



Statistics Canada

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Policy Applications of Environmental-Economic Accounting in Canada

**Regional Seminar on the System of Environmental-Economic
Accounts (SEEA) Central Framework in the Caribbean**

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Castries, Saint Lucia

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Statistics Canada



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Main Policy Initiatives linked to SEEA

- 1990-97** *Canada's Green Plan*
- 2000-07** *Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators*
- 2011-13** *Measuring Ecosystem Goods and Services*

The Green Plan

Initiation

1990 Federal Budget

Objectives

To initiate development of a system of environmental and resource accounts that would quantify the links between the environment and the economy.

Outcome

Canadian System of Environmental and Resource Accounts

Accounts: Physical Flows (water, energy, GHG)

Assets (minerals, energy, timber), Land

Related indicators

Surveys: Environmental Protection Expenditures,
Environmental Goods and Services

Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators

Initiation

2000 Federal Budget

Objectives

To find ways to track the impact of current economic practices on the natural and human assets that will be needed by future generations of Canadians.

Outcome

Reports: *2003 State of the Debate Report,*

2006-08 Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators

Indicators: *Air Quality, Water Quality, GHG Emissions*

Surveys: *Households and the Environment, Industrial Water Use, Agricultural Water Use, Drinking Water Treatment Plants*

Links: Ongoing contribution to Federal Sustainable Development Strategy indicators

Measuring Ecosystem Goods and Services



Initiation

2011 Interdepartmental funding request

Objectives

To develop experimental ecosystem accounts with the specific objective of supporting policy needs related to the valuation of ecosystem goods and services.

Outcome

Reports: *Human Activity and the Environment 2013: Measuring ecosystem goods and services in Canada*

Infrastructure: MEGS geospatial database, MEGS community of practice

Other policy work related to SEEA

Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development

DFATD's Office of the Chief Economist has used the environmental accounts (GHG emission, Energy Use and Water use) for our environmental assessment of various international trade agreements since 2010. We use them to measure the scale, composition and technological impacts of trade on Canada's environment. Without those data it would not be possible for us to measure the impact of trade as requested.

Other policy work related to SEEA

Department of Finance

Use the environmental accounts to conduct strategic environmental assessments for select policies, notably analysis of changes in commodity taxes, including the Goods and Services Tax.

Other policy work related to SEEA

Ontario Ministry of Finance

Statistics Canada's environmental accounts enable us to quantify some of the links between the economy and the environment. This improves decision making in many policy areas including natural resource management, climate change, and energy policy.

Other policy work related to SEEA

Natural Resources Canada

Natural Resources Canada was interested in building a comprehensive statistical framework and knowledge base for recycling with the belief that it would strongly contribute to the success of an eventual federal recycling initiative. Formulating effective policy in this regard would have been very difficult without reliable recycling data. Furthermore, these data were expected to be used as a component of the environmental indicator work that was encouraged by the year 2000 federal budget.

This resulted in a four-year project whose aim was to investigate and initiate a means of improving information on the flows of recyclable materials in Canada. The focus of the project was the collection of physical data (tonnes of material). It was also proposed to assemble financial details for the main participants in the recycling industry. The pilot work was completed in 2003, but funding was not subsequently pursued to continue the activity.

Questions?

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