

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT AND  
RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

ANNUAL  
REPORT



2007



## THE ECR PROGRAM WHO WE ARE

The members of the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) established the Environmental Commitment and Responsibility (ECR) Program in 1997 in order to improve environmental management and performance across the industry.

To demonstrate their commitment to the Program, the CEA Executive Committee made participation in the Program a condition of CEA membership. The Program is multi-faceted, with a requirement for companies to implement an Environmental Management System consistent with ISO 14001, annual reporting on a number of key indicators and third party verification.

The ECR Task Group, consisting of representatives from utilities across Canada, meets twice a year to discuss how their companies are delivering on this commitment. Each company submits data to the ECR Program annually, and all companies are required to have their report verified once every three years. A Public Advisory Panel provides valuable feedback each year on how the industry is doing and where we should focus our efforts. For more information about the Program and to see all ECR indicators, please visit our website at: [www.canelect.ca](http://www.canelect.ca). For more information on the environmental initiatives underway at individual companies, please see the contact information inside the back cover of this report.

### ECR PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

- 1 To be more efficient in our use of resources and to promote energy efficiency to our customers
- 2 To manage the adverse environmental impacts of our business
- 3 To be more accountable to our constituents and transparent in our operations
- 4 To ensure that our employees understand the environmental implications of their actions and have the knowledge and skills to make the right decisions

The data presented in this report is collected from CEA members through the ECR Program's annual reporting process. For more information, please visit [www.canelect.ca](http://www.canelect.ca).



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Electricity is a key component of Canadians' lives and a driver of economic growth. Ensuring our customers receive a reliable, safe, and affordable supply of electricity with minimal impacts on the environment is the common goal of the Canadian electricity industry.

In order to pursue this goal in a collaborative way, the members of the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) established the Environmental Commitment and Responsibility (ECR) Program in 1997. To demonstrate the strength of this commitment, participation in the Program was made a condition of membership in the CEA.

In order to ensure this commitment achieved a tangible impact at the company level, CEA members were then required to implement an ISO 14001 compliant Environmental Management System (EMS). CEA is the only industry association in Canada to request such a rigorous environmental standard of its members and the Canadian electricity industry stands out among its international peers for achieving such widespread EMS implementation.

Over the years Environment Management Systems (EMSs) have become entrenched at CEA member utilities and continue to provide opportunities to improve environmental management and identify areas for improvement. CEA members come together several times each year to discuss the Program and ensure it meets the needs of our industry and our stakeholders. These meetings also provide an opportunity to share best practices across the electricity industry and discuss the industry's key environmental issues.

When we look at the first ten years of our work together, we are proud of our achievements thus far. This ECR report includes some of the innovative initiatives underway at CEA member utilities and provides a selection of indicators of the industry's collective environmental performance. As you will see, we continue to make progress towards our environmental objectives; however CEA members believe we can do more.

Environmental issues do not stand alone and neither do the strategies being pursued by CEA members to address them. In recognition of the intrinsic link between economic, social, and environmental issues, the three pillars of sustainable development, we will expand the Program's focus to incorporate a broader range of issues and information. We are building on the ECR Program's strong foundation and next year we will be proud to introduce you to the next chapter in the evolution of the ECR Program.

A sustainable electricity future for Canada which includes a healthy environment, society and economy is the common goal of CEA members and our customers. We look forward to sharing our progress with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Burpee". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jim Burpee  
Senior Vice President, Ontario Power Generation  
ECR Executive Committee Chair



## THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

Canadians rely on electricity everyday to power their lives. The demand for electricity is growing each year, due to an expanding economy and increasing demand from consumers. Electricity companies are working to ensure that this demand is met in a sustainable way by maximizing the potential of the electricity system and by putting the necessary infrastructure in place to support Canada's electricity needs.

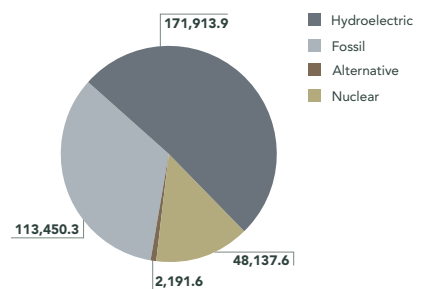
Canada has a naturally rich and diverse power generation mix. Hydro, coal, oil, natural gas, uranium, solar, wind, and biomass are all vital components in fuelling the economy and ensuring an integrated, sustainable supply of electricity. Hydroelectricity is the largest supply source in Canada, and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. In regions of Canada where thermal generation remains the major electricity source, companies are pursuing technology solutions to minimise air emissions. Although alternative energy sources comprise a small portion of the electricity supply, they are growing quickly as companies are increasingly looking to small hydro, wind, biomass and other sources of power to meet increasing demand.

Providing a reliable source of power to customers depends on maintaining and enhancing the necessary infrastructure to support Canada's vast transmission and distribution system. Working together with government and stakeholders, the electricity sector is planning its expansion of the transmission system to ensure the integrity of electricity supply. Distribution systems are also being enhanced with new metering technology to provide customers with greater control over their electricity consumption.

A reliable supply of electricity is a vital component of our quality of life and the foundation of a sustainable and thriving economy. In order to maintain this component, the industry's core business of generating, transmitting and distributing electricity is infused with the principle of sustainable development. As electricity companies continue to develop and strengthen the electricity system, they ensure that customers receive a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of electricity, without compromising the needs of future Canadians.

**New Brunswick Power** released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the purchase of up to 300 MW of wind-powered generation by November 2010. The development of wind energy projects will increase the supply of clean, renewable energy, resulting in local economic development, increased diversity of power supply and a greater reliance on domestic resources for electricity generated and sold in the province. "This request for proposals accelerates NB Power's original plan to have 400 MW of wind energy online by 2016," says David D. Hay, NB Power President and CEO. "It allows NB Power to provide New Brunswickers energy from this renewable resource sooner, minimizing our environmental footprint."

2007 NET GENERATION (GWh)



In 2007 **SaskPower** introduced a Net Metering Policy in order to accommodate customers who wish to generate up to 100 kW of a renewable form of electricity for the purpose of offsetting power that would otherwise be purchased from SaskPower. If the customer generates more power than they actually use, that excess electricity is fed back to SaskPower's electricity system, and used to offset that customer's future electricity use.

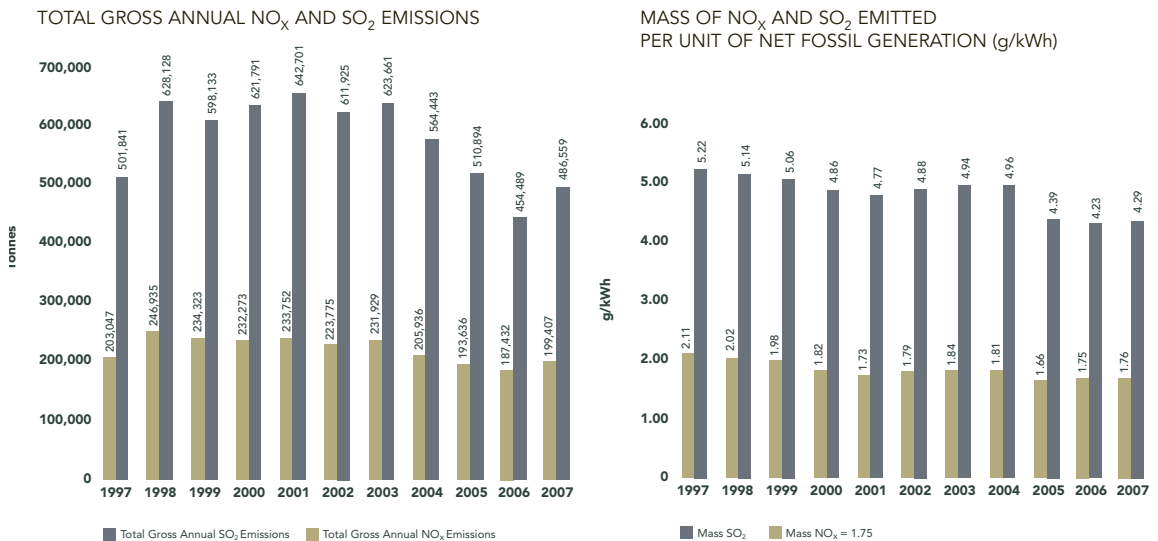
**Nova Scotia Power** (NSPI) partnered with OpenHydro of Ireland to place a test turbine in the Minas Passage, a site in the Bay of Fundy that generates some of the strongest tidal flows on earth. NSPI already operates the only barrage type tidal power plant in North America and wants to be part of launching this new generation of tidal power. It has taken a leadership role in the development of this new renewable energy source.

**ENMAX's** Taber wind farm came into operation in October 2007. ENMAX worked with local landowners and the municipal district of Taber to bring the Taber Wind Farm to fruition. The Taber Wind Power generation facility will employ a technologically advanced wind turbine design supplied by ENERCON. The 37-ENERCON turbines will have a total power output of over 80 MW. The power generated from this zero-emitting form of energy is equivalent to powering over 32,000 homes.

## AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The effects of air emissions are of growing concern for Canadians. The CEA members continue to address their air emissions through investments in retrofit and new emission control technologies, new alternative and emerging renewable generation, energy efficiency and demand side management, and investments in emission offset projects. The electricity industry continues to work collaboratively with the federal government to find a viable equitable approach to emissions reductions.

Climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions remains an important issue for Canadians and the world. The electricity industry is committed to taking action on climate change while ensuring a cost effective, reliable and sustainable electricity system. CEA and its members are continuing to work closely with federal and provincial governments to develop a comprehensive and realistic approach to GHGs and other air emissions, that will reduce our overall air emissions footprint while providing reliable power to Canadians.



In 2007, **Nova Scotia Power** (NSPI) continued to implement enhancements to many of its thermal generation stations to achieve corporate air emission objectives. In 2007, NSPI invested approximately \$8 million to reduce oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) from the Lingan plant. The final phase of upgrades is scheduled for completion in 2008. The company also announced a \$66 million project to provide 50 MW of generation through waste heat recovery from the two natural gas-fired combustion turbines at its Tufts Cove plant. They have also committed \$45 million to build a bag house to reduce particulate matter and modifications to improve operational performance at their Trenton plant.

**TransAlta** became the first Canadian company to make a transaction in the European Carbon Allowances market. The company recently announced the purchase of approximately 400,000 tonnes of GHG offset credits from Emission Credits Corporation. The purchased offsets will be used to comply with the Alberta Climate Change and Emission Management Act.



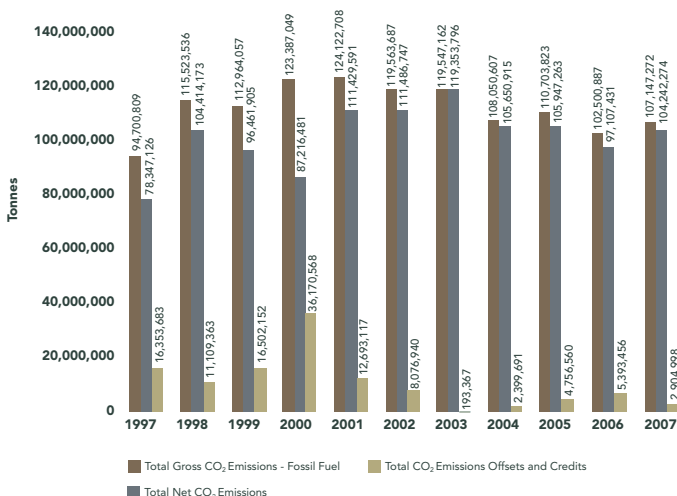
**SaskPower** is developing creative ways to offset mercury emissions. The company has established an innovative program through which mercury in automotive switches is captured and recycled before cars are destroyed. SaskPower also recently launched a Mercury Thermostat Recycling Program to ensure the safe collection and recycling of mercury from old household thermostats. Over 48 kilograms of mercury was collected through these programs in 2007.

**FortisBC** President and CEO John Walker was among a group of 22 distinguished leaders to be appointed to the Premier's Climate Action Team. The team will offer advice to the government on reducing British Columbia's greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020. The Company has also begun to identify and inventory GHG emissions associated with FortisBC's operations in order to set emission reduction targets and develop supporting programs.

In late 2007, **Yukon Energy Corporation** began construction of a transmission line from Yukon Energy Carmacks to Stewart Crossing in the Central Yukon. The line will allow the company to provide surplus hydro power to the new Minto mine in the area, rather than seeing it rely on diesel generation, displacing at least 23,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year. The next phase of the new transmission line will allow for the connection of Yukon Energy's two separate electrical grids, which will give its electrical system more flexibility and reliability.

**Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro** took several new steps towards its goal of growing a diversified and sustainable energy business and signed 20-year power purchase agreements for two 27 MW wind projects on the island of Newfoundland. On July 26, 2007, the sod turning for the province's first commercial wind farm took place in St. Lawrence. Together, the two projects will displace 300,000 barrels of oil annually at the Holyrood Thermal Generating Station, reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by over 900 tonnes, carbon dioxide emissions by over 140,000 tonnes and generate green energy for the equivalent of 14,000 homes.

ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS: CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>)





## ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

Energy efficiency and conservation enhance the electricity sector's ability to sustainably manage the electricity system and reduce the need for new infrastructure development. Electricity companies are demonstrating their commitment to energy efficiency through their own actions at the company level, and by providing consumers with tools to reduce their own energy use.

Companies continue to improve the efficiency of the electricity system by investing in upgrades and technological innovations to enhance the electricity system. Conservation and energy management programs are another way companies are seeking to maximize the potential of existing capacities.

Utilities have also been developing and providing energy efficiency programs to their customers for over a decade. Consumer education, energy audits, financial incentives and technological innovations, such as smart meters, are the tools being used by companies across the country to assist consumers with managing their energy use.

By working together with consumers, the Canadian electricity industry is striving to meet the demand for electricity while reducing environmental impacts.

**FortisAlberta** applied for registration as a partner of the newly-formed Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance (AEEA) in late 2007. Through member forums, collaborative problem solving and coordinated member actions, FortisAlberta and the other sponsors of the AEEA will collaborate on efforts to maximize energy efficiency in Alberta.

**BC Hydro** is aiming to acquire 50 per cent of its incremental resource needs through conservation by 2020. BC Hydro's energy conservation program, Power Smart, has launched a multi-initiative effort to increase leadership on electricity conservation and efficiency in B.C.

**Hydro One** has offered In-Home Display units to 130,000 customers in Northern Ontario resulting in the largest full-scale deployment of real-time in-home displays in North America. The monitors give customers real-time information about their electricity use, allowing them to see how much electricity they are using, cost savings associated with turning off various electrical appliances, and the amount of money they were spending on electricity at any given moment.

**Hydro Ottawa** was awarded the 2007 Ontario Clean Air Alliance's Peak Buster award in 2007 for achieving a 7.2% (101.6 MW) peak demand reduction. The Alliance challenged communities across Ontario to reduce their use of electricity during peak demand periods. Participating utilities compared their demand at the time of the 2007 summer system peak - the single point of highest electricity demand during the summer - to the 2006 summer system peak.

**Saint John Energy** introduced an LED Christmas light exchange, which is superior to traditional incandescent lights by being safer, longer lasting and energy efficient. In fall 2007, 1250 customers participated in this initiative by surrendering their old incandescent Christmas lights and purchasing LEDs. Qualifying purchases were eligible for up to a \$20 credit on their Saint John Energy account. The results of a post-campaign survey showed that over 85% of the customers were aware of the program and that many of them had already converted.

## SPECIES AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

The production, transmission and distribution of electricity all have the potential to impact natural ecosystems. As a result, species and habitat stewardship is an essential element in the building and operation of power generation, transmission and distribution facilities.

Companies have comprehensive operational policies and mitigation measures in place to protect the environment in which they operate. By first identifying species and habitats at risk, companies are then able to develop comprehensive plans to avoid or mitigate potential impacts. Many go beyond simply reducing their own impacts and form partnerships with communities, educational institutions, and groups to support species and habitat conservation in the communities in which they operate. By providing financial support and other resources to study habitat and species preservation, the industry is working to preserve existing ecosystems and highlight best practices for preserving biodiversity.

**Brookfield Renewable Power** provided \$144,000 to fund a project to develop a wetland demonstration project on the former A.B. McLean property on the St. Mary's River. The proposal is truly innovative as it proposes to transform a former industrial area into a natural state that can be used for educational purposes. The construction of a wetland as part of the waterfront walkway extension is consistent with the "Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement" between Canada and the United States, which encourages an "ecosystems approach" for restoring and protecting environmentally degraded areas of the Great Lakes.

**ATCO Electric** has been addressing numerous avian-related issues on both transmission and distribution systems for many years. In an effort to reduce facility outages, equipment damage, and avian mortality associated with collisions, electrocutions, nesting, and perching, the company initiated work on an Avian Protection Plan (APP) in late 2007. The first phase will be to prepare and document the APP and will be completed in 2008. A second phase will focus on implementing the APP across the organization using a targeted timeframe for implementation across all areas of the company.

**BC Hydro** established compensation programs with the province to mitigate historic impacts on fish and wildlife resulting from the construction of dams. The programs involve stakeholder and First Nations engagement, research projects and other compensation initiatives. For example, through the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, BC Hydro provided more than \$4 million in 2007 that supported nine fish and 23 wildlife projects. This Program received national recognition for its efforts to conserve the endangered Northern Leopard frog, winning the Silver Salamander Award from the Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network. Since 1995, BC Hydro's contributions have totalled more than \$46 million.

**Manitoba Hydro** purchased the Grand Rapids Fish Hatchery from the Province of Manitoba in 2007. The Corporation will use the hatchery for conservation aquaculture and education programs related to species such as lake sturgeon in waters affected by hydroelectric development. In 2007, lake sturgeon eggs were hatched and reared at the Grand Rapids Hatchery and most of the resultant fingerlings were then stocked in fall in an area of the Nelson River where the population has been impacted by both historical commercial fishing and hydroelectric development. Five hundred of the fingerlings were retained at the hatchery for use in an overwintering trial that would produce fish large enough to be marked by conventional methods before stocking in spring. This trial is a significant step in the development of conservation aquaculture techniques in Manitoba.





## SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

Canadian electricity companies know that their ability to provide a sustainable electricity future depends on working together with customers and communities. Utilities are committed to engaging the communities in which they operate, seeking stakeholder input into decision-making, and developing partnerships with community groups. This interaction is ultimately rewarding for both industry and customers as utilities can be sure the decisions made meet stakeholder expectations, and customers are assured their electricity companies are accountable and transparent in their actions.

Providing our customers with clear transparent information on environmental priorities and performance through both the ECR Program and individual company reports is one way the electricity industry demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship. For a full list of links to environmental information provided by individual CEA members, please see the back page of this report.

Recognizing that teaching children about energy conservation is key to creating a sustainable culture, **Horizon Utilities** launched the kidzpower™ brand in 2007. The first project under the new brand was the sponsorship of Generation Conservation, a 10-lesson curriculum course for 7,500 Grade 5 students attending 200 schools. This program meets all the requirements of the new Science and Technology - Conservation of Energy and Resources curriculum released by the Ministry of Education in December 2007. In addition to providing teacher training workshops, course materials and a website specific to the topics covered in Generation Conservation, Horizon Utilities supplied up-to-date information about Ontario's energy sector and smart meters.

In 2007, **Newfoundland Power** combined its commitment to education, the environment and the community through the company's 10th annual EnviroFest, which was held in eight communities across the province during National Environment Week. With a focus on the environment, education and awareness, together with the community, the company has planted approximately 1,700 trees in the past 10 years.

Under its Corporate Citizenship Program (CCP), **Ontario Power Generation** (OPG) carefully considers proposals from registered charities and not-for-profit organizations; these may include donation or sponsorship requests for financial and/or in-kind contributions, strategic alliances, awards, grants, scholarships and mentoring programs. The CCP focuses on initiatives that are innovative and are consistent with the company's commitment to be an engaged and productive member of the community, in order to minimize impacts on the environment and to ensure a positive contribution to the broader community.

## EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Utilities are committed to ensuring their employees have the skills and knowledge necessary to make environmentally responsible decisions.

Protecting the environment is literally in the hands of employees. As a result, companies are investing in employee training programs to give employees a full understanding of how to minimize environmental impacts, and mitigate their effects. The effectiveness of these training programs is assessed through Environmental Management Systems. Programs may be aimed at impact prevention or mitigation, promoting a quick coordinated response to an event, or raising environmental awareness. The strategic aim is the same each time: to make sure that reducing environmental impacts is a top of mind issue for all employees.

**Brookfield Renewable Power** partnered with Sault College and various government agencies to enhance local training programs focused on the energy sector. The Brookfield Renewable Power Energy Training Centre, to be located on campus at Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, will contain new instructional space that will provide students with access to upgraded vocational labs and shops, and serve as home to courses relating to wind energy that the College plans to introduce. Brookfield Renewable Power invested \$200,000 from the internal Sustainable Development Initiative to support the training centre.

In 2007, **Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation** CF(L)Co continued with its ongoing commitment to have a complement of staff trained and ready to respond to oil spills and leaks. As part of CF(L)Co's Environmental Emergency Response Plan, approximately 61 employees were trained in their roles and responsibilities in the event of a spill or leak, internal reporting procedures and basic oil spill response techniques.



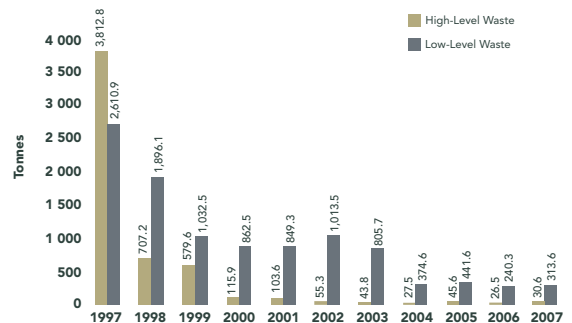
## REUSE, RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Electricity companies are working to ensure that waste products are disposed of safely and with minimal environmental impacts. This includes ensuring hazardous materials are disposed of properly and following the principles of reducing, reusing and recycling.

Markets are being developed to reuse the by-products produced by electricity generation. Burning coal produces fly ash and bottom ash which can be used in ready-mix concrete, oil well cement and roadbeds. Gypsum produced from desulphurization is used in the manufacture of wallboard. Supplying these by-products as raw materials for new products is an increasingly common industry practice, diverting tons of these materials each year from landfills and reducing the demand for energy and raw materials.

Safe disposal of potentially hazardous materials is also a key priority for the industry. Petroleum-based products are sometimes used in electrical equipment and the prevention of spills of these materials is a focus of utility waste management strategies. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) are a group of organic compounds which were used to manufacture transformers, capacitors and other electricity equipment in the past. Utilities are working to become PCB free, and steady progress is being made to eliminate PCBs across the industry.

TOTAL INVENTORY OF PCB MATERIAL IN STORAGE



**ATCO Power** continues to strive to increase waste reduction through promoting the use of coal fly ash and other combustion by-products. Between 2000 and 2007, recycling of these by-products has increased over 300%. Fly ash, used as an ingredient to make concrete, displaces Portland cement, thus reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions created by cement production. For every metric tonne of cement displaced by fly ash, approximately one tonne less of CO<sub>2</sub> is released into the atmosphere.

During the fall of 2007, to facilitate planning of activities aimed at diverting solid waste from landfills, **Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation** CF(L)Co identified and quantified solid waste streams in residential, commercial and industrial operations, and identified options for waste diversion. Based on the results, it was decided to implement landfill diversion methods in a staged approach, beginning with the diversion of organics via composting in 2009, followed by the construction of a recycling depot for recyclables and fibre in 2010 and 2011, and waste reduction initiatives in 2012.

**AltaLink** implemented a battery recycling program in an effort to increase employee environmental awareness and to keep recyclable waste out of landfills. Under the program, employees and contractors have been encouraged to recycle all small sealed cell batteries at the office and to bring in used batteries from home. This program has resulted in almost 900 lbs of batteries recycled over the past five years, and that no corrosive, heavy metal bearing waste end up in landfills.

In late October 2007, **ENMAX** transmission and distribution field crews, with the guidance from a third-party spill response specialist, learned how to contain potential catastrophic releases of mineral oil to water bodies and protecting storm basins using only basic readily available materials. Through the use of pallets, ladders, shovels and a roll of plastic sheeting, crews gained knowledge, hands on experience and a high level of assurance that they can dam up and contain a major spill in a short period of time. Over a two day period, crews learned and applied the principles to protect catch basins, recover oil from small ponds, contain large spills and recover product effectively as well as how to dam and contain oil in creeks. The training was well received and by the end of the second day of training, field crews were containing thousands of liters of water with relative ease and great team coordination.

**Northwest Territories Power Corporation** established a Waste Oil Agreement program in 2001, providing waste oil free of charge to community members that have a registered waste oil furnace. The program provides an end use for the oil that benefits communities and eliminates costs associated with shipping the oil out of the NWT for disposal. Agreements are presently in place in 13 communities.

The Corporation has also developed a glycol distillation system for its Inuvik plant. Waste propylene and ethylene glycol is now filtered through the system yielding reusable glycol and water as end products. The water is rendered clean enough to release into municipal sewage systems. The system will annually recycle approximately 22,000 Litres of glycol in the Inuvik region alone. This translates into a very significant savings on glycol purchase, transport, and disposal costs expected to be around \$35,000 annually.



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## CEA

A safe, secure, reliable, sustainable and competitively-priced supply of electricity is essential to Canada's prosperity. Founded in 1891, the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) is the voice of the Canadian electricity industry, promoting electricity as the critical enabler of the economy and Canadians' expectations for an enhanced quality of life. At the heart of CEA is a core of corporate utility member companies from across the country that engage in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. These are the CEA members who demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship through their participation in the ECR Program.



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