

North American Green Purchasing: Exploratory Meeting

COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION OF
NORTH AMERICA
ROOM A

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2002-09-18

Participants: see list of participants, attachment 1

8:30 Continental Breakfast

9:00 Opening of Meeting: Victor Shantora

Welcoming remarks. Mr. Shantora noted with pleasure that in June, the CEC Council of Ministers indicated support for this initiative. In 2003, green procurement will feature in the CEC Secretariat's work plan for the second year.

- Objectives of Meeting and Role and Interest of CEC

Chantal Line Carpentier

Dr. Carpentier provided some background about the CEC Council (composed of the environmental ministers of the three NAFTA countries). This is the first time all three countries get together at this level to share information about green purchasing and to hammer out tri-national solutions.

In the weeks coming up to the meeting, it was suggested that the agenda be changed to present background from the three countries first and identify gaps that could be addressed by this group. One of the goals of the CEC's project is to produce a document for the Council that shows what is going on in the three countries, describes the constraints and the priorities, and outlines what can be addressed best at the tri-national level. These activities should also be classified as to whether they will be addressed in the short, medium and longer term. The question is, then, what is the best collaborative structure in the short run to address those gaps and how to build a lasting and evolving institutional structure.

- Roundtable Introductions (see list of participants. Request by Scot Case to correct his affiliation on this list)

Chair: Jean Bilodeau

After talking with CLC, Mr. Bilodeau suggested that the 10:45 session be changed so that the first 20 minutes looks at constraints and the other 20 minutes looks at how to move the agenda forward.

9:30 State of NAFTA Government [Green] Purchasing

US (Russell Clark)

Presentation of Environmentally Preferable Purchasing in the US Federal Government: Russell Clark gave some background and context. The US spends \$250 billion annually in direct purchases and \$350 annually in grants. An Executive Order in 1993 established the EPP Program, however this only allowed the advancement of a pilot project approach; EPA does not have the mandate to tell the agencies what to do. This is a very constricted context in which to build a foundation for green purchasing. There were major changes in procurement rules: purchasing used to be very centralized, but with the Clinton administration, it became very decentralized. Now, the trend is toward more tracking and accountability, but not enforcement. Another constraint is that the federal government is not one entity: it is better to see each individual agency and recognize its own culture and compliance ability. Initially the idea was to look for pioneer purchasers to step forward and actively pursue the purchase of green products or services, put broad information out, and get some broad activity. But pioneers were few and far between. The more remote places had the most success.

It became evident that the passive approach was not working and that there was a need for a more active push. So focus groups were conducted across the country with different agencies to understand the state of awareness of greening government. Key findings: executive orders are not considered to be a mandate by each individual agency. The interest was there but time and knowledge was lacking. EPA began developing and providing tools, and partnering with agencies to serve their needs. A database, identifying as many standards as possible, was the first tool to identify and compare environmental attributes for key products and services from various information sources. A 'Promising Practices' guide pulled contract language out and developed 20 case studies. Ten more are in development. Hopefully, this makes it easier to apply contract language and to maintain consistency.

For standards to be credible, the process needs to be open, participatory and voluntary. EPA tried to stand behind 5 standards, but its initiative was stopped. There was a reluctance to acknowledge the three Green Seal's consensus standards alongside the two environmental standards developed by ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials). This is one of the issues to take to John Howard, who was appointed by President George W.

Bush and is interested in Green Procurement (President Clinton signed a series of Executive Orders into effect over the course of his administration aimed at greening the government. An early EO in the series was EO 12873 on Federal Acquisition, Waste Reduction and Recycling and it was the EO that created our Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program. Also established by this EO were the positions of Federal Environmental Executive and Agency Environmental Executives. The FEE is appointed by the President and oversees Executive Agency implementation of environmental EO requirements. AEEs are supposed to do the same within each of their respective agencies. President George W. Bush chose to leave this series of EOs in place when he could have nullified them. President Bush appointed John Howard as the FEE for his administration. EPP is one of a few of John's highest priorities to pursue and on which to make progress and to that end, he asked a member of our team to come to his office on a detail to help give a boost to the implementation of EPP within the Federal government).

There are a number of product categories for which a lot of specific work has already been done: construction-related products (a lot of activity, but hard to choose the best one); office products (copy paper is a huge success and EPA is purchasing paper that is 100 percent post consumer waste); Services (hotels and construction); solvents; green power (very popular and a lot going on in EPA); electronics; cafeterias; misc.

The Farm Bill introduced provisions for bio-based products to be added to the menu and the plan is to designate them and their content levels, provide information on availability, price, performance and environmental and public health benefits, and create a labelling program (certified).

Now, EPA is trying to focus on specific categories. For green meetings and travel, for example, it is trying to work with leaders in the industry and has developed a tool for planners and providers and is taking an active role in the government so that it applies across the board. It has to work with each agency individually. Training is needed to use the tool: it doesn't work on a higher, more general level. It is also taking a customer approach and recently set comprehensive agency-wide EPP goals for 2005 and 2010. The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the most active agency, with the Park Service in particular, showing how an agency can charge into this issue when there is top-down support from senior management, which is the case at DOI.

Canada (Jean Bilodeau)

The federal government is the single largest purchaser. It has about 225,000 employees and over 60,000 buildings. Canada is committed to green government operations, but this orientation is quite recent. The government spends about \$14 billion in goods and services every year.

Public Works and Government Services does most of the purchasing, with about \$10.5 billion in purchasing. The government is looking at purchasing alternative fuel. There has been a lot of decentralizing of purchasing within government departments. For example, credit cards have a new threshold of \$25,000. It is not easy to get figures at other levels of government on procurement. The total amount is about 10 times the amount spent by the federal government (\$140 billion).

Patterns of purchasing in provincial and territorial governments are a little different since their responsibilities are different and include policing, education, health and other matters, with more differences at the municipal level. So there is value added in looking at the three levels. National Parks have done a lot of greening.

Canadian Government Strategies: all 29 departments have to produce a Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) with each minister reporting directly to the House of Commons on his department's progress. The last Commissioner's report, entitled "When will the government measure up?" criticized performance at this level and the fact that there were no targets. Now performance indicators are being set up for Sustainable Building and Green Building. It has taken an aggressive strategy to reduce Greenhouse gases (GHG) and procurement has a lot to do with this. This is a key component of the Sustainable Development in Government Operations (SDGO). Standards for energy have been set and for contaminated sites. Now it is looking at construction. The House in Order (or the strategy to reduce GHG) took 2 years to get the standards agreed upon. E-procurement is constrained by decentralization and a lack of knowledge. The government is looking at producing an electronic catalogue that would automatically indicate the greenest item to a buyer. Environment Canada already has to purchase green where available and Canada now wants to develop its own Energy Star.

Discussion

- Decentralization – the US is trying to affect those regional areas in which agencies are geographically concentrated.
- Canada's Commissioner of Sustainable Development: is within the Auditor General's office and so is under executive order. The Commissioner seems to have a lot of clout; Ministers don't like to show lack of performance in the eyes of the Commissioner, who reports directly to the Auditor General or to the House of Commons or both?.
- Pressures opposing efforts and the question about whether Canada experiences some of the same problems as the US: Jean Bilodeau explained that he didn't mean to paint a rosy picture. Of course there is some opposition, but there is also a framework that gives greater impetus and every three years the report needs to show progress. There was some discussion about the apparent efforts of both governments to

- de-validate the quality of green goods, although the level of opposition in Canada is not as strong as in the US.
- Question about internal audits: Industry has resisted these because of the potential to shut out other products. So the key is to get good guidelines to what is green and what is not and to ensure the green products are good and can compete, since they indeed have the image of being more expensive but not as good as conventional products.

Mexico (Israel Nuñez)

The Mexican government strategies and programs are very recent, taking place only since 1999. Although some action was evident before that, initiatives were dispersed among different agencies. Since 1999, there has been a stronger initiative to get the disparate actions together. Now, there are three main strategies for environmental performance: energy savings; decreased water use; and responsible consumption. There has been progress towards the two first goals, but there are still a lot of forces acting against the last. Industry feels that if the government takes steps towards preferable purchasing, there are no fair rules. Mexico has a Ministry of Development (like Canada's controller), which makes the rules for the federal government's purchasing. The overriding rule has to do with the price, which is the major obstacle. Last Friday, a plan came out to introduce environmental management systems in all the federal government departments.

In 1999, Mexican government consumption was 228,000 million pesos, 31 percent of which was goods. The main barriers to green purchasing are highlighted in the slide presentation (see attachment 2). They include: insufficient information on environmental aspects and criteria; the existence of very few suppliers of green goods; Mexico has no eco-labeling system, since the government opposes it because it is regarded as being unfair; no incentives for green markets; lack of compulsory or voluntary norms on environmental aspects of products; and a lack of awareness in the private sector and government. Another important barrier is the constrained budget framework.

(Introduction to Alicia Culver, who joins the meeting by telephone)

Main actions: There are some very good intentions and some actions, which are really dispersed. Some 40 institutions in the federal government acquire office supplies that have better environmental qualities (mostly paper products and office supplies) (see slide). They are waiting for the federal government to take a stand. There are an increasing number of enterprises interested in producing environmentally sensitive products.

The Mexican strategy aims to improve the acquisition of products with lower environmental impact and to try to change the criteria for purchasing. There

is a pilot project that is mainly aimed at training people in charge of purchasing, and working with the state and municipal governments and industry suppliers to the federal government. The first step of the strategy is to conduct a diagnosis (see slide) and to use Matrix 27, which is a tool to evaluate different goods that can be purchased. There is a lot of corruption in this kind of purchasing, however, so the government is working with the federal government auditor.

The second stage regards a purchasing policy (see slide), in which criteria are set out. However it is extremely difficult for the suppliers to adhere to these criteria. In terms of bond paper, there are fewer problems because there are big suppliers for the government and at this level of business, suppliers are able to adhere to the criteria. In the case of small suppliers, it is extremely difficult. There lacks the means and technology to really determine the environmental value of products, which allows for 'cheating'. In several agencies, there are huge problems with photocopying machines re-using paper. There are also problems at the supply side: identifying suppliers, obtaining samples and guarantees, and incorporating quality evaluation (any hint of preference or recommendation is problematic). For more details, see the slide.

Regulatory Framework in the Mexican Constitution: regarding acquisitions, as set out in Articles 26, 27 and 36 in the law of acquisitions (see slide), price is the first criteria. The second criterion has to do with quality, but the problem here is in the definition of 'quality'. This fuzzy language was thought to be the 'entry' point for environmental goods. Regarding the price criteria, there is a push to look at the long-term savings related to the use of more energy-efficient products and to account for the external environmental costs of less environmentally friendly products.

The third stage of the strategy is about acquisition and relates to aspects regarding suppliers, price analysis, the regulatory framework, and acquisition procedures. The fourth stage of the strategy is about evaluation. This is where third party certification can be introduced. Training is another important element.

Important Questions: Israel introduces a list of the most important questions Mexico would like to see answered by this meeting (Please see the slide for this exhaustive list).

Questions and Discussion:

- Alicia Culver asked about the potential to seek assistance to help develop preferable businesses (say, from the World Bank, or other economic development assistance). There are ways to promote this program as economic development and job creation. Israel Nuñez replied that Mexico has big pulp and paper industries and very solid industries for recycled paper

fibre and several years of experience in this area. For the past three decades, a popular paper, called “papel revolution”, has been in use. But there are problems with packaging and other materials. Loans are available for small businesses, but the problem is with guarantees. Mexico is working with the national industry association to look for more potential loans for environmental preferable goods for the government.

Introduction to participants joining the meeting: Manon Pepin and Eduardo Delgadillo from the CEC, and Claire Garon, Environmental Management Consultant

11:05 Five - minute break

Constraints to further Green Purchasing by government (Scot Case)

Many of these have been discussed already and all three governments seem to have some of the same problems, such as top down difficulties, problems with trade associations and other political issues. The following is a list of the most salient constraints:

1. Ignorance: there is not a lot of knowledge or understanding that this is an important issue, about why it is important, or what to do about it;
2. There is a lack of dedicated personnel. Getting involved in this issue means asking people to do something different;
3. There is a lot of uncertainty about where to get good environmental information. There are a lot of false environmental standards about, such as the sustainable forests standards, which are really watered down Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards. There is also the problem that NGOs are not providing good information and are not engaging with each other. Each claims their standards are the best, so there is a need for a coordinated message from the NGO community;
4. There are misplaced concerns about the WTO, with environmental standards seen as a barrier to trade. This can scare some large purchasers;
5. There is a need for incentives to change at organizational and individual levels.

The good news is that these issues are being worked on. What is needed is coordination.

Roles various people/groups are playing:

1. Raising awareness;
2. Working with decision makers to help them be aware of how to provide training, and build consensus among purchasers;
3. Resolving technical issues;

4. Engaging industries;
5. Lobbying governments, explaining why it is important to change;
6. Engaging in pressure campaigns;
7. Building consensus among NGOs;
8. Improving communication among stakeholders with niche roles (such as the CEC and its tri-national abilities)

It was agreed that additional roles will be addressed after the next presentation.

Constraints for institutions, industry and consumers (John Polak)

1. Motivation: is it bottom-up or top-down? Accountability is built into the top-down system. The other question is “what is the business case”?
2. Information: sources are varied and can be biased and tools are not well known. There are misconceptions that the rules are adequate as they are and that environmental goods cost more and are of inferior quality.
3. Obligations: Industry and other institutions don't have the same need for a level of transparency as the government and aren't obliged to deliver a public good. And time lines in industry are much shorter. Regarding the WTO, this is not an issue in the private sector
4. Purchasing at large: Leverage is better when the institution is very large. When a company is a member of a larger organization, access to products improves.

There are a number of constraints that apply to industry in particular: lack of harmonized standards; lack of access to decision makers; inconsistent policy application; non-existent life-cycle costing idea; lack of legislation for better performance; and questions about voluntary labelling.

There is a need to address constraints at a broader level (remember, we are working at the network of network level)

General Discussion:

A roundtable discussion took place:

Rahumathulla Marikkar

- Need for better understanding of actual costs of quality of green products. If a life-cycle analysis is done, it can be found that these are not more expensive and should be of quality and durability.
- Regarding evaluation, there is a need to provide tools to obtain consistency; this is accomplished through eco-labeling
- Operational hurdles to existing policies should be addressed (by this group)
- Public outreach should show the link between environment and health and the benefits of green products

Cameron Griffith

- Lack of understanding (and concern) is a key issue. There is a need to create space for labeling and green procurement. Consumer's Choice already does lobbying as a convener association that is an umbrella for its members (including participants at this meeting)

John Polak

- There are three categories that affect price, but 95 percent or more of green products are competitive

Betsy Taylor

- Regarding ignorance about green purchasing: on the other hand, there is increasing interest and activity in this field, a sign that this is a good idea
- Measuring actual benefits is extremely important. Showing the actual savings (to the environment), and giving credit for these, especially to political leaders, can improve the acceptance of green purchasing
- Standards: these will always change, given the complexity of the issue and the products. There is a need to accept complexity and to help purchasers deal with it, and to find ways to make it easy
- There is a problem with the proliferation of labels and lack of government backing
- Regarding the constraint of decentralized government: how can guidelines for the \$25,000 credit card limit be established?
- Bureaucratic inertia: need incentives, financial awards, high profile recognition and rewards that prevent corruption
- Training: demands are overwhelming
- Lack of good connections between well-intentioned buyers and suppliers; there is a need to create more effective relationships
- Comment: we may be a little ahead of time in creating this group, but there is a need to create synergies and to look at the issues on which we can work together: water, for example, which is an emerging crisis issue

Israel Nuñez

- Some constraints will have to be lived with. Mexico's upcoming 27% budget cut is a case in point. Making priorities clear can help and leadership (government and companies) is important.

Lou Pagano

- Life-cycle costing: it is important to look at offsetting benefits, such as health costs. Savings can make products competitive. This needs to be stressed
- Group purchasing can improve ability to pay

- There is a need to work with industry: they need guidelines and standards that are achievable and they need to be able to tell what their limits are
- Networking has been improved because of the lack of guidelines – this lack has stimulated networking.
- There is a need for a standard way to measure successes. Claims about the amount of trees saved, for example, can only be compared if there is a standard measure

Russell Clark

- Technology changes are important to follow, such as Internet advertising, and other non-traditional marketing strategies
- Regarding quantifying environmental benefits: EPA's EPP Program will likely be pursuing putting out RFP's to develop these and we could coordinate this effort with the needs of this North American group
- There is obvious lack of coordination among agencies with different tasks, so there needs to be better internal coordination
- In the US system, John Howard needs to be brought on board
- Specialty focus: within this group, there is the opportunity to create niches for actors

Arthur Weissman

- Costs are imperfect market indicators so there is a need to be careful about how they are used
- Emphasis on 2 constraints: 1. there needs to be an effective mandate for green purchasing and sustainable activities. There is a case to make a link with North American Sustainable Consumption group; and 2. carrying out the mandate: there is a need for information to how to do it. This is the biggest gap for governments, especially. There is a need for criteria and standards to use – defining what is sustainable. Relatively little information is available to date

Robert Kerr

- Local governments are more easily mobilized. The US Conference of Mayors and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have tackled climate change, for example
- Costs: One of the ways to tackle this is to create a business case from the bottom-up to get the mandate and political will. This means selling a different kind of bottom line to municipalities (triple bottom line, including ecobudgeting and the three aspects of sustainable development – environmental, economic, and social)
- A macro business case is needed: for governments to get involved, local action needs to filter up

Chantal Line Carpentier

- We need a business case with language appropriate to each level of decision-making. This has become evident through the CEC's other programs (financing and the environment, for example);
- The CEC's mandate from the CEC Council is daunting;
- The CEC's program budget calls for there to be a meeting, but some finances will still be available for activities (see Three Year Program Plan) and there is opportunity to affect the CEC budget through this group's planned actions.

12:35 Wrap-up: Jean Bilodeau and Chantal Line Carpentier

During lunch, think about three key things to try to achieve. For example, creating a virtual network. Look at opportunities to volunteer for tasks. Reconvene at 1:45 pm.

12:40 Lunch

2:15 Meeting resumes

Summary of Green Purchasing

- Who are the priority clients in North America?
- What are their priority needs in North America?

Chantal Line Carpentier described the meaning of 'client' (all levels of government, and other consumers) and asks if the issue refers to them? By trying to define the client, there is a danger that some stakeholders will get left out, so this term refers to no specific client; rather it is a general, inclusive term so all can access the information and everyone can feel part of this issue. At a broader level, the client's clients are the networking members and the network being formed at this meeting should represent the clients, as well as the service providers, connectors and suppliers.

How to Meet Priority North American Client(s)' Need(s) (draw a matrix)

- Work needed in short term, medium, longer term?
- Level at which to best conduct the work: tri-national, national, state, municipal level?

Ideally, we should move from the problems, to the tasks, and then to a structure to accomplish these in a tri-lateral context.

Tri-National Level Work

- Nature of partnerships, if any, needed to conduct the work
- Coordinating/managing/allocating the work
 - NAGPI: a potential structure?
- Funding the short, medium, and long term work
- How to set the foundation for an evolving structure

Discussion among the group about potential actions included the following:

- A website that would link the group members;
- A document, produced and published by the CEC, that compiles success stories from group members, supported with data, and representing efforts in all three countries. The publication could have a series of 'good' stories, and include a listing of groups that form partnerships as well as the information from each of the three governments;
- A listing of good tools from the internet (perhaps each member could identify the best five);
- Any important players missing from this meeting and hence from the group could be identified by present members. New members would be invited to submit success stories too;
- Regarding structure: two models were suggested -- the concept of a trade association model, and a publisher's clearing house model (in which each magazine has a client base);
- Need to research about what is actually happening and a notion of what is being spent;
- We should think of being prepared for the September 2003 WTO meeting in Mexico. This would provide a forum to highlight this group's work;
- A series of training events for purchasers would be a good action for this group. There is a need for a strategy for regional training in an organized fashion;
- Work to standardize the way we measure successes;
- A meeting about environmental management systems will take place at the end of year and could be a good forum to discuss this group's work;
- One member of this group could report to CEC's JPAC;
- Next year, the CEC Council meeting will be held in the US. Someone from the green procurement industry could address the Ministers at that meeting.
- Suggestion to look for synergies within the CEC's other projects and work groups (including the Pollution Prevention Round Tables and Environmental Management Systems' work).

It was agreed that the CEC would act as the group's secretariat and the group could convene periodically during the year. Discussion about the above issues led to agreement that some of these actions can only be accomplished in the longer term. A document that shows the variety of measures that exist, (the CEC report) could stimulate industry interest – which needs to have a voice – help to raise funds from granting agencies, and garner political backing, which opens up more resources to further the work. Such an effort is within the CEC's mandate, which includes educating the Ministers and creating a level playing field among the countries. Although the CEC cannot lobby (itself), a report about good news stories is highly appropriate, especially since NAFTA is coming up to its 10-year review and is looking for success stories. Ministers want concrete results and

suggestions for concrete action, which include suggested instructions that help them make political decisions.

Other comments made and information offered included:

- the idea that socially responsible investment groups act as business partners
- news of a partnership formed at a meeting in the US among the Rocky Mountain Institute, World Resources Institute, Natural Step, Interface, the Centre for a New American Dream, and others, to share goals. These groups are working with a lot of major corporations to green their practices and perhaps they could be brought into this group
- In Canada, an initiative of interest to this group is the formation, by Friends of the Earth and others, of the Green Electricity Leaders' Coalition of Ontario (GELCO), to get companies to buy green power
- Alicia Culver mentioned a report about savings from green purchasing, and agreed to obtain a copy of it to give to the CEC for this group's use.

John Polak offered the following five tangible actions:

1. Agree upon one standardized reporting method for each issue;
2. Develop standardized training materials on green purchasing that can be used by everyone;
3. Work with an existing accreditation body to develop a certification for green purchasing (with formal designation and delivery arm);
4. Develop standardized methodologies for life-cycle costing;
5. Develop set of green purchasing awards: one at political level and another at operational level (delivery).

Discussion about these actions led to the agreement to add a number of actions (such as a web page, a media campaign, etc.) and to put the actions into a time frame. It was agreed that in the short term, rather than begin with the goal to elicit clear mandates from the three governments, it is better to reach them from the 'bottom up', by generating interest in this issue through success stories.

Group Actions

The group finalized an agreed-upon list of potential actions. The following represents an exploratory list of things the group could or might do rather than firm decisions about actions, since they are the result of group brainstorming and are not based on an analysis of the merits of each proposal. Those that are highlighted in red indicate actions for the short term. Other possible joint actions may be considered at a later date.

1. Agree upon one standardized reporting method for each issue;

2. Develop standardized training materials on green purchasing that can be used by everyone;
3. Work with an existing accreditation body to develop a certification for green purchasing (with formal designation and delivery arm);
4. Develop standardized methodologies for life-cycle costing;
5. Develop a set of green purchasing awards: one at political level and another at operational level (delivery);
6. Strengthen the connection between purchasers and suppliers;
7. **Quantify environmental benefits (a document that compiles good stories and a communication outreach effort to the media about these, giving credit to government);**
8. **Develop a business case;**
9. Elicit a clear mandate for green procurement from the governments;
10. **Create a web site of resources** (use Israel Nuñez' list of questions as map for this site);
11. Create a baseline of information: quantification, where possible, of green purchasing;
12. **Create a coordinated communication system and a List Serve (including means for regular communication, and the inclusion of other potential contacts);**
13. Focus on the WTO meeting in Mexico next September for delivery.

Other suggestions:

- Item 10 would include a compilation of what is already being done regarding the issues in items 1, 2, and 4 (reporting methods, training, and life-cycle costing);
- Work with CEC's other projects and work groups as well as other groups not represented here already (creating potential synergies, finding new contacts and combining actions);
- Need a standard form for developing the good case studies: Scot Case mentioned that EPA has done a similar study on success stories, so this could be a model.

15:45 Concluding remarks

Deadlines: 28 February is end of budget year for CEC, so the group needs to accomplish things by then.

Volunteers and workers: To begin work, the group needs to identify a consultant to gather information (the good stories), write up the baseline, and to begin to research web resources. Chantal Line Carpentier requested that suggestions and ideas be sent to her. Robert volunteered to set up List Serve. The CEC will initiate and control outreach to new members of this group; it is important to agree on whom these will be. It was agreed that this issue would be an item on the agenda of a conference call, after reflection by everyone.

Wrap up:

The chair expressed thanks to the CEC on behalf of the group.

Next meeting?

The next meeting will be via a conference call. The CEC will circulate potential dates and solicit agreement for a day and time for this call.

CEC next steps:

1. The minutes and the corrected list of participants will be sent to the group members;
2. A message will be sent to the Ministers about the meeting and its outcome

16:00 Meeting adjourned**Reminders:**

- Alicia Culver to send Chantal Line Carpentier a report about savings from green purchasing;
- Scot Case to provide the EPA's report as a model for the success stories;
- Suggestions and ideas about additional members of the group to be sent to Chantal Line Carpentier at the CEC;
- Robert Kerr to set up List Serve.
- Jean Bilodeau to send the CEC the Commissioner's report "When will the government measure up?"