



IISD

Your partner in building
a sustainable future

iisd International
Institute for
Sustainable
Development

Institut
international du
développement
durable



Over the past 25 years, the International Institute for Sustainable Development has emerged as one of the world's leading research and innovation centres, proposing policy solutions to advance sustainability while promoting a growing economy and a healthy environment.

IISD has earned a reputation for developing smart approaches to the growing challenges and opportunities of integrating environmental and social priorities with continued economic development. Its 120 staff members and associates have worked in over 70 countries, bringing multi-disciplinary backgrounds including finance, economics, biology, hydrology, engineering, statistics, law and IT systems.

Sustainability is no longer an issue left to policy-makers, environmental activists and scientific researchers.

Leading businesses are becoming increasingly sensitized to the growing fact that sustainability issues affect their bottom lines. Profit margins are increasingly determined by how well companies take into account livelihoods and the environment.

Canadian businesses will gain leverage if they are able to seize the innovation agenda and use it to enhance productivity and promote novel approaches that increase competitiveness.

IISD is uniquely qualified to help business successfully tackle these challenges.

IISD is building partnerships in the following areas

Advancing a Diversified, Green Economy

While sustainable development has long been a goal for all countries, significant gaps remain. For Canada, where natural resources are key, the challenge remains to define what a green economy entails. Recognizing that sustainability and social licence are core activities, the private sector increasingly sees the green economy as a strategic priority.

Financing this transition is a prerequisite. In Canada alone, billions of dollars in low-carbon and climate-resilient investments are needed, but there is little idea of how to mobilize this capital and how government can enable the investment required for a green economy. Going ahead, IISD is keen to work with the financial industry.

- IISD is working to define the broad characteristics of a green economy and identify implications of changes for Canadian economic sectors, including high tech, communications, manufacturing and resource development.

- We can develop policies and practices that will help support a smooth transition for the Canadian economy.



IISD is an ideal partner for RBC's Blue Water Project. We are pleased to support IISD's stewardship of the Experimental Lakes Area and its ground-breaking work in the protection of watersheds.

— Glenn Crook, Vice President, Commercial Financial Services, Royal Bank of Canada

Freshwater Management

IISD has wide knowledge and research capacity in freshwater management in Canada and abroad. This reputation was enhanced by the 2014 agreement that saw IISD take over responsibility for the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) in northwestern Ontario. Unique in the world, this research facility (now IISD-ELA) allows for whole-ecosystem experiments in lakes and watersheds.

- ELA's ground-breaking research into acid rain, mercury pollution and aquaculture is being augmented by new studies into the impact on water systems of climate change and new contaminants including pesticides and flame retardants.

- Our award-winning Lake Winnipeg Bioeconomy program is developing opportunities for farmers to generate low-cost bioenergy and contribute to carbon offsets while fighting phosphorus pollution.



Developing Indicators to Measure Progress

The path to sustainability requires information that tells us where we are, where we are going and how best to get there. This means developing tools to set goals while implementing systems that track progress critical to achieving a resilient and sustainable future.

- IISD is a recognized leader in this field and has won awards for developing systems for Canadian cities that cover all relevant economic, social and environmental indicators.

- Our experience in corporate social responsibility can help companies set baselines and thresholds against which they can monitor contributions to sustainable development.



Canada's Arctic

The Arctic is experiencing unprecedented change stimulated by two challenges — large-scale resource development and a rapidly changing climate. This transformation has fundamental implications for Canada's economy, particularly the extractives industry. IISD's Arctic initiative addresses these realities by helping businesses in the North, along with governments and local communities, cope with these risks and opportunities.

- We aim to ensure that resource development provides the kind of infrastructure resilience, social progress and robust governance required for sustainability.

- We provide assessments of the advantages and challenges of development, including analyses of roadway projects and housing options for northern communities.



Innovative businesses are facing a complex world where sustainability must be an integral part of their planning. IISD is ideally placed to help analyze and communicate practical solutions to this challenge.

— Ian Charles Stewart, Founder of WiReD Magazine, Businessman, Venture Philanthropist



Coping with Change

Companies are increasingly challenged by the speed, scale and complexity of economic, social and environmental change. Coping with this volatility requires access to reliable information and policies that can prepare companies to deal with the unpredictable.

- IISD helps companies ensure they are well-placed to achieve their objectives in a world of uncertainty, while contributing to Canada's transition to a sustainable future.

- We focus on development of tailored assessments to help identify climate-related risks and opportunities, particularly involving value chains and targeted communities.

Mining in Canada

Canada's extractives industry faces complex issues of sustainability and social licence both at home and abroad, with expectations that it will take concrete steps concerning water management, tailings and greenhouse gas emissions.

Governments increasingly view resource development as part of a bigger picture, whether it's Ontario's Ring of Fire or Quebec's *Plan Nord*. Building success hinges on attaining engineering and environmental targets, but also on fulfilling commitments to local engagement and innovative partnerships.

- IISD develops integrated toolkits that allow companies, governments and communities to identify an optimal mix of economic and social benefits with appropriate environmental protection.

- IISD uses its experience and reputation as a non-partisan interlocutor to bring together governments, local communities, First Nations and civil society for dialogue that works toward a prosperous future which respects the environment.



A Sustainable Energy Path for North America

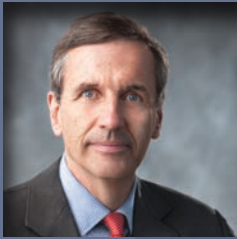
Canada, the U.S. and Mexico have much to gain from the evolution of the North American energy sector. Enhanced cross-border energy trade promises to make business more competitive by improving energy security and stimulating economic growth. A coordinated continental energy strategy calls for innovation and harmonization in environmental regulation.

- Through partnerships with policy research organizations in the U.S. and Mexico, IISD is uniquely positioned to push the innovation envelope and include all stakeholders in these discussions.

- IISD is a leader in research and policy collaboration to identify innovative policies that will lower trade barriers and enhance environmental and social sustainability in the energy sector.

A Perfect Partner

Canada's economy is on the precipice of a new era. It will be framed by a new understanding of productivity, where profits will depend on contributing to fair economic growth, strong communities and a resilient environment. IISD has demonstrated its ability to promote a sustainable vision that goes beyond immediate environmental concerns and identifies new opportunities. IISD's experience and expertise in promoting an inclusive vision makes it a perfect partner to help facilitate this exciting transition.



Scott Vaughan,
President and CEO

Scott is a recognized leader in advancing pragmatic, market-based solutions to the challenge of sustainable development. Before joining IISD in 2013, Scott was Canada's federal Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development. His previous experience includes working in the head office of the Royal Bank Financial Group, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C., the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

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Companies and government face the challenge of sustainable development in a complex environment of increased public transparency, accountability and monitoring. IISD has worked on these issues for years, and its reputation is internationally recognized.

—Sheila Fraser, Former Auditor General of Canada; Member of the Board of Directors, IISD Experimental Lakes Area Inc.

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The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) undertakes policy analysis to help governments, institutions and companies make tangible advances in the development and implementation of environmental, economic and social policies that promote equity and a healthy planet. It is an independent, non-profit organization based in Canada, with a global staff and offices located in Geneva, Winnipeg, Ottawa, New York and Beijing.

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