

# **Report Back – ENGO Forum on Sustainability Tables**

Presented to Samy Watson, DM  
Environment Canada

January 18, 2005

# Outline

- Level of Interest
- What will it take to get the ENGO community excited
- Key Success Factors
- Objectives for the Tables
- Monitoring Success of the Tables Process
- Role of ENGOs
- Selection of ENGOs and Resources
- Recommended Next Steps

# Represented Organizations

Falls Brook Centre  
Int'l Institute for Sustainable Development  
AQLPA  
Canadian Labour Congress  
Climate Action Network  
RNCREQ  
Sierra Club of Canada  
Under the Sleeping Buffalo Research  
Beyond Factory Farming  
Wildlife Habitat Canada  
Sierra Youth Coalition  
Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia  
Greenpeace  
Pollution Probe  
Nature Canada  
Friends of the Earth  
Canadian Centre for Sustainable Agriculture  
Environmental Education Association of Yukon  
David Suzuki Foundation  
Occupational Health Clinic for Ontario Workers  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement

Protected Areas Association of Newfoundland and  
Labrador  
Comité de valorisation de la rivière Beauport  
Corporation St-Laurent  
Jour de la Terre Québec  
Yukon Conservation Society  
Friends of the Oldman River  
Prairie Acid Rain Coalition  
Mining Watch Canada  
Youth Environmental Network  
Resource conservation Manitoba  
New Brunswick Lung Association  
CELA  
Environment Jeunesse-ENJEU  
Pembina Institute  
Équiterre  
Dawson Creek Citizens Advisory For Environmental  
Research  
One Sky  
Environmental Defence Canada  
Great Lakes United  
STORM Coalition  
Centre québécois du droit de l'enviornnement

# Level of Interest

- Caveat – This report back reflects the discussions of the 43 participants of the January 17, 2005 session.
- Overwhelming agreement and alignment during the meeting on the key messages in this presentation.
- ENGO community is interested,
- ...but, has concerns,
  - Therefore, not yet committed to the Table Process.

# What it will take to get the ENGO community excited...

- Most important,
  - Clear demonstration of multi-departmental political will.
  - Political will can best be shown by actions e.g.:
    - Full, timely implementation of the existing Kyoto commitment.
    - Substantive instruments to improve environmental performance in the Budget.
    - Demonstrated cross-departmental support to the Table process.

# For the Tables Process to be Successful, the ENGO community has identified the following key success factors:

- Political commitment to the Tables process.
- Time-bound, clear, measurable, verifiable, enforceable environmental goals.
  - Based on existing domestic/int'l commitments.
- Line-of-sight of recommendations from the Tables through to implementation.
- Environmental goals are backstopped by legislation/regulations
  - Clear consequences for non-compliance
- Clear outcomes and timelines for Table recommendations.

# For the Tables Process to be Successful, the ENGO community has identified the following key success factors:

- ENGOs have the resources to build the capacity for full and equal participation.
- ENGOs are part of the Tables design
  - E.g. Function, governance, structure, evaluation framework.
- Broader civil society engagement (not just ENGOs)
- Equal participation across sectors (NGO, aboriginal, business, governments)
- Tolerance of dissent.
- Learn from other existing successful models
  - e.g. CASA, RNCREQ

# For the Tables Process to be Successful, the ENGO community has identified the following key success factors:

- Tables designed to be fully inclusive of the value chain (complete life-cycle)
  - Within a sector
  - Across sectors
  - Linkage to sub-sectors.
- Process be open to multiple policy / implementation tools:
  - E.g. EPAs only one tool in a tool box
- Clear evaluation framework for the Tables process, designed at the outset.
- Tables are “action-orientated” – results focused.

# ENGOs consider the Core Objectives for the Tables:

- To monitor compliance and coherence
  - against existing environmental regulations; domestic and int'l multi-lateral agreements.
- To evaluate options and provide recommendations for moving beyond compliance.
- To recommend, in a timely manner, **how** best to achieve environmental goals and targets.

# Monitoring Success of the Tables Process

- Clear, demonstrated environmental improvements.
  - A “reduced footprint” – absolute and intensity-based reductions.
- Measurable results-based indicators of success for:
  - Water, Air, GHGs, Waste, Biodiversity, Forestry, Energy....
  - Environmental and human health
- Timely consideration and implementation of recommendations.
- Regular, third-party verified, public reporting.
- Social and economic indicators.
- International Environmental Rankings
  - E.g. OECD rankings

# Role of ENGOs

- Participation in the design of Table's process
  - Function, governance, structure, evaluation framework.
  - E.g. Input on setting the objectives and agendas of the Tables and Working Groups.
- To represent public interest on environmental interests.
- To enhance transparency.
- To provide expertise
  - To produce and commission research and analysis.

# Selection of ENGOs and Resources

- Discussion on the selection of ENGOs and required resources for full participation considered premature.
  - First need to have greater understanding of the detailed design.
  - Participation in design process should be coordinated by CEN.
- CEN takes the lead role in selection.
- Process must be transparent.

# Recommended Next Steps for the Federal Government (i.e. not just Environment Canada)

- Demonstrate the political will that the environment is a clear priority through action:
  - Action on Kyoto implementation
  - Budget 2005
  - Multi-departmental action.
- Begin to address the conditions for success.