

Synthesis

Sustainable development STRATEGY 2007-2010



“In this fourth strategy, sustainable development becomes a means for the Agency to deliver on its policy directions so as to contribute to the vitality of communities and the competitiveness of Quebec enterprises and regions.”

Jean-Pierre Blackburn

Minister of Labour and Minister of the
Economic Development Agency of Canada
for the Regions of Quebec



The Agency's fourth Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) is proof positive of its commitment to pursuing the efforts invested in this regard over close to a decade.

The action plan of this SDS, which runs from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2010, is in line with the Agency's strategic directions for 2006-2011.

Activities anchored in a sustainable development perspective ...

Adopting a regional development approach reflecting economic, social, cultural and environmental considerations, these strategic directions

place the Agency's activities in a sustainable development perspective.

In particular, the action plan of the 2007-2010 SDS works to integrate sustainable development both in activities associated with the Agency's mandate and in its operations. It also ties in with the attainment of common federal sustainable development goals.

Activities associated with the Agency's mandate

To take greater account of sustainable development in the performance of its mandate, the Agency is building on governance and empowerment of its staff.

Governance

- conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment as early as the design stage of its plans, policies and programs
- establish a formal monitoring and feedback mechanism for senior management with respect to implementation of the SDS
- integrate the Agency's sustainable development commitments in business plans
- focus more on partners to accompany the Agency in the analysis or implementation of sustainable development initiatives.



... To help Quebec SMEs, regions and communities in their steps toward adopting a sustainable development approach in their activities

Empowerment of staff

- develop a tool necessary for providing advice on sustainable development
- give training to personnel working with clientele so as to help them develop competencies for guiding clients with respect to sustainable development
- provide information on an ongoing basis on topics concerning sustainable development.

To contribute more effectively to the vitality of communities and the competitiveness of Quebec SMEs and regions, the Agency supports activities which yield tangible results with respect to sustainable development.

Vitality of communities

- mobilize communities and implement initiatives or projects which take sustainable development into account, in conjunction with local organizations
- support green entrepreneurship
- contribute to pollution prevention, energy eco-efficiency and byproduct synergy projects
- contribute to tourism or infrastructure projects that enhance the quality of the environment.



Competitiveness of Quebec SMEs and regions

- contribute to the establishment of Enviroclubs
- support eco-design approaches
- support eco-friendly product development and commercialization projects and environmental technologies.

... So that the Agency is a dynamic corporate citizen through its exemplary ecological practices

Activities associated with Agency operations

Tangible action has been taken within the Agency over the past few years, notably with respect to multi-product recovery, double-sided printing and the greening of its motor vehicle fleet. In its fourth SDS, the Agency will continue to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and resource use.

Greening of operations

- enhance the environmental performance of the motor vehicle fleet
- use ecological means for business travel
- raise staff awareness of green procurement
- foster any other greening practice, such as multi-product recovery, responsible paper consumption, reuse of resources and energy conservation.

... In the long term, Quebec SMEs and regions will have increased their development capability, dynamism and prosperity, in a lasting manner, for the benefit of Quebecers.

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