our consumption of drinking water.</p>	<p>Drinking water quality and water management is improved</p>
<p>Target 1.2.7 Starting April 2007, Health Canada will coordinate tools to assist and support federal drinking water purveyor departments. (Federal SD Goal I)</p>	<p>In order for federal departments and agencies to implement and maintain all required due diligence elements of drinking water management including: risk assessments, site inspections, monitoring and response programs, training etc., stakeholders must be brought together to share existing solutions, raise awareness on best practices, validate priority needs and identify shared solutions for meeting those needs.</p>	<p>Drinking water quality and water management is improved</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.

1.3 Sustainable Communities

Objective – Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.3.1 By March 2008, Health Canada commits to promoting sustainable development and environmental management via the distribution of an awareness package to all nursing stations across the country. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>In order to increase the overall environmental sustainability of nursing stations, workers must be aware of and understand the environmental impacts of operations and how they can take simple actions to reduce these effects. Their actions will also likely have a positive impact on a greater scale, increasing the overall sustainability of the communities.</p>	<p>Promotion of sustainable development and environmental management at nursing stations, will lead to increased awareness and understanding among workers and overall sustainability of communities.</p>
<p>Target 1.3.2 By March 2010, Health Canada commits to having completed the assessment of 16 sites requiring investigation of suspected petroleum hydrocarbon contamination, as well as the remediation of the 18 known petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated sites (as of March 2006) it is responsible for at health facilities on reserves. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Health Canada through FNIHB manages over 550 health facilities on reserves. Ninety of these health facilities, because of their remote location, use diesel fuel for heating, and an additional 23 health facilities have used diesel fuel in the past. Diesel fuel contamination could have a detrimental effect on local fish, game, and water sources. Through the assessment and remediation of petroleum hydrocarbon contamination, the department will reduce its financial liability and ensure safer living and work environments.</p>	<p>The assessment and remediation of sites suspected of or known to have petroleum hydrocarbon contamination will lead to a decrease in the number of contaminated sites and will improve environmental conditions on reserves.</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.

1.3 Sustainable Communities

Objective – Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.3.3 By March 2010, Health Canada commits to conducting phase one environmental site assessments and environmental compliance audits at all health centres to identify and assess environmental issues as part of a broader campaign to reduce environmental and health risks at health facilities. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Health Canada has the duty to manage and reduce the health and environmental risks associated with health facilities. Conducting phase one environmental site assessments and environmental compliance audits will help determine if historical or current land use practices have resulted in any environmental degradation of site property and will provide information on the status of a facility with respect to various environmental issues. Further, procedures will be identified to correct any deficiencies and improve the situation to acceptable levels.</p>	<p>Risks to the environment and human health at health centres will be identified, assessed and addressed, leading to a reduction of risks and overall sustainable management.</p>
<p>Target 1.3.4 By March 2010, 50% of the 289 Diesel fuel storage tanks located at 90 health facilities on reserves, will be upgraded or replaced as per the technical guidelines for federal aboveground and underground storage tanks of petroleum hydrocarbons and allied petroleum hydrocarbons under the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i>. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Health Canada through FNIHB manages over 550 health facilities on reserves. Ninety of these health facilities are situated in remote locations and use diesel fuel for heating. Some of the fuel storage tanks require upgrades such as secondary containment. Upgrading or replacing these fuel tanks will reduce the potential for expensive remediation costs in the future.</p>	<p>Upgrading or replacing diesel fuel tanks will ensure compliance with CEPA guidelines and reduce the possibility for spills, leaks and associated adverse effects to the environment.</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.

1.3 Sustainable Communities

Objective – Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.3.5 Contribute to the National Agri-Environmental Standards Initiative (NAESI) by providing guidance on the development of non-regulatory agri-environmental performance standards for pesticides by 2008. (This is in collaboration with AAFC and EC). (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Ideal Performance Standards will provide meaningful measures to be used in assessing environmental quality in an agricultural context on a national scale against which monitoring and surveillance results can be assessed. The intent is to develop non-regulatory, nationally consistent, and scientifically-defensible environmental performance standards. These standards will help support the achievement of common environmental outcomes over the long term.</p>	<p>Strengthened health and environmental Protection.</p>
<p>Target 1.3.6 PMRA will have a publicly available pesticide sales database on a regional level in Canada by 2009 and report on the same annually. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>The sales information database will provide key exposure information that will contribute to the ability of the PMRA to assess and mitigate health and environmental risks of pesticides. It will also help document risk reduction trends, and track the effectiveness of risk reduction efforts.</p>	<p>Informed public, stakeholders and regulators about pesticide sales in Canada.</p> <p>Strengthened health and environmental protection</p>
<p>Target 1.3.7 PMRA will develop the Canadian Pesticide Risk Indicator (CaPRI) to assess trends in risks posed by pesticides, with both, human health and environmental components by 2010. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>The pesticide risk indicator will allow for better quantification and analyses of the effectiveness of risk reduction measures and guide policy decisions to further reduce risk to health and the environment.</p>	<p>Informed public, stakeholders and regulators about effectiveness of pesticide risk reduction measures.</p>
<p>Target 1.3.8 PMRA will encourage the Canadian public to report pesticide incidents by implementing a process for voluntary incident reporting by 2007. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Incident reporting allows monitoring of effects under actual pesticide use situations post-registration and is an effective tool to determine if risk mitigative measures are adequate. The voluntary reporting system will allow Canadians to report any incident of which they are aware that is likely linked to pesticide usage.</p>	<p>Strengthened health and environmental protection</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.		
1.3 Sustainable Communities		
Objective – Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities		
Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.3.9 The PMRA will collaborate with the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides to harmonize classification of Domestic Products in Canada by 2008. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>This classification will facilitate vendor and customer interactions to promote more judicious use of Domestic Products.</p>	<p>Better informed public, as a result strengthened health and environmental protection.</p>
<p>Target 1.3.10 During the course of SDS IV, Health Canada will continue to work with partners to increase the number of smoke free spaces in Canada. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>To contribute to the creation of smoke-free places and a healthier population, by reducing the number of people involuntarily exposed to second-hand smoke.</p>	<p>Risks to human health from harmful substances are reduced.</p>
<p>Target 1.3.11 Health Canada commits to the development of risk communications material, to be made publicly available on the Health Canada website, on approximately 15 substances annually as identified by the Department's CEPA categorization results by March 31, 2010. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Health Canada has a role to play in protecting Canadians from environmental risks to health. Through the categorization of existing substances under the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i>, the department is identifying potential areas of risk to human health. Following the identification of these substances, a two-pronged approach must be assumed to ensure proper management of the identified risks, including a comprehensive management strategy as well as a communications plan to ensure the Canadian public and key stakeholders are given the tools they need to protect themselves and their families from health risks posed by substances in the environment. This target, along with target 1.3.9 will facilitate an integrated risk management approach.</p>	<p>Risks to human health from harmful substances are reduced.</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.

1.3 Sustainable Communities

Objective – Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.3.12 Based on the results of CEPA categorization process, Health Canada will undertake 5 risk management strategies from December 2006 – July 2007, with the aim to complete approximately 15 risk management strategies annually thereafter to 2010. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Health Canada has a responsibility to protect Canadians from environmental risks to health. Through the categorization of existing substances under CEPA, HC is identifying potential substances of risk to human health. This will result in an accelerated conclusion of assessments that will also trigger increased requirements for risk management action, which in many cases will be subject to CEPA mandated time clocks. Risk management actions will now include more comprehensive sector-based approaches, increased flexibility and earlier engagement of risk managers during the assessment phase, and generic approaches to risk management.</p>	<p>Risks to human health from harmful substances are reduced.</p>
<p>Target 1.3.13 During the course of the SDS IV Health Canada will conduct assessments and risk management of new substances in order to reduce the level of exposure to hazardous chemicals and biotechnology products that are suspected to pose a significant risk to the health of Canadians or the Canadian environment. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Assessment and, when warranted, risk management of new substances, including products of biotechnology and substances in <i>Food and Drugs Act</i> products, will reduce the level of exposure of Canadians or the Canadian environment to hazardous substances that are suspected to pose a significant threat.</p>	<p>Risks to human health from harmful substances are reduced.</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.		
1.3 Sustainable Communities		
Objective – Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities		
Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.3.14 During the course of SDS IV, Health Canada will develop National Guidelines for Environmental Assessment related to health impacts of noise. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Health Canada is often requested by regulatory authorities to provide relevant specialist information and knowledge in its possession regarding environmental assessments under the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 1999</i>, (CEAA). The information must be made available by law under CEAA.</p> <p>Projects under CEAA that have the potential to generate significant noise impacts include major road, rail and air traffic infrastructure as well as energy and other natural resources projects. All are important to development and all must be planned to be sustainable, i.e., so that the change in noise environment due to project noise is not likely to cause significant adverse health effects.</p> <p>For the health effects of noise, the use of different criteria and assessment methods by different project proponents and differences between relevant provincial policies demand that National Guidelines be developed.</p> <p>The guidelines should provide greater efficiency and transparency in environmental assessments and improve the quality, i.e., give greater confidence that the change in noise environment due to project noise will not likely cause significant adverse health effects.</p> <p>Greater efficiency is useful to all stakeholders and is needed to help Health Canada meet its mandate because of the large increase in environmental assessments where noise is an issue.</p>	<p>Risks to human health from harmful substances are reduced.</p>
<p>Target 1.3.15 Health Canada will complete screening level assessments of approximately 30 high health priority substances identified from DSL categorization by 2010. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Screening assessments must be completed on substances identified via categorization as mandated in the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i>, (CEPA).</p>	<p>Risks to human health from harmful substances are reduced.</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.

1.3 Sustainable Communities

Objective – Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.3.16 Health Canada will provide expert support services to federal custodial departments under the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) to assist federal departments in the assessment and reduction of human health risks related to federal contaminated sites until program ends in 2010. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Health Canada (Contaminated Sites Division) provides Technical support to FCSAP and federal custodial departments by providing advice, guidance and training on human health risk assessment and public involvement issues at federal contaminated sites. This work includes the peer review of all risk assessments prepared on federal contaminated sites.</p>	<p>Risks to human health from harmful substances are reduced.</p>

Objective – Maintain and foster social well-being within communities

<p>Target 1.3.17 During the course of SDS IV, at least one of Health Canada's regional offices will explore the opportunity to collaborate with provincial and municipal organizations in the development of sustainable development practices or initiatives. (Federal SD Goal IV)</p>	<p>Communities are increasingly present in the Speeches from the Throne and are a growing concern for federal agencies and departments (local development, community capacity, etc.).</p> <p>Communities are where many different actors intervene.</p> <p>The expertise, tools, and visions of decision-makers must be pooled to ensure the sustainable development of communities.</p>	<p>Health Canada will participate in the sustainable development of communities.</p>
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Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.**1.4 Protection of the Environment and Human Health**

Objective - Health Canada commits to strengthening partnerships on health, environment and sustainable development in order to contribute to safer health products for Canadians.

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.4.1 By March 2010, screen all (100%) Natural Health Product submissions to ensure that ingredients in these products do not include ingredients derived from endangered species.</p>	<p>For natural health products (NHPs) that contain an ingredient listed in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), the NHP License Applicant must have a permit to import raw material and/or the finished product in Canada. The SARA (Species at Risk Act) Species List is also used to ensure that NHP ingredients are not classified as endangered species (extirpated, endangered, threatened, or a special concern) in Canada.</p>	<p>Safer health products for Canadians.</p>
<p>Target 1.4.2 During the 2007-10 period, develop a regulatory framework based on policy and technical analysis of issues related to the development of Environmental Assessment Regulations for new substances contained in products regulated under the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i> (e.g., ibuprofen, naproxen, carbamazepine, gemfibrozil, etc.).</p>	<p>The current new substances assessment framework under <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i> is not appropriate for environmental risk assessments for new substances contained in products regulated under the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i>.</p>	<p>An environmental and human health assessment of new substances contained in products regulated under the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i> prior to being manufactured or imported into Canada.</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.

1.4 Protection of the Environment and Human Health

Objective - Health Canada commits to strengthening partnerships on health, environment and sustainable development in order to contribute to safer health products for Canadians.

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.4.3 By March 2007, establish and convene a government-stakeholder Environmental Assessment Working Group to provide strategic advice on the development of the Environmental Assessment Regulations.</p>	<p>The current new substances assessment framework under <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i> is not appropriate for environmental risk assessments for new substances contained in products regulated under the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i>.</p>	<p>An environmental and human health assessment of new substances contained in products regulated under the Food & Drugs Act prior to being manufactured or imported into Canada.</p>
<p>Target 1.4.4 Throughout the 2007-2010 period, provide open and transparent communication to stakeholders regarding the development of the Environmental Assessment Regulations through the Health Canada website, focus group discussions, written reports, etc.</p>	<p>The current new substances assessment framework under <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i> is not appropriate for environmental risk assessments for new substances contained in products regulated under the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i>.</p>	<p>An environmental and human health assessment of new substances contained in products regulated under the Food & Drugs Act prior to being manufactured or imported into Canada.</p>

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.		
1.5 Food Safety		
Objective – Health Canada commits to helping ensure the safety of food on the Canadian market.		
Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.5.1 By March 2010, develop a framework to improve the transparency and regulatory process for novel foods through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) revision of guidelines for the Safety Assessment of Novel Foods, and B) development and delivery of training sessions for industry and crop developers on how to prepare novel food applications. 	Health Canada commits to strengthening partnerships on health, environment and sustainable development in order to contribute to safer health products for Canadians.	Improved transparency and openness of the regulatory process for novel foods.
<p>Target 1.5.2 By March 2010, establish policies and standards related to the nutritional quality of foods (Trans Fat, Food Fortification, Product-Specific Health Claims).</p>	Health Canada commits to ensuring the safety of food on the Canadian market through stronger partnerships, research and surveillance, information dissemination, risk assessments and policy and regulatory development.	Improved transparency and openness of the regulatory process for novel foods.
<p>Target 1.5.3 By March 2010, amend the regulations on the declaration of priority allergens.</p>	This amendment will enhance the current requirements of declaration of allergens, gluten and sulfites in the ingredient list on prepackaged food.	Improved transparency and openness of the regulatory process for novel foods.

Theme 1: Helping to create Healthy social and physical environments.

1.5 Food Safety

Objective – Health Canada commits to helping ensure the safety of food on the Canadian market.

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 1.5.4 By March 2010, continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop appropriate intervention strategies to reduce the public's exposure to priority pathogens in specific commodities; • increase consumer awareness of risk avoidance practices for targeting specific commodities and vulnerable groups; and, • update risk management strategies to limit exposure of Canadians to selected chemicals in food 	<p>Reduced exposure to disease-causing, food-borne microorganisms, which will result in lowering the incidence of food-borne illnesses in Canada. This target also addresses the mitigation of risks to human health associated with foods that contain environmental contaminants and chemicals resulting from industrial and agricultural issues.</p>	<p>Lowered incidence of food-borne illnesses in Canada.</p>

Objective – Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities

<p>Target 1.5.5 In collaboration with Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, the PMRA will expedite grower access to lower risk pest control products such as biologicals, pheromones and reduced risk products by 2008.</p>	<p>Expediting access to lower risk pesticides is important to meet the demand of certain consumers and pesticide user groups in Canada, and should result in decreased risk to the environment and to human health.</p>	<p>Strengthened health and environmental protection</p>
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Theme 2: Minimizing the Environmental and Health Effects of the Department's Physical Operations and Activities

At Health Canada, we are the custodians of over 750 buildings and associated lands and we lease space in approximately 250 additional facilities across the country. These facilities include laboratories, health centres, nursing stations and hospitals, as well as offices, warehouses and other storage facilities. The Department also manages a national fleet of some 600 vehicles.

As with any large organization, Health Canada's operations have an impact on the

natural environment through the production of solid waste, the purchase of goods, the consumption of water and energy, and the release of emissions into the air. There is potential for our operations to directly or indirectly affect the health of communities and Canadians. Our responsibility as Health Canada employees is to minimize the Department's negative environmental impacts. Theme 2 outlines Health Canada's commitments to reducing adverse effects on the natural environment, adopting a "good neighbour approach" and promoting our social responsibility in communities with Health Canada facilities.

Theme 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities.		
2.1 Fleet		
Objective – To improve the environmental performance of the Government of Canada's vehicle fleets.		
Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 2.1.1 By March 2010, reduce greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission per vehicle kilometre. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>The Canadian transportation sector is responsible for 25-30% of Canada's GHG emissions. The Government of Canada operates approximately 26,000 vehicles. Health Canada's fleet of over 600 vehicles presents the opportunity to reduce GHG emissions through improving the environmental performance of Health Canada's fleet such as by phasing out low fuel-efficient vehicles. While considering fleet rationalization and the improved efficiency of new vehicles, Health Canada will require corporate cooperation from program branches in order to meet targets, since decisions related to the number of vehicles and their specifications are decentralized.</p>	<p>To improve the environmental performance of Health Canada's vehicle fleet and reduce GHGs and air pollutant emissions from fleet.</p>
<p>Target 2.1.2 Purchase ethanol blended gasoline for department road vehicles where available or applicable. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Through purchasing, where available, ethanol blend fuel for their fleet, Health Canada will be able to further conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>Reduction of GHGs and air pollutant emissions from fleet.</p>

Theme 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities.

2.2 Building Energy

Objective – Optimize the reduction of GHG emissions and energy use of federal buildings.

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 2.2.1 By March 2008, Health Canada commits to conducting energy audits at two health facilities to model energy fluxes in order to identify energy saving options. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Health Canada, through FNIHB, supports over 550 health facilities that deliver primary care on-reserves. Conducting energy audits will help identify areas where energy saving action can be considered in health facilities and determine if cost effective measures should be considered. This will help contribute to sustainable environmental management of health facilities.</p>	<p>Energy use levels will be known and potential energy saving actions identified, leading to reduced energy consumption and overall sustainable environmental management of health facilities.</p>
<p>Target 2.2.2 By March 2009, an action plan to reduce GHG emissions in Health Canada's custodial laboratories will be developed and implemented. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>The federal government consumes significant energy to heat, cool, light and power its facilities, with these buildings contributing 81% of the GHG emissions from Government of Canada operations in 2002-2003. Reducing GHG emissions is important for concerns related to energy supply and detrimental effects of air contaminants on the environment.</p>	<p>Limit our impact on natural resources through reducing GHG emissions from HC's custodial laboratories.</p>

Theme 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities.

2.3 Procurement

Objective – The application of the policy on green procurement is intended to contribute to the Government of Canada's environmental objectives

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 2.3.1 Starting April 1st 2007, Health Canada will increase the ratio of Energy Star computers and monitors. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Health Canada computers and monitors require a significant use of energy for operation. By increasing the number of Energy Star computers and monitors Health Canada can reduce energy consumption per computer and monitor, thereby reducing associated GHG emissions.</p>	<p>Reduced energy consumption per computer thereby reducing associated GHG emissions.</p>
<p>Target 2.3.2 By March 2010, all material managers and procurement personnel will attend a recognized training course on green procurement offered by PWGSC, Canada School of Public Service, or any other federal government department. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>In acquisitions, the greatest opportunity to consider environmental issues is at the planning stage. Departments, using a lifecycle management approach, can plan the acquisitions of goods and services with a reduced environmental impact, including specifying how purchases are used, maintained and disposed of. Ensuring that material managers and procurement personnel are knowledgeable about green procurement will maximize environmental benefits.</p>	<p>Increased procurement of environmentally preferable goods and services.</p>
<p>Target 2.3.3 By March 2010, incorporate tracking tools into the existing systems (e.g. SAP etc.) to monitor green purchases. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>The Federal Government is a significant purchaser in Canada. On November 28, 2005, the Government of Canada announced a new green procurement policy (effective April 2006) to purchase environmentally preferable goods and services and to forge ahead with the greening of government operations initiative. Developing and utilizing green purchasing tracking tools will allow Health Canada to ensure the integration of environmental performance considerations into the procurement decision-making process and report on progress in purchasing environmentally friendly goods and services.</p>	<p>Increased demand for environmentally preferable goods and services.</p>

Theme 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities.

2.4 Training

Objective – Integrating sustainable development into departmental management processes, decisions for operations and Health Canada plans, policies, and programs

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 2.4.1 Health Canada will join with other government departments and the Canada School of Public Service to design and deliver new Government of Canada Sustainable Development training material. Delivery to begin by December 2007. (Federal SD Goal VI)</p>	<p>An SD lens will enable policy analysts to better assess the quality of proposed policies. A lens will promote a comprehensive and long term approach to policy writing that ensures social, economic and environmental dimensions are adequately considered early in the process, taking into full account many “determinants of health” otherwise overlooked in policy development.</p>	<p>Complete the development of the course and begin delivery to increase strong federal governance and decision making to support sustainable development.</p>
<p>Target 2.4.2 Starting April 1st 2007, increase the ratio of the existing training courses offered by the Health Canada Learning Program that will include a module on the environmental responsibilities that rest with employees. (Federal SD Goal VI)</p>	<p>Many Health Canada training courses already exist and are frequently taken by employees. Integrating a module on environmental responsibilities into these existing courses will ensure that an increased proportion of the workforce are aware of, and participate in, Health Canada's environmental responsibilities and initiatives.</p>	<p>Increased participation of Health Canada employees in the Department's environmental initiatives.</p>

Theme 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities.

2.4 Training

Objective – Integrating sustainable development into departmental management processes, decisions for operations and Health Canada plans, policies, and programs

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 2.4.3 By March 2010, Health Canada will implement a bi-ennial fuel storage tank operator training program delivered by certified fuel storage tank installers/inspectors to the staff at 90 health facilities with fuel storage tanks on reserves in British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland in order to ensure reduced potential for accidental release of petroleum hydrocarbons from storage tanks.</p>	<p>Health Canada through FNIHB manages over 550 health facilities on reserves. Ninety of these facilities are situated in remote locations and use diesel fuel for heating. In order to ensure that the potential for spills and leaks is minimized and expensive remediation costs avoided, training will be provided. Since 2002, safe fuel storage tank operator training has been delivered on an annual basis to 29 First Nations communities in Ontario, where the majority of Health Canada's fuel storage tanks are located.</p>	<p>Providing fuel storage tank operators with training will help ensure acceptable petroleum hydrocarbon handling and storage practices and ultimately lead to a reduction of spills and leaks and improve environmental conditions on reserves.</p>

Theme 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities.

2.5 Business Travel

Objective – Mitigate and reduce emissions that contribute to climate change

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 2.5 Health Canada commits to completing a local business transportation pilot to rationalize local business travel requirements and improve the range of sustainable transportation services offered by the Department by March 2010. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>The pilot of a local business transportation program will comply with sustainable transportation principles and promote local business travel planning and management. The pilot will take into account environmental principles, economic requirements and the operation and social needs of the department and its employees. As such, a sustainable local business travel program has positive impacts that extend beyond reduction of GHG emissions.</p>	<p>Health Canada will realize a reduction in the Department's environmental impact, and an improved range of sustainable transportation services.</p>

Theme 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities.

2.6 Environmental Stewardship

Objective – Encourage responsible use of natural resources that conserves and protects environmental quality

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 2.6 By April 2008, Health Canada will develop a policy on responsible use of paper and a supporting action plan for implementation at the Departmental level. (Federal SD Goal V)</p>	<p>The development of tools and processes in support of responsible paper use within Health Canada can increase the level of participation in activities that promote the reduction of paper consumption and the purchase of environmentally preferable paper thereby achieving a more sustainable use of natural resources. Activities that can support responsible use of paper include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double-sided printing feature set as the default option at workstations connected to network printers that are equipped with a duplexing unit • Double-sided printing of executive correspondence and responses to public inquiries on recycled paper (30% post-consumer fibres) • The distribution of 20% of the documents sent for consultation in electronic format • 20% of the Offices of Primary Interest providing their documents to ATIP in electronic format • General requirements for employees to print and photocopy documents in a double-sided format. 	<p>Reduced paper consumption and increased usage of recycled paper with post-consumer fibre content (30%).</p>

Theme 3: Integrating Sustainable Development into Departmental Decision-making and Management Processes and Advancing the Social Pillar of Sustainability

By considering and integrating environmental, social/cultural and economic factors, sustainable development encourages a comprehensive, systematic, interdisciplinary approach to decision-making and management processes. To integrate sustainable development considerations into all departmental activities, there is a need to review, and, where appropriate, revise current policies, plans, programs and activities to ensure that they are consistent with sustainable development and that new ones explicitly reflect sustainable development principles and practices. Consistent integration of sustainable development will result in decisions that are well thought out and that reflect Health Canada's long-term vision for sustainable development.

Theme 3 targets articulate a variety of strategies and tools for integrating sustainable development into the culture, processes, practices and policies of the Department. By gradually integrating sustainable development, it becomes ingrained in what we do and how we do it, thereby broadening and strengthening the impact on sustainable development.

This theme also focuses on social sustainable development. Advancing the social pillar of sustainability means broadening research, discussion and consideration of the pillar. Social and cultural conditions can have a profound effect on health. Our social and cultural systems shape the way we perceive the world and how we interact with it. In the long term, sustainable development may depend as much on social and cultural change as on technical or scientific solutions.

Theme 3: Integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes and advancing the social pillar of sustainability.		
3.1 Integration		
Objective- Health Canada commits to integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes to contribute to the effective delivery of Health Canada's programs.		
Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 3.1.1 By the end of 2008, as a pilot, Health Canada will apply a sustainable development lens to select policies and programs. (Federal SD Goal VI)</p>	<p>The sustainable development lens is a tool for integrated decision-making, long term thinking, and recognition of the interdependence between local, regional, national and global activities. It enables policy analysts, program developers and planners to better assess the quality of proposed programs and policies. The pilot project will include delivery and assessment of the lens through consultation with policy and planning groups across the Department. The pilot will also include an examination of strategic planning requirements and strategic integration of sustainable development into the planning process.</p>	<p>Improve integration of sustainable development into policy development and strategic planning.</p>

Theme 3: Integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes and advancing the social pillar of sustainability.

3.1 Integration

Objective- Health Canada commits to integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes to contribute to the effective delivery of Health Canada's programs.

Target(s)	Rationale Statement	Outcome Statement
<p>Target 3.1.2 By end of 2008, Health Canada will convene a workshop on the social aspect of sustainable development to help frame SDS V.</p>	<p>Sustainable development is a shared responsibility requiring involvement and consultation of a multitude of stakeholders. In recognition of this shared responsibility, the federal government is committed to open and transparent policy and program development on sustainable development. To achieve this, Health Canada will convene a national advisory group on social sustainable development, to consult and engage in identifying sustainable development issues, goals and targets.</p>	<p>To engage with partners and stakeholders in order to broaden knowledge and understanding of social sustainable development as it relates to Health Canada.</p>

6. You Are The Agents of Change: SDS IV And You

Incorporating Sustainable Development Principles in a Workplace Setting

We all know what kinds of things we can do to promote sustainable development at home — recycling, composting, reducing energy use, reducing idling are all things that many of us have been involved in or heard about through advertising campaigns. So how can we apply sustainable development in a workplace setting and in the work we do at Health Canada in policies and programs?

Much of what you do with respect to sustainable development at home is applicable to the workplace. Turning off lights and computers, reusing containers, and printing double-sided are all ways to reduce the ecological footprint of our offices and work towards sustainable change. The box below contains several useful tips on what you can do to decrease your ecological footprint at the office. SDS IV contains other actions and targets that will help us all incorporate sustainable development in an office setting.

Sharing successes and challenges with co-workers is an important way for us all to learn. Health Canada offers several training workshops to employees about sustainable development. Appendix E lists several website resources that can provide you with more information about sustainable development. The *Tools of Change* website, for example, features dozens of Canadian case studies of incorporating sustainable development activities into work, home and community settings.

Sustainable Development at the Office: Useful Tips

- Use reusable china and cutlery in catering at all meetings
- Bring reusable coffee mugs to work and meetings
- Print and copy on both sides of paper
- Turn off your computer when you leave the office for the day
- Turn office lights off when you leave the office
- Teleconference whenever possible so participants do not have to commute in for the meeting
- Bring lunch in reusable containers
- Reuse office supplies (e.g., envelopes, file folders, paper clips)
- Participate in active transportation (e.g., walk, cycle, rollerblade), take the bus, or carpool to work
- Sort recyclables from waste and ensure proper disposal
- Purchase environmentally friendly and socially conscious products and services (e.g. Fair Trade products, “green” products)
- Read the Sustainable Development Guidebook for Facility Managers
- Discuss possible sustainable development projects for the office with your Sustainable Development Coordinator
- Read the *Green Procurement Policy* and follow its dictates in contracting out any work (<http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/greening/text/proc-e.html>)
- Take the Strategic Environmental Assessment training course (contact the Office of Sustainable Development at osd@hc-sc.gc.ca)
- Become familiar with sustainable development issues by reading up-to-date information and studies from the web (see Appendix E: Web Links)
- Hold lunch-and-learn sessions and invite local staff or researchers to talk about sustainable development

Incorporating Sustainable Development Principles into Planning and Decision-making

Incorporating sustainable development into the policies, plans and programs in our work and into everyday decision-making at Health Canada is a more challenging task. Whether your day-to-day job is running the office, managing finances or designing instrumental

health policies, there are several questions to think about that can help guide you in incorporating sustainable development principles into your decision-making:

By paying attention to these questions as you conduct your work, over time it will become second nature to consider sustainable development principles in everything that you do.

Questions to Help Incorporate Sustainable Development into Your Decision-making

1. What is your vision of where you want to go in terms of your activity and sustainable development?
2. What are some activities that can help you reach your vision?
3. How do your activities fit into the “bigger picture” (e.g., in departmental policies, nationally, internationally)?
4. What impacts (positive and negative) could your activities have on the well-being of social, ecological and economic conditions?
5. What impacts (positive and negative) could your activities have on equity and disparity in human societies?
6. What are the impacts of your activities over the long term?
7. What are the impacts on geographical locations other than where you are?
8. Are there hidden impacts that you might not be aware of? How can you find out what these are?
9. How can you minimize the negative and maximize the positive impacts of your activity with respect to the above considerations?
10. How can your activities’ approaches and results be made more open and accessible to everyone?
11. What are other groups doing in your area? What opportunities are there for partnership?
12. How does your approach engage the participation of all relevant groups? How can this be improved?
13. How can you effectively communicate the results of your activities to all audiences?
14. How can you learn from past experience? What has worked well, what hasn’t worked well? What can be improved to better reach your vision?

How Will We Measure Progress?

SDS IV was developed to ensure a simple and accountable system of measuring progress. Each objective and target is associated with a clear and measurable indicator, which, when measured, will provide information on whether the target has been reached. Health Canada has created an internal sustainable development database management tool to track these indicators and use this information in reporting results. The database contains information concerning target progress, performance, status, corrective actions and accountable organizations.

The progress made towards reaching the objectives and targets in SDS IV will continue to be reported on and communicated through several pathways, including:

- Annual Departmental Reports on Plans and Priorities;
- Departmental Progress Reports;
- Sustainable Development Strategy internal performance progress reports; and
- Annual Performance Reports.

These reports are all available on the Health Canada website, www.hc-sc.gc.ca, or you can contact Health Canada Publications at 1-866-225-0709 or publications@hc-sc.gc.ca for a print copy.

7. Next Steps

Our responsibility towards sustainable development and health does not end with the publication of this Strategy. Rather, SDS IV is a starting point, a reference, and a guiding document for all of our actions for the next three years. We must continually strive to take that extra step, to push a bit farther ahead, in order to help build a healthy and sustainable future. SDS IV is our guide and tool to help us do just that. Each of us, now—both working individually and as a team—can be the driver of the change we wish to see.

Appendix A: Health Canada Departmental Profile

Good health is a fundamental goal of all Canadians. Canada benefits socially and economically when everyone enjoys the best possible health. In order to meet that goal, the Government of Canada has given Health Canada and the Minister a broad mandate. Working with its partners, Health Canada provides Canadians with leadership in the following areas:

- Access to quality health care services for Canadians;
- Improved well-being through health promotion and illness prevention;
- Safer health products and food;
- Healthier environments and safer products for Canadians;
- Sustainable pest management and programs;
- Sustainable health services and programs for First Nations and Inuit communities so their people may attain a level of health comparable with that of other Canadians; and
- Better health outcomes through information and communications technologies and evidence-based decision making.

The Department's formal mandate is spelled out in the *Department of Health Act*, while the Minister of Health is responsible for the direct administration of another 18 laws. Through policy development and the delivery of specific programs and services, Health Canada touches the lives of all Canadians.

Our Vision

Health Canada is committed to improving the lives of all of Canada's people and to making this country's population among the healthiest in the world as measured by longevity, lifestyle and effective use of the public health care system.

Mission Statement

To help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health.

Objectives

Health Canada works with many partners to fulfil its mission. This objective is met in many different ways, such as:

- Preventing and reducing risks to individual health and the overall environment;
- Promoting healthier lifestyles;

- Ensuring high-quality health services that are efficient and accessible;
- Integrating renewal of the health care system with longer term plans in the areas of prevention, health promotion and protection;
- Reducing health inequalities in Canadian society; and
- Providing health information to help Canadians make informed decisions.

Through a network of regional offices and its numerous partnerships, the Department helps to maintain effective and sustainable systems for health that allow the greatest number of Canadians to enjoy good health throughout their lives. The Department strives to reduce inequalities in health status, particularly among children, youth, elderly persons, and First Nations and Inuit peoples.

Health Canada's Operational Roles

Health Canada employees play key roles in the areas of promoting, protecting and improving the health of Canadians, roles that assist other stakeholders working in the area.

- **Innovators** — As a science-based department, Health Canada employees are innovators, providing leading-edge science, sound policy research, and effective program and service development. Keeping abreast of global developments on diseases enabled Health Canada to play a leading role in Canada's response to the SARS, BSE and West Nile Virus outbreaks.
- **Knowledge Brokers** — Through research, risk assessments and surveillance, Health Canada provides knowledge to Canadians and others working in the health care field to enable them to make sound choices to protect health. The Department also monitors and researches the health threats from environmental factors such as toxic substances, air and water pollution, climate change and other threats. This work fosters sound decision-making and policy-development at all levels to help reduce health risks.
- **Enablers** — In all program areas, Health Canada brings stakeholders together, as well as provides information, research and education. The work of Health Canada enables Canadians to be up-to-date and informed about the issues that can impact their health.
- **Trustees/ Stewards** — Health Canada, through the administration of the *Canada Health Act*, aims to ensure that all eligible residents of Canada have reasonable access to medically necessary insured services. The Department's broad regulatory responsibilities to protect Canadians and promote health and safety range from prescription drugs and vaccines to toxic substances, from cardiac pacemakers to natural health products and food, from consumer goods to pesticides.
- **Proponents of Transparency** — All work at Health Canada, from the assessment of products under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* to the regulation and approval of thousands of products, is conducted transparently. Health Canada has committed to be accountable in delivering results to Canadians. The public had an opportunity to be involved in consultations on major regulatory initiatives such as the new *Pest Control Products Act* and will continue to be consulted in other areas as part of the Department's consultations framework.

In Concert with Others

Health Canada works with the people of Canada through consultation and public involvement. This includes working with our partners: provinces and territories, First Nations and Inuit communities, professional associations, consumer groups, universities and research institutes, international organizations, volunteers, and other federal departments and agencies.

Flexibility for a Changing Environment

Health Canada is keenly aware of the forces that shape public health, with a number of factors constantly changing the environment:

- Increased public preoccupation with health matters and the accompanying demands for quick access to services and information;
- Shifting demographic patterns that put pressure on health care services;
- Rapid scientific advances that create both health benefits and pressures;
- Growing world migration, travel, and business patterns that create additional health challenges, and;
- A need for transparency in decision-making and accountability.

In the face of this constant evolution, Health Canada remains flexible in its operations, its allocation of limited resources, and its response to these forces.

Appendix B: Health Canada's Sustainable Development Policy

The mission of Health Canada is to help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health. This activity is the very essence of the development of a sustainable Canadian society. Every activity planned and undertaken within Health Canada must consider this mission and the concept of sustainability. Moreover, the purpose and energy of all Health Canada staff must be engaged in ensuring that the Department's mission is undertaken in a manner that is environmentally, socially/culturally and economically sustainable in the short term and in the long term.

Effective date: This policy became effective in December 2000 when it was approved by the Departmental Executive Committee (DEC).

Policy Environment

The Government of Canada signed the Rio de Janeiro Declaration in 1992 and endorsed *Agenda 21* of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which stated as its first principle, "Human beings are the center of concern for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature."

Health Canada recognizes that sustainable development is required for the maintenance and improvement of health in the long term and that meeting the health needs of the present generation of Canadians should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Health Canada has a legislative mandate to address the determinants of health and to incorporate into its work the principles and practices of sustainable development.

Canada amended the *Auditor General Act* in 1995 to require all departments to prepare SD strategies every three years and to report annually to Parliament on progress.

Health Canada tabled its first Sustainable Development Strategy in 1997 and committed to implement SD principles and practices in its policies, plans and programs.

The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development has requested clear articulation of each department's policy on sustainable development.

Health Canada intends to guide management and staff in the efficient and effective implementation of SD principles and practices through the application of this policy.

Policy Objective

To strive toward making Health Canada's legislation, regulations, policies, plans, programs and physical operations supportive of the government's commitment to sustainable development and to advance, as much as possible, the principles of sustainable development.

Guiding Principles

Shared Responsibility — Sustainable development is a shared responsibility among federal departments and agencies and between other levels of government, the private sector, voluntary and community-based organizations and individual Canadians. Health Canada is committed to forming and working in partnerships on sustainable development.

Integrated Approaches — Making progress on sustainable development requires integrated approaches to policy development, planning and decision-making — approaches that take account of environmental, social and economic factors and a precautionary perspective. Health Canada is committed to considering these interdependent factors in all its activities and ensuring that the SD benefits are optimized to the fullest extent possible.

Equity — Sustainable development requires an equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of development within Canada, among different nations and between generations. Health Canada is committed to evaluating environmental, social/cultural and economic costs and benefits of its decisions and activities.

Accountability — Accountability for making progress on sustainable development should be clearly defined, recognizing that sustainable development is a shared responsibility. Health Canada is committed to ensuring that accountability for its SD commitments is clearly assigned and monitored.

Continuous Improvement — An approach based on continuous incremental improvement is required to make progress on sustainable development. Health Canada is committed to building on its experience and incorporating best practices in its work to achieve sustainable development over the long term.

Policy Requirements

Health Canada will:

- prepare or update a Sustainable Development Strategy and table it in the House of Commons at least every three years, in compliance with the requirements of the *Auditor General Act*;
- prepare an annual report on the progress made on the commitments in the Strategy;
- integrate the principles and practices of sustainable development into all of its corporate planning processes and in branch, regional and agency planning processes, as outlined in its SD strategies;
- fully consider environmental, social, cultural and economic factors when developing or amending legislation, regulations, policies, and programs, and ensure compliance with the 1999 Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plans and Program Proposals (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, 1999);

- implement SD principles and practices within its programs, including the departmental Environmental Management System, in a manner that is compatible with the International Organization for Standardization's management criteria described in ISO 14001 and 14004;
- develop and implement strategies to educate staff on the concepts of sustainable development and the incorporation of this policy and other information on sustainable development into departmental training and communication initiatives;
- take into consideration the principles and practices of sustainable development when developing contracts, grants, contribution agreements and transfers to external organizations and individuals;
- comply with all legal, policy and other requirements pertinent to and bearing on its Sustainable Development Strategy and obligations to advance sustainable development; and
- evaluate its managers on their contribution and leadership with respect to sustainable development.

Application

This policy applies to all of Health Canada's branches, regions and agencies.

Roles And Responsibilities

The Deputy Minister is responsible for ensuring that Health Canada adopts the principles and practices of sustainable development, prepares and implements a triennial Sustainable Development Strategy, and reports annually on progress regarding the achievement of SD objectives in the Departmental Performance Report.

The Assistant Deputy Minister, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, is responsible for the coordination of SD policies and strategies in Health Canada and chairing the departmental Steering Committee on Sustainable Development.

The departmental Steering Committee on Sustainable Development is responsible for advising the DEC on policies and initiatives respecting the implementation of sustainable development in Health Canada.

Branch ADMs, Agency Executive Directors and Regional Directors General (RDGs) are responsible for the application of this policy within their respective branch, agency or region.

Directors General are responsible for reviewing the policies, plans and programs in areas under their responsibility to ensure that they have been developed with due application of the principles and practices of sustainable development. They are also responsible for providing SD targets and progress statements.

The Office of Sustainable Development (OSD) is responsible for coordinating the preparation of the Department's Sustainable Development Strategy. It will also coordinate implementation, training and communication aspects of sustainable development on behalf of the Department.

Reporting And Monitoring

The OSD will coordinate the preparation of the reports of progress on the Department's Sustainable Development Strategy required under the *Auditor General Act* and the information on sustainable development prepared for the Departmental Performance Report.

The OSD, in conjunction with internal auditors, will provide an annual report to the DEC on the implementation of this policy. ADMs, RDGs and Executive Directors will be responsible for providing information to the OSD to facilitate the preparation of this report.

The DEC will prepare revisions to the policy as needed in response to the review of the annual report on implementation of the policy and based on the Department's commitment to the principle of continuous improvement.

Effective Date

This policy became effective in December 2000 when it was approved by the DEC.

Enquiries

Any enquiries concerning this policy should be directed to the OSD.

Appendix C: Cross-linkages with Health Canada's Strategic Outcomes

SDS IV was developed to ensure that the actions and targets were well integrated with existing Health Canada programs, policies and strategic outcomes. The table below describes in more detail how actions in SDS IV relate to Health Canada's four strategic outcomes.

Health Canada's Strategic Outcomes	Actions in SDS IV that link to HC Strategic Outcomes	Targets
1. Strengthened knowledge base to address health and health care priorities	Distributing awareness packages to nursing stations across the country, conducting communication outreach programs on pesticides, and disseminating risk communication material on priority substances	1.3.1, 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.3.8, 1.3.11
2. Access to safe and effective health products and food and information on healthy choices	<p>Improving water quality through public access to potable water on passenger conveyances</p> <p>Improving access to safe health products and food through: assessment and risk management of new substances; development of Environmental Assessment regulations for new substances contained in products regulated under the <i>Food & Drugs Act</i>, and development of a framework, policies and standards under the Smart Regulations Initiative to improve transparency and regulatory process for novel foods</p>	1.2.2 1.4.2, 1.5.1, 1.5.2

Health Canada's Strategic Outcomes	Actions in SDS IV that link to HC Strategic Outcomes	Targets
<p>3. Reduced health and environmental risks from products and substances, and safer living and working environments</p>	<p>Improving air quality through regulations banning the use of lead in candle wicks</p> <p>Improving water quality through: ensuring mercury from dental practices does not enter wastewater; carrying out a pesticide risk assessment; and creating guidance and sustainability indicators for pesticide use</p> <p>Improving the sustainability of communities through: assessment and remediation of Health Canada health facilities; upgrading fuel storage tanks; supporting smoke-free work and living spaces; implementing risk management strategies; and developing criteria to assess the impact of noise on health and well-being</p> <p>Reducing the footprint of Health Canada operations through: purchasing ethanol blended gasoline; conducting energy audits; training employees on how to reduce greenhouse gases; and piloting a sustainable business transportation plan</p>	<p>1.1.1,</p> <p>1.2.3, 1.3.5, 1.3.7</p> <p>1.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.3.4, 1.3.10, 1.3.13, 1.3.14</p> <p>2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.5, 2.6</p>
<p>4. Better health outcomes and reduction of health inequalities between First Nations and Inuit and other Canadians</p>	<p>Improving the technical capacity of First Nations communities to manage water systems; increasing environmental management awareness; and upgrading fuel storage tanks in health facilities in First Nations communities</p>	<p>1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.4</p>

Health Products and Food Branch Strategic Planning Framework 2004–07

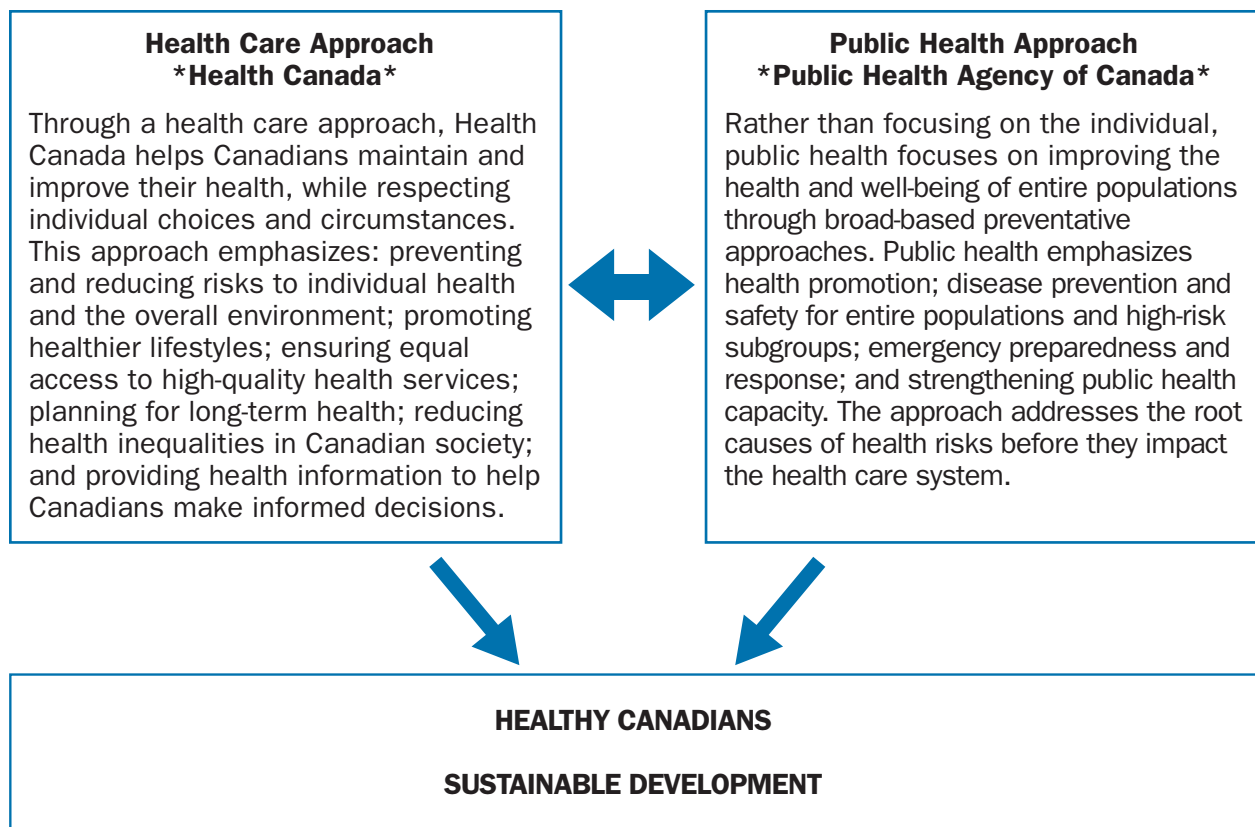
Further cross linkages can be made to the Health Products and Food Branch, through linkages to their current strategic planning framework.

Health Products and Food Branch (HPFB) Strategies	HPFB Key Results	Actions in SDS IV That Link to HPFB Strategies	Targets
<p>1. Transforming our efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness as a regulator.</p>	<p>Transformed regulatory processes. A regulatory platform for the 21st century.</p> <p>Expanded collaboration with international organizations.</p> <p>Leveraged national partnerships.</p> <p>Enhanced health innovation.</p>	<p>Screen all natural health product submissions to ensure that ingredients in these products do not include ingredients derived from endangered species.</p> <p>Continue development of Environmental Assessment Regulations for new substances contained in products regulated under the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i>.</p> <p>Amend the regulations on the declaration of priority allergens.</p>	<p>1.4.1</p> <p>1.4.2 1.4.3</p> <p>1.5.3</p>
<p>2. Providing authoritative information for healthy choices and informed decisions by Canadians.</p>	<p>Useful and credible evidence-based information.</p> <p>Improved public awareness and healthy choices.</p> <p>Supportive conditions.</p> <p>Strategic and coordinated communications.</p>	<p>Establish policies and standards under the Smart Regulations Initiative that will include policies related to the nutritional quality of foods.</p> <p>Provide open and transparent communication to stakeholders regarding the development of the Environmental Assessment Regulations through the Health Canada website, focus groups discussions, written reports, etc.</p> <p>Develop intervention strategies to reduce the public's exposure to priority pathogens, increase awareness of risk avoidance practices, and update risk management strategies to limit exposure to chemicals in foods.</p>	<p>1.5.2</p> <p>1.4.4</p> <p>1.5.4</p>

Health Products and Food Branch (HPFB) Strategies	HPFB Key Results	Actions in SDS IV That Link to HPFB Strategies	Targets
3. Increasing our responsiveness to public health and greater vigilance over safety and therapeutic effectiveness.	<p>Improved risk management and communications as a shared responsibility with stakeholders.</p> <p>Improved assessments based on research and surveillance.</p> <p>Enhanced post-market surveillance of safety and therapeutic effectiveness.</p> <p>Effective compliance and enforcement in integrated role in health system.</p> <p>Integrated role in health system.</p>	Develop and implement a framework that will increase the pace at which pre-market submissions are reviewed, thereby enabling more timely access to innovative food products.	
4. Improve our transparency, openness and accountability, to strengthen public trust and stakeholder relationships.	<p>Increased public accountability.</p> <p>Enhanced transparency.</p> <p>Improved openness.</p>	Develop a framework to improve the transparency and regulatory process for novel foods. This will include revising guidelines for the Safety Assessment of Novel Foods, and developing and delivering training sessions for industry and crop developers on how to prepare novel food applications.	1.5.1

Appendix D: Cross-linkages to Public Health Agency Strategy

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) was created in 2004 in order to lead federal efforts and cross-Canada action in preventing disease and injury, and in promoting and protecting national and international public health. Both PHAC and Health Canada focus their activities on how the key determinants of health (located in the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development) interact and impact the overriding goal of sustained health and well-being for Canadians. The two agencies differ in their approach to reach this goal, creating a “two-pronged” federal response to health and sustainable development issues in Canada:



Using these distinct approaches, activities in both Sustainable Development Strategies provide complementary mechanisms to reach the goals shared by the two entities. Specific connections that can be drawn between the two strategies include:

Area Of Complement	Health Canada SDS IV	PHAC SDS 2
First Nations Health	<p>Health Canada has numerous targets in SDS IV that are focused on achieving equality in health care and access for First Nations and Inuit communities. In accordance with SDS IV, Health Canada will help build First Nations' capacity in water quality monitoring to ensure these communities have continued access to sufficient and reliable qualities of drinking water, and will promote sustainable development and environmental management in First Nations communities.</p> <p>SDS IV: Targets 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.4</p>	<p>PHAC complements the goals to achieve First Nations health by offering community-based programs directed at women, children and families living in conditions of risk. One of these programs provides funds to local Aboriginal organizations to provide health promotion programs for off-reserve children up to age 6.</p> <p>SDS 2: Target 1.2.4</p>
Healthy Food / Healthy Living	<p>Health Canada's Health Policy and Food Branch (HPFB) has several programs involved in ensuring a healthy and sustained food supply for all Canadians. HPFB works towards minimizing the health risk factors to Canadians while maximizing safety for health products and foods, and promotes conditions to enable Canadians to make healthy choices and informed decisions about their health. As set out in SDS IV, Health Canada will establish policies and standards under the Smart Regulations Initiative to include policies related to the nutritional quality of foods (Trans Fat, Food Fortification, Product-Specific Health Claims).</p> <p>SDS IV: Targets 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3</p>	<p>PHAC is working with participating provinces and territories to help increase the proportion of Canadians who participate in physical activity, eat healthier and have healthy weights.</p> <p>SDS 2: Target 1.2.5</p>

Area Of Complement	Health Canada SDS IV	PHAC SDS 2
<p>Healthy and Sustainable Communities</p>	<p>Helping to create healthy social and physical environments is the first goal of Health Canada’s SDS IV. Activities include: providing guidance, creating indicators, and improving communication/awareness regarding pesticide use (by the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency); promoting a high level of environmental quality in communities through conducting environmental site assessments of health centres, preparing guidelines on the health effects of noise for Environmental Assessments, and providing education and increasing awareness to promote healthy choices.</p> <p>SDS IV: Targets 1.3.5, 1.3.7, 1.3.6, 1.3.8, 1.3.9, 1.3.3, 1.3.4, 1.3.11, 1.3.12</p>	<p>PHAC has a population-oriented approach to meeting the goal of healthy and sustainable communities. The potential impacts of a changing climate on the vectors of infectious disease and public health emergencies are of key concern, so PHAC will create a committee to advise program and policy areas on the health implications of climate change. PHAC’s SDS includes developing an education program on infectious disease organisms that are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics, as well as a program to reduce the risks to human health from food-borne and waterborne diseases arising from animals and the agro-environment.</p> <p>SDS 2: Targets 1.1.3, 1.2.2, 1.2.3</p>
<p>Green Procurement</p>	<p>Health Canada’s SDS IV includes several targets aimed at minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department’s physical operations and activities. Activities focusing on green procurement include: purchasing more energy-efficient computes and monitors; incorporating tracking tools to monitor green purchases; providing a course on green procurement to all material managers and procurement personnel; and developing a policy and action plan on responsible paper usage.</p> <p>SDS IV: Targets 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.6</p>	<p>PHAC is already active in greening its operations and has included three targets in its SDS 2 to ensure that it conducts its operations in a sustainable manner. PHAC’s green procurement initiatives include: providing green procurement training to 75% of material managers; integrating green procurement into training for acquisition cards; committing to meet Government of Canada standards for operations of office equipment; and moving toward establishing effective and efficient green procurement tracking processes.</p> <p>SDS 2: Targets 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3</p>

Area Of Complement	Health Canada SDS IV	PHAC SDS 2
Sustainable Transportation	<p>The Office of Sustainable Development at Health Canada will comply with sustainable transportation principles to pilot a local business travel initiative. This target advocates management-supported travel planning that considers environmental principles, economic requirements and employee needs, to rationalize local business travel and explore improving the range of sustainable transportation services available to employees.</p> <p>SDS IV: Target 2.5</p>	<p>PHAC's SDS recognizes that integrating sustainable transportation programs into daily operational practices can reduce environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions. This strategy proposes to increase awareness of 50% of all PHAC employees with regards to green travel options ,as a way of integrating sustainable transportation programs into PHAC travel practices.</p> <p>SDS 2: Target 2.1.4</p>
Integrating Sustainable Development	<p>Training policy planners and analysts in sustainable development is necessary in order to strengthen federal governance and decision-making, one of the six government-wide priorities for the 2007–2010 Sustainable Development Strategy. To achieve this, Health Canada will join with other departments and the Canada School of Public Service to design and implement Government of Canada Sustainable Development training material.</p> <p>SDS IV: Target 2.4.1</p>	<p>PHAC's SDS 2 establishes a target aimed at ensuring that employees understand how their work relates to sustainable development. It calls for 75% of employees to understand how sustainable development applies to their work. Other targets have been designed to build the governance structures required to incorporate SD into PHAC decision-making: an SD policy, mechanisms for planning and reporting on SD, incorporation of SD concepts into financial reviews and use of existing management structures for oversight of the SD Strategy.</p> <p>SDS 2: Targets 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3</p>

Appendix E: Web Links for Information on Sustainable Development

- Health Canada's Office of Sustainable Development
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirigen/hecs-dgsesc/osd-bdd/index_e.html
- Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development
http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/domino/cesd_cedd.nsf/html/menu8_e.html
- Greening Government Operations
<http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/greening/text/publications/guidance-sds-e.html>
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
<http://www.iisd.org/>
- SD Gateway
<http://www.sdgateway.net>
- Sustainable Development Information Systems
<http://www.sdinfo.gc.ca>
- Tools of Change: Proven Methods for Promoting Health, Safety and Environmental Citizenship
<http://www.toolsofchange.com/>
- United Nations Division for Sustainable Development
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992, Rio de Janeiro)
<http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html>
- World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002, Johannesburg)
<http://www.un.org/events/wssd/>

Appendix F: Source Documents and Reports

Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD). 2005. *2005 Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to the House of Commons. Chapter 7 – Sustainable Development Strategies*. Available at: <http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/domino/reports.nsf/html/c200303sds.html>.

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Health Canada. 2005. *Report on Plans and Priorities 2005–06*. Available at: http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/est-pre/20052006/HLTH-SANT/HLTH-SANTr56_e.asp.

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Health Canada. 2002. *Sustaining Our Health: Health Canada's Sustainable Development Strategy November 1997–March 2000. Final Report*.

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Public Works and Government Services Canada. 2006. *Greening Government Operations: Guidance for Organizations Developing Sustainable Development Strategies (2007–2009)*.

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Stratos Inc. 2001. *Sustainable Development Factors for Health Canada's Sustainable Development Strategy*. Prepared for Health Canada.

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von Schimding, Yasmin. 2002. "Health and Sustainable Development: Can We Rise to the Challenge?" *The Lancet*. Volume 360: 631–637.

Wackernagel, Mathis and William Rees. 1996. *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers.

World Commission on the Environment and Development. 1987. *Our Common Future*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Appendix G: Logic Models

Working Today for a Cleaner, Safer, Healthier Tomorrow				
Theme 1: Helping to create healthy social and physical environments				
<p>Objective 1.1: Clean Air Reduce the risks to human health and well-being caused by air quality. Increase resilience to a changing climate (1.1.4)</p>	<p>Objective 1.2: Clean Water People have access to clean water.</p>	<p>Objective 1.3: Sustainable Communities Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities. Maintain and foster social well-being within communities (1.3.17)</p>	<p>Objective 1.4: Protection of the Environment and Human Health Health Canada commits to strengthening partnerships on health, environment and sustainable development in order to contribute to safer health products for Canadians.</p>	<p>Objective 1.5: Food Safety Health Canada commits to helping ensure the safety of food on the Canadian market. Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities (1.5.5)</p>
<p>Target 1.1.1 Regulations banning the use of lead in candle wicks by September 2008. (Federal SD Goal II)</p>		<p>Target 1.1.3 Between 2007-2010, Health Canada will work to improve management and communication of the health risks of indoor and outdoor air pollution, including fact sheets, finalization of the Air Quality Health Index and further development of the Air Health Indicator. (Federal SD Goal II)</p>		
<p>Target 1.1.2 During the period 2007-2010, Health Canada will work to reduce the risk of health impacts from indoor and outdoor pollution, including development of risk/benefit assessments of fuel options, priority lists for assessing indoor air contaminants, and development of air quality guidelines/objectives. (Federal SD Goal II)</p>		<p>Target 1.1.4 During the course of SDS IV, Health Canada will develop tools and information materials, including a summary of the Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment, to better prepare Canadians and health professionals to deal with potential health impacts associated with a changing climate. (Federal SD Goal II)</p>		

Working Today for a Cleaner, Safer, Healthier Tomorrow

Theme 1: Helping to create healthy social and physical environments

Objective 1.1: Clean Air
Reduce the risks to human health and well-being caused by air quality. Increase resilience to a changing climate (1.1.4)

Objective 1.2: Clean Water
People have access to clean water.

Objective 1.3: Sustainable Communities
Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities. Maintain and foster social well-being within communities (1.3.17)

Objective 1.4: Protection of the Environment and Human Health
Health Canada commits to strengthening partnerships on health, environment and sustainable development in order to contribute to safer health products for Canadians.

Objective 1.5: Food Safety
Health Canada commits to helping ensure the safety of food on the Canadian market. Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities (1.5.5)

Target 1.2.1
By March 2010, Health Canada commits to having trained 525 community-based water monitors in 700 First Nations community sites with water distribution systems (piped with five or more connections, public access facilities and trucked systems) across Canada.
(Federal SD Goal I)

Target 1.2.4
Health Canada, in collaboration with Environment Canada, will support the development of environmental and drinking water quality guidelines for priority pesticides by 2010.
(Federal SD Goal I)

Target 1.2.2
Starting April 2007, development and application of water management plans by Health Canada to reduce the risks to health on passenger conveyances.
(Federal SD Goal I)

Target 1.2.5
During the period 2007-2010, Health Canada will establish and/or implement strategies, including a national waterborne contamination and illness response protocol, to help address and prevent incidences of drinking water contamination across jurisdictions, including for small systems and in small, rural and remote communities.
(Federal SD Goal I)

Target 1.2.3
By March 2010, Health Canada commits to maintaining or replacing where needed International Organization for Standardization (ISO) specified Amalgam Particle Separators in existing dental clinics located in First Nations communities in order to ensure maximum capture of mercury alloy and prevention of mercury alloy from entering the environment through waste water.
(Federal SD Goal I)

Target 1.2.6
During the course of SDS IV, Health Canada will develop and update a minimum of 5 water quality guidelines for specific contaminants annually, including drinking and recreational water.
(Federal SD Goal I)

Target 1.2.7
Starting April 2007, Health Canada will coordinate tools to assist and support federal drinking water purveyor departments.
(Federal SD Goal I)

Working Today for a Cleaner, Safer, Healthier Tomorrow

Theme 1: Helping to create healthy social and physical environments

<p>Objective 1.1: Clean Air Reduce the risks to human health and well-being caused by air quality. Increase resilience to a changing climate (1.1.4)</p>	<p>Objective 1.2: Clean Water People have access to clean water.</p>	<p>Objective 1.3: Sustainable Communities Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities. Maintain and foster social well-being within communities (1.3.17)</p>	<p>Objective 1.4: Protection of the Environment and Human Health Health Canada commits to strengthening partnerships on health, environment and sustainable development in order to contribute to safer health products for Canadians.</p>	<p>Objective 1.5: Food Safety Health Canada commits to helping ensure the safety of food on the Canadian market. Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities (1.5.5)</p>
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Target 1.3.1
By March 2008, Health Canada commits to promoting sustainable development and environmental management via the distribution of an awareness package to all nursing stations across the country. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.6
PMRA will have a publicly available pesticide sales database on a regional level in Canada by 2009 and report on the same annually. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.2
By March 2010, Health Canada commits to having completed the assessment of 16 sites requiring investigation of suspected petroleum hydrocarbon contamination, as well as the remediation of the 18 known petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated sites (as of March 2006) it is responsible for at health facilities on reserves. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.7
PMRA will develop the Canadian Pesticide Risk Indicator (CaPRI) to assess trends in risk posed by pesticides, with both, human health and environmental components by 2010. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.3
By March 2010, Health Canada commits to conducting phase one environmental site assessments and environmental compliance audits at all health centres to identify and assess environmental issues as part of a broader campaign to reduce environmental and health risks to health facilities. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.8
PMRA will encourage the Canadian public to report pesticide incidents by implementing a process for voluntary incident reporting by 2007. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.4
By March 2010, 50% of the 289 Diesel fuel storage tanks located at 90 health facilities on reserves, will be upgraded or replaced as per the technical guidelines for federal aboveground and underground storage tanks of petroleum hydrocarbons and allied petroleum hydrocarbons under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.9
The PMRA will collaborate with the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides to harmonize classification of Domestic Products in Canada by 2008. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.5
Contribute to the National Agri-Environmental Standards Initiative (NAESI) by providing guidance on the development of non-regulatory agri-environmental performance standards for pesticides by 2008. (This is in collaboration with AAFC and EC). (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.10
During the course of SDS IV, Health Canada will continue to work with partners to increase the number of smoke free spaces in Canada. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.11
Health Canada commits to the development of risk communications material, to be made publicly available on the Health Canada website, on approximately 15 substances annually as identified by the Department's CEPA categorization results by March 31, 2010. (Federal SD Goal IV)

Working Today for a Cleaner, Safer, Healthier Tomorrow

Theme 1: Helping to create healthy social and physical environments

<p>Objective 1.1: Clean Air Reduce the risks to human health and well-being caused by air quality. Increase resilience to a changing climate (1.1.4)</p>	<p>Objective 1.2: Clean Water People have access to clean water.</p>	<p>Objective 1.3: Sustainable Communities Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities. Maintain and foster social well-being within communities (1.3.17)</p>	<p>Objective 1.4: Protection of the Environment and Human Health Health Canada commits to strengthening partnerships on health, environment and sustainable development in order to contribute to safer health products for Canadians.</p>	<p>Objective 1.5: Food Safety Health Canada commits to helping ensure the safety of food on the Canadian market. Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities (1.5.5)</p>
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Target 1.3.12
Based on the results of CEPA categorization process, Health Canada will undertake 5 risk management strategies from December 2006 – July 2007, with the aim to complete approximately 15 risk management strategies annually thereafter to 2010.
(Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.15
Health Canada will complete screening level assessments of approximately 30 high health priority substances identified from DSL categorization by 2010.
(Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.13
During the course of the SDS IV Health Canada will conduct assessments and risk management of new substances in order to reduce the level of exposure to hazardous chemicals and biotechnology products that are suspected to pose a significant risk to the health of Canadians or the Canadian environment.
(Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.16
Health Canada will provide expert support services to federal custodial departments under the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan to assist federal departments in the assessment and reduction of human health risks related to federal contaminated sites until program ends in 2010.
(Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.14
During the course of SDS IV, Health Canada will develop National Guidelines for Environmental Assessment related to health impacts of noise.
(Federal SD Goal IV)

Target 1.3.17
During the course of SDS IV, Health Canada's Regional offices will explore the opportunity to collaborate with provincial and municipal organizations in the development of sustainable practices or initiatives.
(Federal SD Goal IV)

Working Today for a Cleaner, Safer, Healthier Tomorrow

Theme 1: Helping to create healthy social and physical environments

Objective 1.1: Clean Air
Reduce the risks to human health and well-being caused by air quality. Increase resilience to a changing climate (1.1.4)

Objective 1.2: Clean Water
People have access to clean water.

Objective 1.3: Sustainable Communities
Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities. Maintain and foster social well-being within communities (1.3.17)

Objective 1.4: Protection of the Environment and Human Health
Health Canada commits to strengthening partnerships on health, environment and sustainable development in order to contribute to safer health products for Canadians.

Objective 1.5: Food Safety
Health Canada commits to helping ensure the safety of food on the Canadian market. Promote a high level of environmental quality in communities (1.5.5)

Target 1.4.1

By March 2010, screen all (100%) Natural Health Product submissions to ensure that ingredients in these products do not include ingredients derived from endangered species.

Target 1.4.2

During the 2007-10 period, develop a regulatory framework based on policy and technical analysis of issues related to the development of Environmental Assessment Regulations for new substances contained in products regulated under the Food & Drugs Act (e.g., ibuprofen, naproxen, carbamazepine, gemfibrozil, etc.).

Target 1.4.3

By March 2007, establish and convene a government-stakeholder Environmental Assessment Working Group to provide strategic advice on the development of the Environmental Assessment Regulations.

Target 1.4.4

Throughout the 2007-10 period, provide open and transparent communication to stakeholders regarding the development of the Environmental Assessment Regulations through the Health Canada website, focus group discussions, written reports, etc.

Target 1.5.1

By March 2010, develop a framework to improve the transparency and regulatory process for novel foods through:

- (A) revision of guidelines for the Safety Assessment of Novel Foods, and
- (B) development and delivery of training sessions for industry and crop developers on how to prepare novel food applications.

Target 1.5.2

By March 2010, establish policies and standards related to the nutritional quality of foods (Trans Fat, Food Fortification, Product-Specific Health Claims).

Target 1.5.3

By March 2010, amend the regulations on the declaration of priority allergens.

Target 1.5.4

By March 2010, continue to: develop appropriate intervention strategies to reduce the public's exposure to priority pathogens in specific commodities; increase consumer awareness of risk avoidance practices for targeting specific commodities and vulnerable groups; and, update risk management strategies to limit exposure of Canadians to selected chemicals in food.

Target 1.5.5

In collaboration with Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, the PMRA will expedite grower access to lower risk pest control products such as biologicals, pheromones and reduced risk products by 2008.

Working Today for a Cleaner, Safer, Healthier Tomorrow

Theme 2: Minimizing the environmental and health effects of the Department's physical operations and activities.

<p>Objective 2.1: Fleet To improve the environmental performance of the Government of Canada's vehicle fleets.</p>	<p>Objective 2.2: Building Energy Optimize the reduction of GHG emissions and energy use of federal buildings.</p>	<p>Objective 2.3: Procurement The application of the policy on green procurement is intended to contribute to the Government of Canada's environmental objectives.</p>	<p>Objective 2.4: Training Integrating SD into departmental management processes, decisions for operations and Health Canada plans, policies, and programs.</p>	<p>Objective 2.5: Business Travel Mitigate and reduce emissions that contribute to climate change.</p>	<p>Objective 2.6: Environmental Stewardship Encourage responsible use of natural resources that conserves and protects environmental quality.</p>
<p>Target 2.1.1 By March 2010, reduce greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission per vehicle kilometre. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Target 2.2.1 By March 2008, Health Canada commits to conducting energy audits at two health facilities to model energy fluxes in order to identify energy saving options. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Target 2.3.1 Starting April 1st 2007, Health Canada will increase the ratio of Energy Star computers and monitors. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Target 2.4.1 Health Canada will join with other government departments and the Canada School of Public Service to design and deliver new Government of Canada Sustainable Development training material. Delivery to begin by December 2007 (Federal SD Goal VI)</p>	<p>Target 2.5 Health Canada commits to completing a local business transportation pilot to rationalize local business travel requirements and improve the range of sustainable transportation services offered by the Department by March 2010. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Target 2.6 By April 2008, Health Canada will develop a policy on responsible use of paper and a supporting action plan for implementation at the Departmental level. (Federal SD Goal V)</p>
<p>Target 2.1.2 Purchase ethanol blended gasoline for department road vehicles where available or applicable. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Target 2.2.2 By March 2009, an action plan to reduce GHG emissions in Health Canada's custodial laboratories will be developed and implemented. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Target 2.3.2 By March 2010, all material managers and procurement personnel will attend a recognized training course on green procurement offered by PWGSC, Canada School of Public Service, or any other federal government department. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Target 2.4.2 Starting April 1st 2007, increase the ratio of the existing training courses offered by the Health Canada Learning Program that will include a module on the environmental responsibilities that rest with employees. (Federal SD Goal VI)</p>		
		<p>Target 2.3.3 By March 2010, incorporate tracking tools into the existing systems (e.g. SAP etc.) to monitor green purchases. (Federal SD Goal III)</p>	<p>Target 2.4.3 By March 2010, Health Canada will implement a bi-ennial fuel storage tank operator training program delivered by certified fuel storage tank installers/ inspectors to the staff at 90 health facilities with fuel storage tanks on reserves in British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland in order to ensure reduced potential for accidental release of petroleum hydrocarbons from storage tanks.</p>		

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Theme 3: Integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes and advancing the social pillar of sustainability.

Objective 3.1: Integration

Health Canada commits to integrating sustainable development into departmental decision-making and management processes to contribute to the effective delivery of Health Canada's programs.

Target 3.1.1

By the end of 2007, Health Canada will pilot applying an SD lens with select policies and programs.

(Federal SD Goal VI)

Target 3.1.2

By end of 2008, Health Canada will convene a workshop on the social aspect of sustainable development to help frame SDS V.