



# *Environmental Principles and Practices*

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) is a national non-profit association of more than 500 corporate members, including federal, provincial and territorial departments of transportation, many municipal governments as well as private-sector firms with an interest in road and urban transportation issues, academic institutions and industry associations. TAC's mission is to promote the provision of safe, secure, efficient, effective, environmentally and financially sustainable transportation services in support of Canada's social and economic goals. The Association is a neutral forum for gathering or exchanging ideas, information and knowledge on technical guidelines and best practices.

TAC supports its members, other stakeholders and the public in their efforts to respect and protect the environment while providing transportation facilities and services for Canadians. To promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship, several principles are offered in the box below.

People and the environment have a complex and critical relationship. To both serve people and protect the environment, there are many factors that must be considered when transportation-related work is planned and undertaken. To assist the process, a number of practices are recommended, as presented in the box on the reverse.

## *Environmental Principles*

### *Prevention of Pollution*

Strive to conserve natural resources, prevent pollution and protect valued ecological components.

### *Compliance*

Participate in the development of transportation-related environmental laws and voluntary initiatives and meet or exceed the requirements of applicable environmental legislation and regulations.

### *Continual Improvement*

Establish environmental objectives and targets and measure progress towards these goals and through periodic evaluations, reviews and related action plans, will continually improve the effectiveness of their environmental management and overall environmental performance.

### *Public Awareness*

Consult with transportation-related stakeholders to involve and educate them in the implementation of their policies and projects.

## ***Environmental Practices***

### *Mainstream environmental concerns.*

Every activity, be it policy or project development, construction, operations, or influence, has positive and negative environmental effects. Environmental considerations should be integrated into day to day activities and long-term decision-making, fostering a commitment to environmental protection within the transportation sector.

### *Remember that effects can be incremental.*

Environmental degradation results from the aggregation of many small impacts over extended periods of time. Therefore, the cumulative environmental effects of transportation activities should be assessed with a view to minimizing those effects.

### *Integrate transportation planning.*

A healthy environment depends on sound planning; therefore, environmental factors should be anticipated and addressed when developing policies, plans, programs, standards and/or guidelines. Land use, transportation, and environmental planning should be integrated, fostering a multi-modal approach to meeting Canada's transportation needs.

### *Share research and development.*

In recognition of the importance of knowledge to environmental protection and enhancement, leadership in the research and development of environmentally compatible transportation technologies and methods should be provided and shared with others.

### *Consider products and processes.*

In recognition of the need to integrate environmental concerns into all aspects of transportation, environmentally compatible products and processes should be used through the development and application of environmentally friendly programs and technologies, including the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle).

### *Respect Canada's multi-cultural, aboriginal and environmental heritage.*

Historical sites, archaeological resources and other aspects of our diverse cultural heritage should be respected and preserved for future generations.

This document was prepared by TAC's Environment Council.  
The Council provides a forum for government, industry and academia  
to discuss environmental issues and concerns related to, or affecting,  
the transportation sector.

For more information, visit TAC's website ~ [www.tac-atc.ca](http://www.tac-atc.ca)

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