

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

ENVIRONMENTAL BOTTOM LINE

Preventing and reducing environmental impacts, improving eco-efficiency, and reducing our resource use while generating low-cost, reliable electricity is what constitutes our environmental bottom line. This section reports on indicators that reside in our environmental bottom line.

Environmental Indicators

- EN1(2) Radioactive Materials Inventory
- EN6(1) Total Land Area Owned or Managed by BC Hydro
- EN11(2) Insulating Oil Reused
- EN11(3) Resources Recovered
- EN11(4) Cumulative Amount of High Level PCBs Destroyed and Remaining in Service or Storage
- EN11(5) Details of PCB Activity
- EN11(6) Landfill Diversion Rate
- EN11(7) Fate of Packaging Material on Goods Received
- EN11(8) Solid Waste to Landfill
- EN13(2) Incidents Involving Provincial/Federal Standards
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- EN17(3) Renewable Portfolio Standard and B.C. Clean Energy
- EN17(7) Internal Energy Efficiency
- EN28(1) Biodiversity, Species-at-Risk
- EN30(1) Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF6) Gas Leakage Rate
- EN31(1) Special Wastes Shipped
- EN33(1) Green Energy Criteria
- EN33(2) Environmental Purchasing Clause in Tender Documents
- EN34(1) Transportation Demand Management

EN1(2) Radioactive Materials Inventory

Mega Becquerel (MBq)	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Maximum actual activity			1703	2813	13 813	14 109
Maximum projected activity	1592	1592	1555			

BC Hydro and Powertech Labs use small, sealed radioactive sources contained inside measuring devices and spark arresters. The sources are Strontium-90, Nickel-63, Cesium-137, and Americium/Beryllium-241. Actual maximum activity for f2003 was higher than projected due to two radioactive sources remaining in service for an additional year rather than being retired as planned. Actual activity is less than maximum shown due to radioactive decay. Our radioactive materials inventory continues to decline as old equipment is retired and non-radioactive substitutes are found.

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EN6(1) Total Land Area Owned or Managed by BC Hydro

<u>Square Kilometres</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Transmission RoWs	80.7	79.6	79.6	78.7
Distribution RoWs	338.6	326.7	321.4	318.9
Reservoir and Recreational Facilities and Buildings	2710.9	2710.9	2710.9	2710.9
	567.4	567.4	no data	no data
Total Land Area:	3698	3685	–	–

Totals shown are estimated as of March 31 of the noted year. "RoWs" means "rights-of-way". Different average rights-of-way widths are assumed depending on whether the line is transmission (higher than 69 kV) or distribution (under 69 kV). Some of the reservoir and recreational areas may include land that is permanently or temporarily flooded. Increase in land area over last year is due mainly to increase in circuit lengths caused by service expansion.

EN11(2) Insulating Oil Reused

<u>Percentage/Calendar Year</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
BC Hydro	89.6	43.4	81.5	72.5
Other Canadian utilities	no data	77.6	77.2	69.6

This indicator provides a measure of the extent to which BC Hydro and other utilities reduce consumption and purchases of new insulating oil by reusing existing inventories of insulating oil that may have otherwise been disposed of as waste or recycled for another purpose. With on-site capability to produce elemental sodium to decontaminate insulating oil, our reuse rate has returned to its historically high levels. In 2002, any insulating oil that was not used was recycled off-site; none was disposed.

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EN11(3) Resource Recovered

Tonnes	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Paper	303	329	354	408	330	335
Cardboard	60	74.5	68	64	56	54
Scrap Metal	1454	1215	1370	1370	1470	1352
Wood Poles	317.5	316.2	307.1	317.5	302.4	302.4
Toner Cartridges	0.40	0.55	0.49	0.34	0.3	0.37
Fluorescent Tubes	7.93	3.54	3.32	3.27	2.09	3.07
Dry Cell Batteries	1.25	1.76	1.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ceramic Insulators	594	618	500	154	135	76
Food Organics	44.9	40.0	32.6	6	NR	NR
Landscape Organics	6.0	18.2	NR	NR	NR	NR
E-waste	72.3	40.9	25.9	NR	NR	NR
Silica Gel	2.09	3.69	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Resources Recovered	2863	2661	2663	2323	2296	2123

Some data estimated. NR means "not recovered". The reason for the decrease in paper and cardboard recovery may be related to the three per cent staffing reduction experienced in f2003. The increase in recovery of metals and e-waste is due to more types of material being accepted for recovery. This trend is expected to continue next year. The increase in fluorescent tube recovery is due to the clearing of several large accumulations at generating stations; amounts are expected to return to historical levels next year. The decrease in dry cell recovery is likely due to a return to normal recovery levels after the large battery "purge" to clear amounts in storage that occurred last year. The decrease in landscape organics recovered is due to seasonal growth variation since virtually 100 per cent of the material was recovered both last year and this year. The increase in food organics is due to increased source recovery rate, thanks to the efforts of employees and cafeteria staff.

EN11(4) Cumulative Amount of High Level PCBs Destroyed and Remaining in Service or Storage

Calendar Year	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Cumulative tonnes	2906	2906	2906	2317	2317	1320
Tonnes remaining	100	732	732	1300	1300	2297
Percentage remaining	3.44	20.12	20.12	35.94	35.94	63.51
Percentage destroyed	96.56	79.88	79.88	64.06	64.06	36.49

Historical "tonnes remaining" has been corrected to reflect up-to-date inventory information. BC Hydro's system plan anticipates the removal of all high level PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) material from in service by 2007.

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EN11(5) Details of PCB Activity

Tonnes/Calendar Year	2002	2001	2000
High level in storage	14.8	22	0
Low level in storage	131	253	184
High level sent for destruction	16.3	198	641
Low level sent for destruction	604	578	131

BC Hydro is working to eliminate high level PCB material (any material, including equipment, with a PCB concentration of greater than one per cent or 10 000 ppm) in service by continually removing it from service and staging it in a designated PCB storage facility prior to destruction. The PCB material remains in storage until shipped, under manifest, to the Swan Hills Treatment Centre. The amount stored fluctuates based on the amount of equipment removed from service and on the timing of shipments for destruction, that is typically once a year.

BC Hydro's low level PCB material (greater than 50 ppm PCB but less than 10 000 ppm) is comprised of PCB contaminated oil stored at our Surrey Oil Operations (SOP) decontamination facility destined for decontamination using a patented elemental sodium dechlorination process. SOP also accepts oil from external customers and these amounts are included in our storage total. The amount of low-level PCB stored at our decontamination facility fluctuates yearly based on amounts processed, amounts accepted from external sources and the sodium supply. Amounts decontaminated increased over last year now that the SOP is able to produce sodium, and is no longer dependent on an external supply.

EN11(6) Landfill Diversion Rate

Percentage (estimated)	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Non-hazardous solid waste	66	63	63	53	48	38

Landfill diversion rate estimates the percentage of total solid, non-hazardous waste prevented from going to landfill due to reuse, refurbishment and recycling. The decrease in waste to landfill and increase in diversion rate over last year is due to the increase in the amount and expansion of the types of material recovered for reuse and recycling. These programs save money as well as landfill space.

EN11(7) Fate of Packaging Material on Goods Received

On the receiving end, BC Hydro attempts to reduce, reuse and recycle all packaging material wherever possible. Reusable cardboard boxes are segregated and reused as required. Damaged, wet and marked packaging is recycled in the Cardboard Recycling Program. Blister sheets, silica gel, popcorn and styrofoam are reused as required in shipping. With markets now becoming available for shrink wrap, old uniforms and styrofoam, these items will also become part of our existing Comprehensive Resource Recovery Program.

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EN11(8) Solid Waste to Landfill

Tonnes	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Estimated	1384	1559	1537	1954	2181	2590

EN13(2) Incidents Involving Provincial/Federal Standards

Number	2003	2002	2001	2000
Fish incidents	19	32	29	10
Pesticide incidents	1	3	0	1

Fish incidents refer to those incidents that involve the Fisheries Act, Fish Protection Act, Water Act, or that fall under the Water License Agreements issued to the individual generating facilities. Pesticide incidents are those which involve the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, Pesticide Products Act, Waste Management Act, Special Waste Regulations, or Pesticide Product Control Act.

EN16(1) Warning Letters Received from Regulator

Number	2003
Letters received	0

BC Hydro is required by law to report to the regulatory agencies (e.g. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Environment Canada) the environmental incidents that fall into the agencies' reporting requirements. During f2003, no incidents resulted in the issuance of warning letters or charges by regulatory agencies. This is the first year we are reporting this indicator.

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EN17(3) Renewable Portfolio Standard and B.C. Clean Energy

The provincial government's energy policy report, *Energy for Our Future: A Plan for B.C.*, included a new policy: that electricity distributors pursue a voluntary goal to acquire 50 per cent of new power supply from "B.C. Clean Electricity" over the next 10 years.

Last year we reported that, in January 2000, BC Hydro committed to a voluntary Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to meet 10 per cent of incremental electricity demand growth through 2010 with new green energy sources. We have since exceeded this target and are now committed to meeting the voluntary goal that 50 per cent of new power supply be met through B.C. clean energy sources. Clean energy is defined in the government's energy policy report as "...alternative energy technologies that result in a net environmental improvement relative to existing energy production."

Our new clean energy target will be met with green power (acquired from the private sector to meet the 10 per cent voluntary RPS), energy efficiencies achieved through Power Smart, and efficiency gains realized through Resource Smart.

EN17(7) Internal Energy Efficiency

Calendar Year	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Generation energy efficiency (percentage)	99.77	99.38	99.6	99.7	99.6
T&D energy efficiency (percentage)	94.87	96.5	96.4	93.9	92.2
Energy generated (GW-h/FTE)	7.27	8.58	9.36	9.5	9.9
Energy transmitted (GW-h/FTE)	11.75	12.77	13.16	12.43	11.09
Energy distributed (GW-h/FTE)	5.58	5.64	5.85	5.83	5.78

Generation efficiency is calculated by dividing the gross amount of electricity generated at our facilities by the sum of electricity our facilities use and losses that occur during generation. It does not include imports or purchases.

Internal energy efficiency for transmission and distribution systems is the ratio of the net or useful energy output (in the form of sales or deliveries to internal distribution systems) to the gross energy input to these systems (in the form of net generation or energy purchases). It is less than 100 per cent due to cumulative losses from sending the power down our lines, from illegal tie-ins, and converting or conditioning it at substations and pole transformers. The apparent decrease over last year is due to the sharp drop in exports exceeding both the drop in imports and the increase in net generation. Energy generated, transmitted or distributed per employee is one measure of our productivity. The number of FTEs (Full-Time Equivalent Employees) is the same for each measure. It is the weighted sum of all full-time and part-time employees of BC Hydro and all subsidiaries. The decrease over last year is due to the shifting of a large number of employees to our Distribution Line of Business due to a corporate reorganization. Despite these changes, our averages are competitive with other Canadian utilities – public or private. The efficiency indices are not directly comparable to Canadian Electricity Association averages because of slight differences in calculation methodology.

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EN28(1) Biodiversity, Species-at-Risk

Inventory of reservoirs and transmission line rights-of-way areas where provincial red- or blue-listed species or federal COSEWIC¹-identified species are present, our potential impacts, and completed or potential stewardship and restorative initiatives.

Area Managed/Receptors	Red, Blue or COSEWIC-listed Species Present ^{1,2}	Potential Impact by BC Hydro	Stewardship ³ and Restorative Initiatives ⁴ , or Results Achieved
System-wide Fish Wildlife Aquatic plants Terrestrial plants		Habitat loss or fragmentation Species at risk Biodiversity loss Nutrient loss/gain Fish entrainment ⁵ Supersaturation ⁶ Cultural loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revegetation of reservoir drawdown areas (yearly, for dust control and habitat creation). • Environmental Management Plans to avoid or mitigate environmental impacts. • Species At Risk database creation and mapping using Geographic Information System. • Debris removal program: focus on creek mouths to improve fish habitat (Peace, 2003/04). • Efforts to minimize fish stranding through flow mitigation. • Compensation programs in Columbia Basin, Peace-Williston and Bridge River Coastal areas to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations affected by the original creation of BC Hydro dams.
Columbia (64,000 Ha) Fish 49 red- or blue listed wildlife sp.; Aquatic plants;	Terrestrial plants (red-listed): Bluebunch Wheatgrass/ Junegrass; Ponderosa Pine; Trembling Aspen; Douglas fir; Snowberry- balsamroot; Western Snowberry; Idaho fescue Great blue heron (blue, SC)	Habitat loss or fragmentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Purchase of Hofert Property (4038 ha containing 5 red/blue listed species) Waldie Island (1 ha, 1 blue-listed sp.) Wycliffe (110 ha, 1 red-listed sp.) and Rankin property (26 ha, 1 red-listed species) to compensate for habitat loss due to dam creation.</i> • <i>McGinty Lake fish habitat enhancement.</i> • <i>Sproule Creek fish habitat restoration. feasibility study.</i> • Columbia River monitoring of winter great blue heron roosting sites and forage.

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EN28(1) Biodiversity, Species-at-Risk (continued)

Area Managed/Receptors	Red, Blue or COSEWIC-listed Species Present ^{1,2}	Potential Impact by BC Hydro	Stewardship ³ and Restorative Initiatives ⁴ , or Results Achieved
Columbia (64,000 Ha) Fish 49 red- or blue listed wildlife sp.; Aquatic plants;	White sturgeon (red, SC)	Biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White sturgeon (Columbia River and Arrow Lakes): life history studies, habitat use, genetics, physiology, conservation culture. • <i>Developed plan for Upper Columbia White Sturgeon population recovery (also released 9000 juveniles).</i> • <i>Northern Leopard Frog – southern Mountain Population recovery plan (1925 frogs released).</i> • E. Kootenay Badger Recovery: 7 badgers imported from Montana, released.
	N. Leopard Frog (ENd)		
	Badger (red, THr)		
		Nutrient loss/gain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kootenay Lake fertilization.</i> • <i>Arrow fertilization program.</i> • <i>Salmo stream fertilization.</i> • <i>Phosphorus Recovery Program.</i>
		Cultural loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Archaeological Impact Assessment of KL 400 Deer Park and SL 19 Broadwater transmission right-of-ways near Lower Arrow Lake.</i>
Dinosaur Reservoir Fish Aquatic plants	Fish sp. Aquatic plants	Habitat Loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Planting of aquatic plants to improve fish habitat.</i>
	Fish sp.	Biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dinosaur Reservoir Lake Trout population assessments.</i>
Peace River/ Williston Reservoir area Fish Wildlife Aquatic plants Terrestrial plants	Wildlife sp. Terrestrial plants	Habitat loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Controlled burns to provide winter habitat for deer, elk (F03:550 ha, F02: 100 ha).</i> • <i>Cottonwood tree enhancement trial (Fisher habitat).</i>
	Grizzly bear (blue, SC)	Biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Funding of Mackenzie bird banding and monitoring and monitoring of migratory returns.</i> • <i>Nabesche Goats and Licks – influence on population.</i> • <i>Monitoring migration of McLeod Lake Grizzly Bears in Parsnip range.</i> • <i>Small Lake fish stocking population evaluations.</i> • <i>Kokanee Escapement Survey (tracking returns from hatching).</i> • <i>Study of logging impacts to Mountain Goat population in the Ospika range.</i> • <i>Classroom Kokanee Demonstration Project (fish rearing from eggs to fingerlings, and release).</i>

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EN28(1) Biodiversity, Species-at-Risk (continued)

Area Managed/Receptors	Red, blue or COSEWIC-listed Species Present ^{1,2}	Potential Impact by BC Hydro	Stewardship ³ and Restorative Initiatives ⁴ , or Results Achieved
Peace River/ Williston Reservoir area Fish Wildlife Aquatic plants Terrestrial plants	Arctic Grayling (red) Bull trout (blue)	Biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action plan to increase Arctic Grayling fish population in Williston area.</i> • Wildlife review for all RoWs. • <i>Bull Trout indexing (population monitoring).</i> • <i>Pygmy Whitefish population survey in Dina Lake.</i>
Williston Reservoir area	Bull trout (blue)	Elevated methyl-mercury levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury modelling and fish tissue analysis to evaluate mercury levels in Bull trout. The need for a consumption advisory should be reconsidered.
Reservoirs in Intermountain zone	Fish sp. Wildlife sp. Aquatic plants	Terrestrial plants Habitat loss (wetlands); Biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture (with other Canadian partners) for all bird habitats, wetland protection, restoration and compensation; species recovery plans.
Bridge River Coastal area Fish Wildlife Aquatic plants Terrestrial plants	Fish sp. Wildlife sp. Aquatic plants	Habitat loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Constructed sidechannel fish habitat behind the Cheakamus River dyke.</i> • <i>Falls River fish habitat restoration feasibility study.</i> • <i>Placement of 94 m3 of Steelhead spawning substrate in Campbell River.</i> • <i>Funded study to mitigate, restore, enhance or protecting key riparian wildlife habitats within the riparian areas of Elsie Lake and the Lower Ash River.</i> • <i>Elk habitat restoration in Strathcona Provincial Park.</i>
		Habitat fragmentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mission/Stave River wetlands conservation area purchased to bridge fragmented fish and wildlife habitat.</i>
		Biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Funded study of kokanee fish populations in Seton and Anderson Lakes.</i>
		Nutrient loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Feasibility study to assess distributing salmon carcasses into the upper Campbell River in areas inaccessible to returning adult salmon.</i>

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EN28(1) Biodiversity, Species-at-Risk (continued)

Area Managed/Receptors	Red, Blue or COSEWIC-listed Species Present ^{1,2}	Potential Impact by BC Hydro	Stewardship ³ and Restorative Initiatives ⁴ , or Results Achieved
Transmission Right-of-Ways Wildlife Terrestrial plants	Wildlife sp. Terrestrial plants	Biodiversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Inventory on RoWs in Lower Mainland, Cowichan, and Prince George areas. • Bird Surveys on Cowichan RoW.
	Townsend's vole (red)	Habitat loss/alteration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of altered habitat of Townsend's vole and their predators.

Notes:

1. COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) compliance with the federal Species at Risk Act is required. This means recovery strategies and action plans must be completed for COSEWIC listed species. Red and Blue Listings are an inventory process used by the B.C. Conservation Data Centre. It does not have any regulatory requirements so legislative compliance is not required at this time. However, it is expected that this listing process will be entrenched in provincial legislation within the next two years. In the interest of reducing its regulatory risk BC Hydro has been proactive in seeking to identify and reduce its impacts on red and blue listed species.
2. In B.C., there are approximately 308 animal plus 991 plants that are provincially red-listed (extirpated, endangered, or threatened) or blue-listed (of special concern). Federally listed species under COSEWIC are either Endangered (ENd), Threatened (Thr) or of Special Concern (SC). We are currently tallying which of these species and populations occur in lands owned or managed by BC Hydro while proceeding with programs to enhance, restore or maintain known endangered or threatened species and their habitats. This listing does not include stewardship initiatives undertaken solely as part of Water Use Planning.
3. Stewardship means preventative, restorative, enhancement or maintenance initiatives over the long-term time scale required to protect and maintain, restore, or enhance populations and their habitats.
4. Listings that are italicized were funded by BC Hydro in full or in part and that we have undertaken with partners as part of our Compensation Programs.
5. Mortality may result from fish passage through hydraulic turbines or over spillways during their downstream migration.
6. Supersaturation occurs when water falls turbulently from reservoir elevation to discharge elevation, usually via spillways. The resultant increased concentration of atmospheric gases (nitrogen and oxygen) in water may interfere with normal gill function of aquatic species.

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EN30(1) Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF₆) Gas Leakage Rate

Percentage/Calendar Year	2002	2001	2000
Total inventory	1.9	2.5	2.8

SF₆ is used to cool and insulate electrical equipment to prevent arcing and outages. Unfortunately it is also a powerful greenhouse gas with no viable substitute. BC hydro continues to look for ways to reduce losses while replacing older, leak-prone equipment with newer, smaller units that leak less and contain less gas. Ten SF₆-leaking high voltage breakers will be replaced during the next or following fiscal year.

EN31(1) Special Wastes Shipped

Calendar Year	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Solids (kg)	236 050	1 296 173	303 495	226 320	240 221
Liquids (L)	564 975	673 472	520 240	504 604	414 947

Special wastes are materials with hazardous properties that are no longer suitable for their original use. By law, they require special documentation, handling, storage, shipping, and treatment prior to reuse, recycling or disposal. Amounts shipped serve as a proxy for amounts generated. Yearly variations in amounts shipped are due to accumulations and non-routine shipping by facilities. Amounts shown include centralized shipments only and may under-report direct shipping by individual facilities. Published data from 2001 updated to include a single large shipment of contaminated soil. Due to recent regulatory changes, in future we will report hazardous waste rather than special waste.

EN33(1) Green Energy Criteria

Green projects must meet comprehensive market-based green criteria. To briefly summarize, a green project must be:

Renewable: The energy source must be replenishable by natural processes within a reasonable length of time – at the longest, within about one average human life span. For example, hydroelectric generation relies on water, which is a renewable resource. Natural gas electrical generation relies on a fossil fuel, a resource that does not meet this renewable criterion.

Licencable: The project must meet all relevant regulations and standards.

Socially responsible: The project must be developed in a socially responsible manner. This criterion must be judged on a site-specific basis. Every project within BC Hydro's green acquisition process is reviewed according to specific social responsibility criteria.

Low environmental impact: The project must avoid unacceptably high environmental impacts such as damage to fish populations, endangered specific or air quality. This criterion is evaluated on a site and technology-specific basis. Every green project within BC Hydro's acquisition process is reviewed according to the criteria that correspond to the project's technology.

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EN33(2) Environmental Purchasing Clause in Tender Documents

The policy of BC Hydro is to protect and preserve the natural environment. Contract award decisions made by BC Hydro shall take into consideration products, services or construction methods that are environmentally sensitive and products that are recycled, and give preference to tenders where the products, services or construction methods are proven to be environmentally superior, as well as cost effective, to products, services or construction methods offered in other tenders. Tenderers must disclose sufficient information with their tenders to demonstrate that they will perform the services in an environmentally responsible manner. In f2003, of the 658 local work contract tenders, 92 select tenders and 319 public tenders issued by BC Hydro, no exceptions to this clause were negotiated. However, there is no consistent set of performance measures used to evaluate vendor compliance to this requirement.

EN34(1) Transportation Demand Management

Number	2003	2002
Carpool		
Riders	106	117
Carpools	32	30
Riders per car (average)	3.3	3.9
Translink transit passes		
Riders	201	160

This program was initiated to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles commuting to and from work, and associated air pollutants. Carpoolers who have at least three regular riders are provided free parking. This Carpool Program is offered at the Dunsmuir and Edmonds offices. At Dunsmuir, a maximum of seven carpool parking passes are distributed due to limited parking space. The TransLink Pass Program is only available for Lower Mainland employees.