



# Eye on *the Web*

LINKS TO THE RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET



## Environmental Resources: Individual Action

Humanity has always been linked with nature, including attempts to harness the environment for survival. Previously, civilization's effects on the earth's ecosystem, neither insubstantial nor undamaging, didn't point to worldwide environmental collapse. Time may be running out. Galloping human populations and accelerating technologies have wounded the natural world as habitats are encroached upon or destroyed. No wonder Canadians are eager to learn about environmental issues! This column focuses on gateways providing information about current practices the general public (librarians too!) can immediately use to positively affect their ecological footprint.

### Garbage and Recycling: City of Toronto

<http://www.toronto.ca/garbage/>

This attractive site, maintained by the City of Toronto, has much information for those who want to reduce business and residential waste production. Many current practices grew out of a June 2001 city council report produced by the Waste Diversion Task Force 2010.

The top of the Garbage and Recycling Web page profiles Solid Waste Management Services, the section mainly responsible for coordinating Toronto's efforts in this area. Follow the Programs link for a listing of seven waste diversions including the Green Bin programme, Environment Days, and Composting. Each resulting description provides links to relevant schedules, participation requirements, publications, successes, etc. for that program.

Most Web pages within this area of the site have three sections. On the left are links to aspects of specific programs; e.g., on the Green Bin page, the CONTAINERS option displays the details on receptacles (size, shape, care instructions, etc.). The middle section offers short programme summaries and discusses recent events and announcements. The right hand section, when available, is entitled either Learn More or Highlights. Useful topics including Recycling Containers, Need Compost?, and Volunteering can be found in this section. In addition, a useful A – Z index can be found on the main page, with headings that include: batteries, litter, depots.

Though servicing one of Canada's most multicultural/diverse centres, almost everything on these pages is available only in English with the exception of Blue Box Recycling and Green Bin Information Cards, which are translated into seventeen languages. Another disappointment is the fact that the City of Toronto search engine cannot be limited to the Garbage and Recycling Web pages.

### The One-Tonne Challenge

<http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/onetonne/english/>

The One-Tonne Challenge is part of Environment Canada's climate change initiative. The premise of this program is to convince all Canadians to reduce their annual greenhouse gas emissions production (GHG) by one tonne in their communities, transportation choices, businesses, workplaces, homes or schools. On average, individual Canadians add five tonnes of GHG to the environment annually through the use of fossil fuels.

This Web site provides a multitude of helpful information for environmentally engaged Canadians, ranging from home and work energy and/or waste reduction guidelines,

to government financial incentives, to animated vignettes on the challenge's inherent advantages.

The left side column remains fairly stable as users navigate through the various pages on this site. Headings include: Why take the challenge?, Success Stories, Everyone's Playing a Role. Moving down the left navigation bar, the link What You Can Do provides information on rebates, downloadable guides, calculation methods, promotional e-postcards, and the option to subscribe to the Challenge's free online bulletin. Continuing down the page, users will find the headings Energy Relief and Fuel Saving Tips. The first connects to related federal policy pronouncements on the Department of Finance Web site. The second re-directs users to the Office of Energy Efficiency's page on reducing business/personal transportation costs.

Standard search command options are available throughout the site. This search covers the entire Climate Change Web site, not just the section dedicated to the One-Tonne Challenge.



Their FAQ page is a particularly strong feature, as it truly covers the gamut of likely questions from basic definitions and program parameters to contact information for those of us who have an energy saving idea or product. Always a welcome feature, the Site Map offers a speedy overview while the Media Room provides an assortment of archived What's New and ready-to-publish articles as well as a Science North Centre video showing modern lifestyles affecting climate change.

### The Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE)

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/english/>

Established in April 1998 when Canada joined the Kyoto Protocol, the OEE's vision is to lead Canadians in attaining greater home, workplace and transportation energy efficiency. The site helps Canadians reduce energy use and cut their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions while emphasizing the welcome side effect of considerable cost savings. It accomplishes this by providing information about OEE programs and offering concrete advice to individuals, companies, governments, and organizations.

The OEE's central energy efficiency/alternative fuels program categories are as follows: buildings, equipment, government operations, housing, industry, outreach and transportation. The home page has three sections with the left hand side listing links to such topics as OEE Programs, Publications, etc.

The middle section provides access to two categories: For Personal Use and For Business Use. Residential and Transportation links are shown in the first heading. The second heading has the above links, as well as Commercial and Institutional, Industrial, and Communities and Governments. Each subcategory connects to extensive compilations of programs/guides/directions on reducing energy needs. Finally, the right hand side of the page includes eye-catching boxes linked to promotions and programming including Idling Gets You Nowhere and Student Awards Competition.

Standard options, such as Site Map and Links are present and the less common commands of Text View and Print View are also offered. Searching can be limited to the OEE's site. In addition, energy use consumption aids are available in the Tools sidebar within the For Personal Use pages and include calculators, analysers, and quizzes.

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