

ITEM 1
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 13
COUNCIL MEETING 91/02/25

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1991 February 20

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

Our File: 00.486

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S GREEN PLAN
FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

PURPOSE: To provide Council with an overview of the recently released
Green Plan.

=====

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be referred to the Environment and Waste Management Committee to monitor the implementation of the Green Plan and report back to Council.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

In 1990 the Government of Canada initiated a national process of public consultation to discuss the environment and develop the "Green Plan" for Canada. Public information sessions were held in 41 cities and towns across the country between April and June, 1990. A background paper, "A Framework for Discussion on the Environment", was released for discussion. A series of workshop style consultation sessions, held in May and June, 1990 in 17 major cities, provided opportunities for interested citizens to discuss environmental issues and possible options for dealing with these concerns. Staff participated in the Vancouver consultation session. In August, 1990, a final wrap-up session of consultation was held in Ottawa to discuss possible policy, program and legislative actions related to environmental issues.

Canada's "Green Plan for a Healthy Environment" is the product of this public consultation process and considerable work by government departments. The Green Plan was launched by Robert de Cotret, Minister of the Environment, in December, 1990. Based on an initial reading of the Green Plan, staff have prepared the following summary for Council. Copies of "Canada's Green Plan in Brief" (30 pages) have been provided to Members of Council. A copy of the summary as well as the complete Green Plan is available in the Planning and Building Inspection Department for review by the public.

2.0 THE GREEN PLAN

The "Green Plan for a Healthy Environment", which is intended to be an action plan for achieving sustainable development, presents a framework for making the changes needed for Canada to meet the economic and environmental challenges of the future. The Green Plan consists of new and existing programs, policies and legislative initiatives which address environmental concerns of Canadians. More than 40 federal departments and agencies are involved in various Green Plan initiatives.

Environmental actions outlined in the Green Plan are guided by seven environmental principles which are discussed in detail in the plan:

1. respect for nature (environmental stewardship and environmental protection);
2. the economy-environment relationship (effective and efficient regulation of environmental impacts of economic activity);
3. efficient use of resources (frugal use of environmental resources based on the principle that the polluter or user pays);
4. shared responsibility (cooperation between various levels of government and global neighbours);
5. leadership (government leadership on environmental matters);
6. informed decision making (high quality environmental science, education and information to guide decision making and effective public participation in decision making and policy making);
7. thinking, planning and acting in terms of ecosystems (integrated approach to environmental problems).

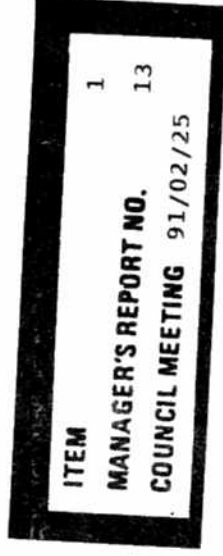
The Green Plan initiatives are organized according to seven specifically defined goals. These are:

1. clean air, water and land;
2. sustainable use of renewable resources (e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries);
3. protection of our special spaces (including natural and heritage features) and species;
4. preserving the integrity of the North;
5. global environmental security (i.e. global warming, ozone depletion);
6. environmentally responsible decision making at all levels of society; and
7. minimizing the impacts of environmental emergencies (e.g. emergency response to oil spills and natural disasters).

These goals and associated targets for each goal are outlined in Appendix I (attached).

Funding

Over the next five years, new funding of \$3 billion is being allocated for Green Plan programs. An additional \$7 billion already budgeted for existing environmental programs will also contribute to Green Plan initiatives. (The distribution of the \$3 billion among the defined goals is shown in attached Appendix I.)



Partnership

The Green Plan stresses the importance of existing and new partnerships between all sectors and levels of society to address environmental concerns. Round Tables on the Environment and the Economy are identified as valuable mechanisms for encouraging partnership. Additional funding to non-government organizations will be provided through the Green Plan. In particular, the Environmental Partners Fund to which staff have encouraged community and environmental groups in Burnaby to apply will be extended for two more years and expanded to include environmental education.

Initiatives Specific to British Columbia

The majority of Green Plan initiatives are national in scope and involve legislation, policy or programs applicable to communities across Canada. Several initiatives focus on specific regional environmental problems including air and water quality in southwestern British Columbia.

Smog, or ground level ozone, reaches unacceptably high levels in major urban areas including the B. C. Lower Mainland during the summer months. This problem will be addressed through the provision, by 1993, of public advisories on days when ozone concentrations are unacceptably high and, by 1994, tighter emission standards for new vehicles.

Pollution of the Fraser River and Burrard Inlet are recognized as serious problems requiring remedial action. The federal government will work with local and provincial governments and industry to build on the work of the Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) and develop a Fraser River Basin Action Plan for cleaning up the Fraser. Cleaning up Burrard Inlet will also be a priority. These initiatives will begin in 1991.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Green Plan outlines actions, targets, and schedules for many initiatives in a format that will allow performance to be measured. For some initiatives specific targets are not provided due to lack of understanding or technical information. However, it is not always clear what parties are responsible for initiating various Green Plan initiatives.

The specific mechanism that will be used to monitor performance on Green Plan initiatives is not clearly described in the Plan although reference is made to an annual review of the Green Plan by the Government of Canada in consultation with Canadians.

3.0 RELATIONSHIP TO BURNABY

The process for implementing specific Green Plan initiatives at the municipal, provincial or national level is not clearly defined. Staff understand that specific programs and budgets are being developed by federal government departments and submitted to the National Treasury Board for approval. Approvals are being delayed due to the war effort in the Persian Gulf.

Planning & Building Inspection
re: Government of Canada's Green Plan
1991 February 20 Page 4

ITEM	1
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	13
COUNCIL MEETING	91/02/25

It is recommended that this report be referred to the Environment and Waste Management Committee for review and monitoring of Green Plan initiatives. The Committee will report to Council as the implementation process for the Green Plan develops.

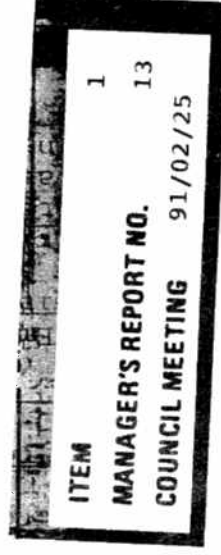
104


A.L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

APL.
SG/mm
Attach:

cc: Medical Health Officer
Acting Chief Public Health Inspector
Director Engineering

APPENDIX I



The Green Plan establishes a national objective "to secure for current and future generations a safe and healthy environment, and a sound and prosperous economy". The Government of Canada has defined specific goals for meeting this objective. The major goals and associated targets are listed here. The allocation of the additional \$3 billion that the Government will invest in Green Plan initiatives is indicated next to each goal.

Goal 1: Clean air, water and land
(\$850 million)

Targets:

- o Assurance that citizens today and tomorrow have the clean air, water and land essential to sustaining human and environmental health.
- o Protection and enhancement of the quality of our water resources and promotion of the wise and efficient use of our water.
- o Virtual elimination of the discharge of persistent toxic substances into the environment.
- o Canada wide reduction of the concentration of ground level ozone (smog) to below the threshold of health effects in the most susceptible segments of the population.
- o A 50 percent reduction in Canada's generation of waste by the year 2000.

Goal 2: Sustainable use of renewable resources
(\$350 million)

Targets:

- o The shifting of forest management from sustained yield to sustainable development.
- o Maintenance and enhancement of the natural resources that the agri-food sector uses or affects, and integration of environment, economic and social factors.
- o Long term sustainability of our fisheries resource.

Goal 3: Protection of our special spaces and species
(\$175 million)

Targets:

- o The setting aside of 12 per cent of the country as protected space.
- o Completion of the national parks system by the year 2000.
- o Maintenance and enhancement of the health and diversity of Canada's wildlife and plants.
- o Commemoration and protection of our historical heritage.

Goal 4: Preserving the integrity of the North
((\$100 million)

Target:

- o Preservation and enhancement of the integrity, health, biodiversity and productivity of Canada's Arctic ecosystems.

106

Goal 5: Global environmental security
((\$75 million)

Targets:

- o Stabilization of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000.
- o Phasing out of CFC's by 1997, and of methyl chloroform and other major ozone depleting substances by the year 2000.
- o A 50 percent reduction of sulphur dioxide emissions in eastern Canada by 1994. Capping of acid rain related emissions in eastern Canada beyond 1994. Establishment of a national emission cap for the year 2000.

Goal 6: Environmentally responsible decision making
((\$75 million)

Targets:

- o As a cornerstone of Canada's foreign policy, acceleration of global cooperation, understanding and progress on environmental issues.
- o Strengthening of existing environmental partnerships within Canada, while also building new ones.
- o Provision of timely, accurate and accessible information to enable Canadians to make environmentally sensitive decisions.
- o Development of an environmentally literate society - one in which citizens are equipped with the knowledge, skills and values necessary for action.
- o Strengthening Canada's environmental science and technology with a special emphasis on understanding regional ecosystems.
- o Balanced use of strong and effective environmental laws with market based approaches for environmental protection.
- o Assurance that the operations and procedures of the federal government exceed national targets and schedules for sustaining our environment.

APPENDIX I (Page 3)

ITEM

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 1 13

COUNCIL MEETING 91/02/25

Goal 7: Minimizing the impact of environmental emergencies
(\$175 million)

Target:

- o Quick and effective response to threats posed by pollution emergencies due to human activity and naturally occurring environmental emergencies.

