

# Greening Government Operations: *Nurturing Change and Sustainable Development*



April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

Presented by  
**Erika Toby Wagner**  
**Environmental Services**  
**Atlantic Region**  
**PWGSC**

# Agenda

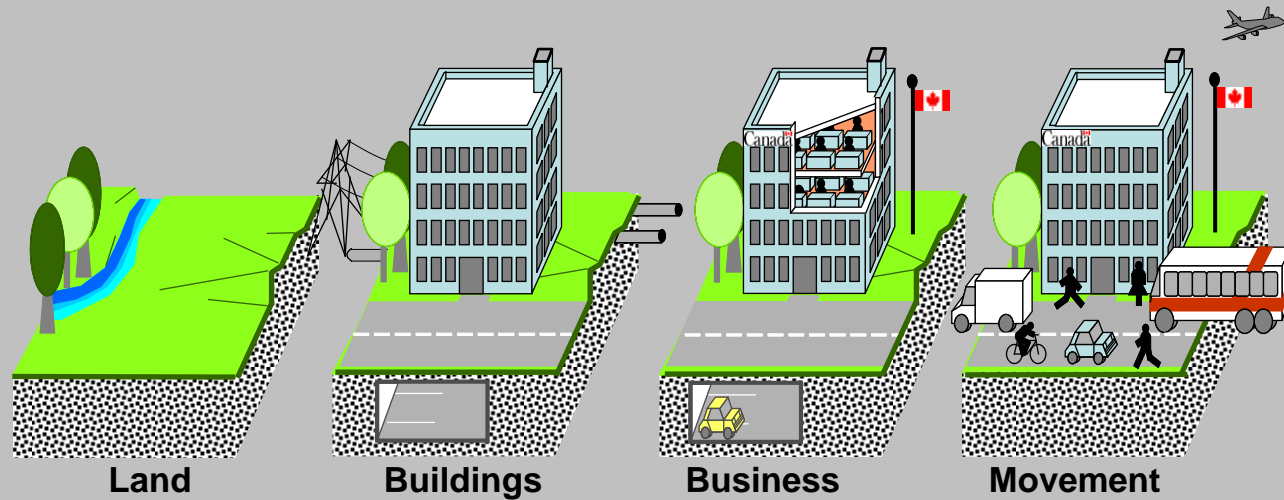
- Federal overview of Greening Government
- Greening PWGSC Operations
- Educating Tenants - Earth Watch
- Sustainable Leadership



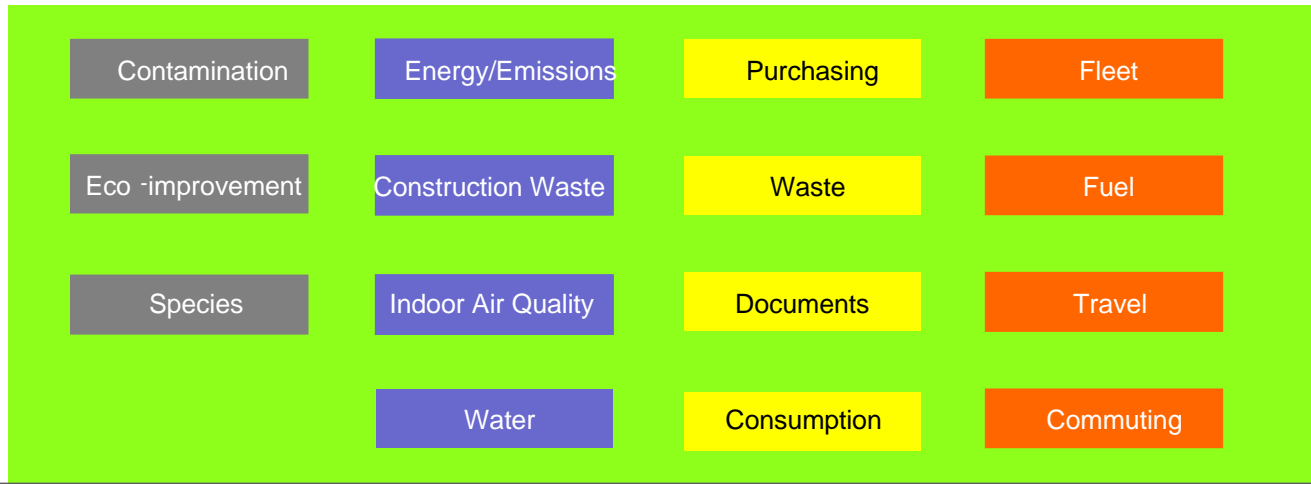
# Federal operations are significant... and so are their environmental impacts ...

<b>Buildings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40,400 buildings</li> <li>24.3 million m<sup>2</sup> space</li> </ul>	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions – 3,171 kilotonnes	= emissions of 630,000 Canadians = Winnipeg, MB
	Water – 16.5 million m <sup>3</sup>	= water use of 132,000 Canadians = Sherbrooke, QC
<b>Purchasing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single, largest purchaser</li> <li>\$20 Billion each year</li> </ul>	Computers - \$353M/ year	= 11 full Best Buy stores
	Paper - 15,000 tonnes/year	= 165,000 trees
<b>On-Road Vehicles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operate 30,000</li> <li>Buy 4,000/ year</li> </ul>	Meterage – 630M km/year CO <sub>2</sub> emissions - 190 kilotonnes Fuel - 65M L	= 3,250 tanker trucks
<b>Operations</b> 370,000 employees across Canada	Payment transactions - 250M/year	= If printed - 27,500 trees
	Office waste - 31,500 tonnes/year	= 9,100 garbage trucks
	Commuter travel - 1.3B person km CO <sub>2</sub> emissions - 352 kilotonnes	= Emissions offset of 120,000 hectares of pine forest = Glacier National Park, British Columbia





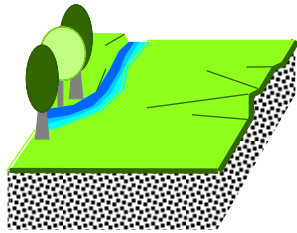
## Domains of Government Operations



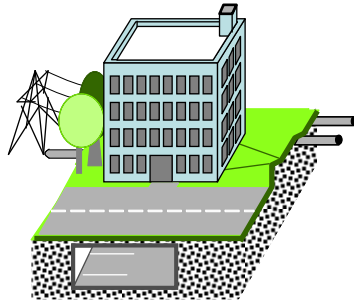
## Drivers of Greening Operations



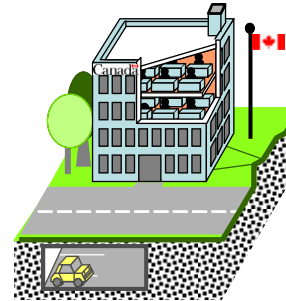
# Progress has been made government-wide



Land



Buildings



Business



Movement

- Federal Cont. Sites Action Plan
  - Remediation and/or risk management complete for 66% of known sites
- TB Pesticides Directive

- 1990 to 2003 GHG emissions reduced by 23%
- LEED® Gold for new office buildings
- First LEED® Platinum in Canada
- *BOMA Best in all crown and lease facilities*

- Policy on Green Procurement - implementation in progress/complete for 60 goods and services categories worth \$5.6B
- Green standing offers
  - Printers
  - IT hardware
  - Furniture
  - Paper

- 1990 to 2003 GHG emissions reduced by 31%
- TB Directive on Executive Fleet
  - 83% green vehicles
- Green choices via standing offers
  - Vehicles
  - Fuels and lubricants
- Alternative Fuels

# SD Moving Forward

- New Sustainable Development Act came into effect in June 2008
- The new Act, requires Environment Canada to:
  - prepare a Federal Sustainable Development Strategy by June 2010 (goals, targets, strategies and responsible Ministers)
  - establish a sustainable development advisory council to advise the GoC on the federal sustainable development strategy
  - establish an office to develop and monitor progress on the strategy
- Departmental strategies to support the federal strategy are required within one year of the final federal strategy



# Progress within PWGSC's SDS

- Existing crown-owned office buildings BOMA Go Green Plus New crown owned LEED (silver and gold)
- LEED, BOMA or equivalent standards in lease
- Atlantic Waste Watch Program
- Construction Demolition and Renovation waste mgmt
- Energy consumption and GHG emissions (upgrades and elimination of fleet)
- Contaminated Sites Management
- Green Procurement tools and standing offers



# Green Buildings

Jean Canfield building is 60 percent more energy efficient than similar buildings in its class. The building's environmental footprint is decreased by using:

- rainwater for building operations
- a reflective roof that reduces heat absorption
- green power purchased from provincial wind turbines
- light and shade to moderate indoor temperatures
- a photovoltaic array that generates 130,000 watts of electrical power from solar energy.
- community space



# Earth Watch

- Program to help attain the goals of our Sustainable Development Strategy through interaction, awareness and stewardship on all levels.
- Efforts on the part of each PWGSC tenant can add up quickly to considerable change
- Focused on 3 aspects: Energy, Water and Waste





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[Environmental Management System \(EMS\)](#) > Earth Watch

- EMS/SDS
- EARTH WATCH**
- FACILITIES

## Earth Watch...Your Call to Action

Our daily trip to work, the coffee we drink, the reports we print, and the cozy home we go back to in the evening. At every stage of the day our activities have impacts on the environment in which we live and on the earth itself. Over the past few decades the concern over environmental problems, ranging from climate change to clean water to energy scarcity, has grown and moved to the forefront of human consciousness. Along with further understanding of the problem, we have also developed a more sophisticated understanding of the solutions. Ultimately we can reduce our impact on the earth when we decide to be part of these solutions. This is your call to action.



Under various international treaties, the Government of Canada has committed to better stewardship of the earth. The commitment to action starts within the government house, and has brought about multiple programs including the development and implementation of [Sustainable Development Strategies](#) by federal departments and the launch of the [Sustainable Development in Government Operations Program](#). Within this framework, PWGSC has begun to incorporate sustainable development into the mindset of its own employees through the [Green Citizenship Program](#). As the primary property manager for the Government of Canada, PWGSC has a leadership role to play that extends to all government employees who are tenants within PWGSC buildings and facilities. Accordingly, PWGSC Atlantic has created the Earth Watch Program as an umbrella program to foster employee action for sustainability across the Government of Canada.





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[Environmental Management System \(EMS\)](#) > [Earth Watch](#) > [Energy Watch](#) > In Transit



- EMS/SDS
- EARTH WATCH
- FACILITIES

## Energy Saving Tips while in Transit

### TIP #1 Go Car Free

**Try an alternative mode of transportation to get to work.**

Whenever possible, walk, bike, skate, use public transportation or carpool when you travel. If you commute 30 km to work (each way), you could prevent more than one tonne of greenhouse gas emissions annually by finding an alternative to driving. If you commute just 30 kilometres per week by walking, biking or rollerblading you can save \$825.24 over the course of the year. That's not including what you might save in parking costs. There are also a number of health benefits to choosing alternative forms of transportation such as walking and biking. Health Canada suggests that 30-60 minutes of moderate activity a day such as walking, biking and rollerblading, can effectively reduce the risk of heart disease, colon cancer and diabetes. A few tips for trying alternative modes of transportation include:

- Try biking to work. A number of PWGSC Crown-owned facilities have bike racks and showers and/or change rooms for employees who choose to commute by alternative transport.
- Try taking public transport to work. Encourage your workplace to have some bus tickets on hand to facilitate the use of the bus and or information on bus routes to your building.

### TIP #2 Reduce Your Speed



# Sustainable Leadership

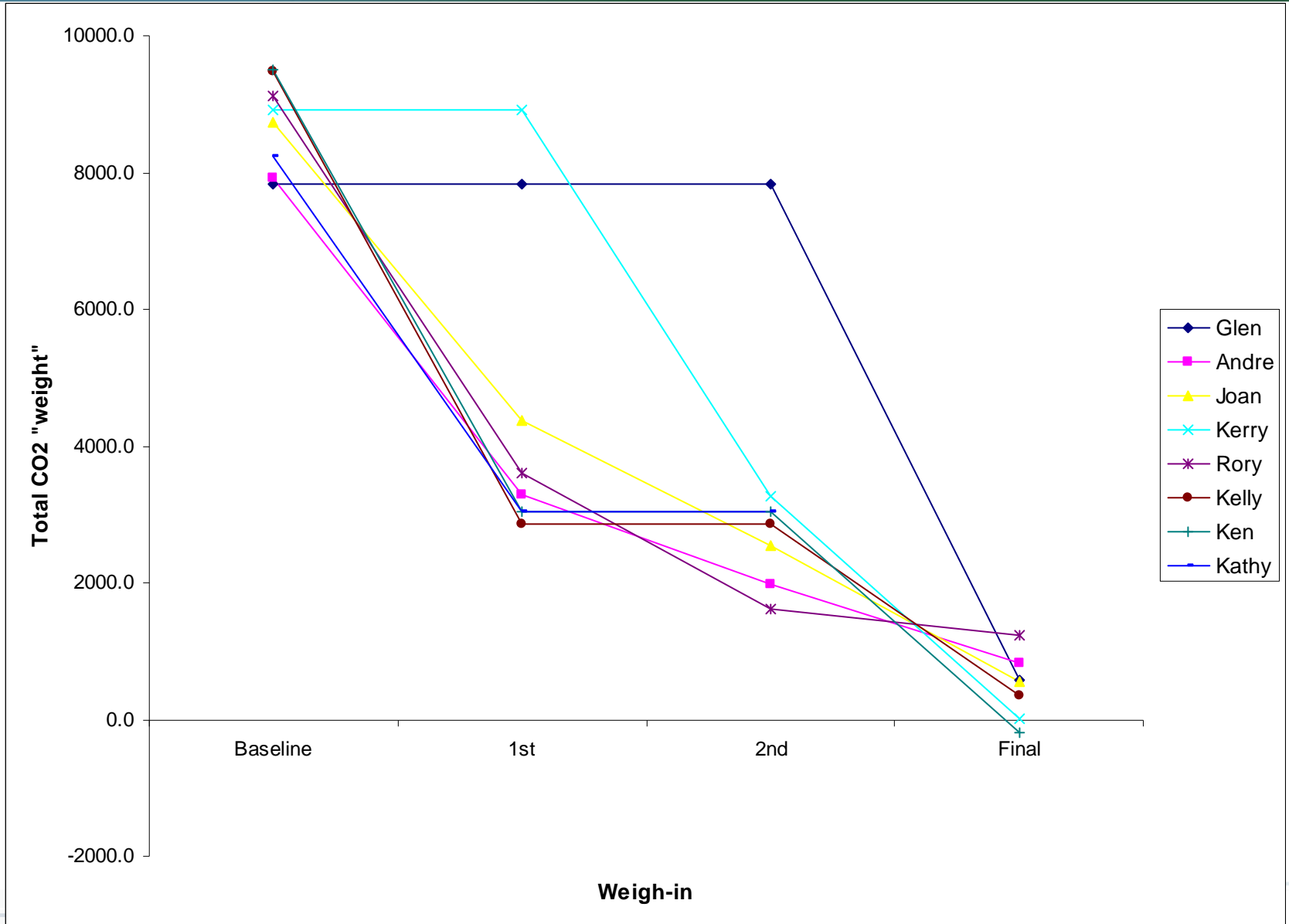
1. Attitudes and Values of managers must align with a sustainability mindset
2. Gaps often exist between talk and action
3. Organizations need to include environmental indicators into their goals, long-term objectives, and key performance measures
4. Leaders need a sustainability mindset
5. Top management must clearly demonstrate their promotion of a 'green' perspective in order to ensure its support and extension by managers and staff throughout the organization
6. Champions and Change Agents are often key triggers for environmental change
7. Change thrives in an environment that is supportive of generating ideas, learning, environmental awareness and education



# The Biggest CO<sub>2</sub> Loser Competition

- 4 month long competition between 8 executive members looking to shed CO<sub>2</sub> pounds
- Each contestant assigned a coach for a maximum of 1 hour of counselling per month. Bi-weekly e-mail provided for contestants
- Weigh-ins monthly, with areas of assessment classified under
  - Individual Activities
  - Walking the Talk
  - Leadership





# Examples of Leadership Initiatives

- Purchase of new bike racks for staff
- Natural step assessments
- Encourage conversion to paperless pay stub
- Limited face to face meetings
- Education (presentations to stakeholders)
- Elimination of all water coolers
- Interoffice Green Commitment Charter
- Representative on Green Teams
- Green Book Club
- Green signatures



# Next Steps

- Implement national sustainable leadership model
- Improve engagement of tenants and landlords on sustainability issues
- Increase collaboration on all levels (mun/prov/fed)
- Continue with implementation of green procurement policy
- Identify opportunities for OGD's.
- Consult with stakeholders on our fifth SDS



# Who should I call?

- Director, Environmental Services:
  - Kelly Walker (902) 496-5147
- Sustainable Development Initiatives Manager:
  - Erika Toby Wagner (902) 496-5096
- Environmental Evaluations Manager:
  - Don Maynard (902) 566-7533
- Site Assessment Remediation Manager:
  - Eric Parsons (902) 496-5830

