



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

Greening Government IT

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Climate Change and IT: Context

Worldwide, the share of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from digital technologies continues to rise as the transition to a digital economy accelerates.

➤ By **2025**, the global share of GHG emissions from digital technologies is expected to amount for **8% of all GHG emissions**; could emit up to 14% 2040.

➤ The ICT industry's carbon footprint **contributes 1.4% of overall global emissions**. This does not take into account other negative externalities such as the lifecycle impact of technology products (ex: manufacturing and disposal of IT products).

➤ **The Government of Canada seeks to address the dual imperative of providing digital-first, user-centred services and programs while also ensuring that government operations are low-carbon, resilient and green.**

➤ The Government of Canada spends approximately **\$7 billion per year on IT procurement**, this is an opportunity to make choices and provide incentives to the IT industry to be more sustainable.

➤ Developing a greener approach to IT is an **opportunity for the Government of Canada** to adopt best practices and showcase Canada as an environmental leader in this area.

Defining Sustainable IT

- A key accomplishment to date is a draft definition of a “sustainable digital government”.
- There is no common definition of green, sustainable IT which leads to a lack of a unified understanding of this concept.
- With this, we aim to inform and familiarize key decision makers with the concept and hopefully encourage further action.

Draft Definition

“Sustainable digital government is a set of principles and activities that seek to lower the environmental impacts of government digital operations and deliver responsible and resilient government digital services and sustainability policies and commitments. This includes a wide range of activities encompassing the whole digital lifecycle from planning, procurement, and operations, to disposal, reuse and recycling, and all activities in between”

Canada's Greening Government Strategy

This work will be done in parallel with Canada's updated [Greening Government Strategy](#) that sets out:

- › 40% reduction of emissions by 2030, aspire by 2025;
- › All government operations will be **net-zero by 2050**, including the procurement of goods and services and all government-owned and leased real property;
- › All major building retrofits will require a GHG reduction life-cycle cost analysis to determine the optimal GHG savings;
- › Divert at least 75% by weight of non-hazardous operational waste from landfills by 2030;
- › Track and disclose waste diversion by 2022; and
- › Divert at least 75% by weight of plastic waste from landfills by 2030.

Greening government IT will support meeting these targets by reducing GHG emissions and increasing the resilience of assets, services and operations by adapting to the changing climate.

Action Plan 2021

The five guiding themes for our 2021 Action Plan towards a whole-of-government approach for greening the Government of Canada's IT are:

**THEME 1:
WORK WITH VENDORS
AND SUPPLIERS TO
REDUCE
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS**

**THEME 2:
ENHANCE GOVERNANCE
AND INTEGRATE
GREENING INTO
PLANNING AND
DECISION MAKING**

**THEME 3:
IMPROVE DATA
COLLECTION AND
REPORTING**

**THEME 4:
DEFINE GREEN IT IN THE
GoC AND
INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY**

**THEME 5:
ENGAGE AND
COLLABORATE WITH
GoC, PTS, AND
INTERNATIONALLY**

Results from Jurisdictional Scan

We also sought your input to better understand work underway within Canada's jurisdictions. We learned that:

ALBERTA

- Undertaken IMT governance transformation, now more holistic, collaborative
- In support of green IT, implemented data centre consolidation (3 of 34 remain), cloud enablement, and Departmental Digital Plans
- Success when green IT is part of overall IT transformation

NEW BRUNSWICK

- Developing green procurement policy, by Dec 2021
- Recently included environmental stewardship scored requirement in RFPs (client computing, print services)
- E-waste program established in 2017, extended producer responsibility program

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

- Implemented both a Greening Government Action Plan and a green purchasing guide for products
- Noted challenges in greening IT due to changing priorities and difficulty in identifying goals

NOVA SCOTIA

- Implemented Nova Scotia Sustainable Procurement Policy, and all RFP templates have a default sustainability section (5% of total score). Have sustainable procurement specialists
- Best practice when the full lifecycle of equipment is addressed in the RFP/contract
- Seek data on the footprint of IT

Results from Jurisdictional Scan, con't

ONTARIO

- Implemented hardware energy certifications and print strategies to reduce both hardware and daily printing
- Projects to reduce GHG emissions from digital technologies which includes desktops, laptops, monitors, and mobile IT devices

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- Created Computers for Success program, adopted at federal level
- Assign a Climate Change coordinator to each Department
- Implemented Electronics Recycling Program, Electronic Handling Fee, and updated [Environmental Protection Act](#) includes electronics recycling, disposal
- Also have electronic signatures, double-sided printing, technology refresh program for more efficient, new hardware

QUÉBEC

- Extended *Stratégie gouvernementale de développement durable 2015-2020*; departments and agencies make their own sustainable development plans
- Some plans include recycling and reuse of electronic products, leveraging programs by external stakeholders (e.g., Electronic Products Recycling Association)

SASKATCHEWAN

- Moving towards digital services, expect this to translate into a sustainable public service
- Undertaken a Cloud First Strategy
- Engage with service partners to ensure sustainable practices
- For printing, the provinces leases services (so does not own the equipment)

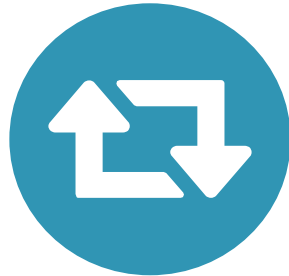
Jurisdictional Scan Key Trends

From the scan, we noted the following key trends, differences, and commonalities:



Green IT Strategies

Overarching Sustainable IT Strategies are not common at any level of government, while departmental strategies are



Procurement, e-Waste, and Cloud First Consistent Areas

Most have advanced green procurement, e-waste, and cloud first policies (or currently in development)



Climate Lens

Some governments are implementing a climate lens or are in the process of doing so



Unique Trends

- AB Data Centre Consolidation
- New Brunswick extended producer responsibility
 - QC Stratégie gouvernementale de développement durable 2015-2020
- PEI Climate Lens

Our Speakers

Clare Hobby leads global purchaser engagement for TCO Development, the organization behind TCO Certified, the global independent sustainability certification for IT products; and is used by procuring organizations and the IT industry to drive environmental and supply chain responsibility in the IT ecosystem. With TCO Certified, Clare oversees purchaser engagement programs globally and is active in a number of sustainability initiatives in the IT space. Joining us from Houston, Texas, by way of Australia, is Clare Hobby.

In her role as head of Sustainable Impact for HP Canada, Frances Edmonds is responsible for driving business from sustainability leadership. Focusing on sustainable and circular procurement practices, Frances is working to change how Canada buys. She also oversees HP Canada's full suite of corporate social responsibility programs, including strategic partnerships with key non-profit organizations and an industry leading volunteer program. Frances is a true trailblazer and one of Canada's leading proponents of circular procurement.