

# Engineers Canada

## Comments to the Federal Government of Canada on the 2026-2029 Draft Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) Consultation

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# Overview

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## Engineers Canada's Submission on the Draft 2026-2029 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy

Engineers Canada welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2026-2029 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS). As the national organization representing the 12 provincial and territorial regulators that license the profession, Engineers Canada supports consistent standards in regulation, encourages the growth of the profession, and advocates federally on issues that affect the engineering profession and public safety.

Engineers Canada is responding because sustainable development goals depend not only on policy ambition, but also on practical implementation. Engineers play a direct role in designing, building, maintaining, retrofitting, and adapting the infrastructure and systems that Canadians rely on every day. This aligns closely with Engineers Canada's current strategic direction to realize its role in sustainability and aligns with Engineers Canada's broader federal engagement on suitability, infrastructure resilience, and the practical conditions needed to deliver safe, durable, and future-ready systems.

## Where Engineers Canada Sees the Strongest Alignment

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For Engineers Canada, the strongest fit within the draft strategy is **Goal 3.2: Support Climate Adaptation**. This is where the connection between sustainable development and the engineering profession is most direct and most practical. The draft strategy recognizes that adaptation and resilience are increasingly important to public safety, long-term economic resilience, and the reliability of the systems on which Canadians depend.

Engineers Canada also sees supporting links to:

- **Goal 2.3: Increase the Number of Households in Acceptable Housing**, particularly where housing supply depends on safe, resilient and well-supported infrastructure systems.
- **Goal 2.1: Build a Productive and Low-Carbon Economy**, particularly where sustainable growth depends on infrastructure delivery, implementation capacity, and technical expertise.

In Engineers Canada's view, the draft FSDS is strongest where it connects sustainability to practical delivery; that is where the engineering profession can add real value.

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# Engineers Canada's Priority Messages

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## **A. Sustainable development requires implementation capacity**

A sustainable future will not be achieved through high-level goals alone; it depends on whether Canada has the capacity to design, build, maintain, retrofit and adapt the physical systems that support communities, public services, mobility, housing, trade, and quality of life.

Engineers Canada encourages the Government of Canada to continue treating implementation capacity as a core part of sustainable development. This includes not only policy design, but also the long-term ability to deliver resilient, efficient, and safe systems in practice.

## **B. Climate adaptation and resilient infrastructure should be central**

Climate adaptation is not a secondary or optional issue; it is increasingly central to public safety, infrastructure performance, long term affordability, and national resilience. Engineers see this in the systems they help shape, from transportation corridors and community infrastructure to buildings, water systems, and energy systems.

Engineers Canada believes the final strategy would be strengthened by continuing to emphasize resilient infrastructure and practical adaptation measures as core components of sustainable development. This includes designing and maintaining systems that can perform under changing climate conditions and over the long-term.

## **C. Long-term performance, durability, and public safety matters**

Infrastructure should not be viewed only as something that solves an immediate problem; Canada also needs systems, materials, and design approaches that are durable, efficient, and fit for future conditions. A more sustainable approach to development should support long-term performance, lower lifecycle costs, and better outcomes for the people and sectors that depend on reliable infrastructure every day.

For Engineers Canada, this is closely tied to public safety; sustainable development should be understood not only as an environmental objective, but also as a practical public interest objective.

## **D. Government and the engineering profession should work together**

Engineers Canada sees a constructive opportunity for ongoing collaboration between the federal government and the engineering profession. The profession can offer a practical perspective on what it takes to move from strategic goals to real-world implementation.

This is not a call for broad structural change; it is an invitation to continue building a practical relationship around issues where engineering expertise is especially relevant, including adaptation, infrastructure resilience, systems performance, and sustainable delivery.

# Recommendations

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Engineers Canada recommends that the final FSDS:

1. **Continue to emphasize climate adaptation and resilient infrastructure as central components of sustainable development** – The final strategy should maintain a strong focus on adaptation as a practical national priority tied to public safety, economic resilience, and long-term system reliability.
2. **More clearly recognize the importance of implementation and delivery capacity** – Sustainable development goals are more likely to succeed when the final strategy explicitly reflects the need for technical capacity, long-term planning, and real-world delivery.
3. **Acknowledge the role of engineering expertise in sustainable development outcomes** – Engineers contribute directly to the design, maintenance, retrofit, and futureproofing of systems and infrastructure that support communities and the economy.
4. **Support continued dialogue with the engineering profession as implementation advance** – Engineers Canada would welcome opportunities to contribute practical insight as the federal government moves from strategy to action.

## Conclusion

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Engineers Canada appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the Draft 2026-2029 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy.

Canada's sustainable development goals will only translate into real-world outcomes if resilient infrastructure, climate adaptation, and practical implementation capacity are built in from the start. Engineers have a key role to play in that work.

Engineers Canada would welcome continued dialogue with the federal government as the strategy is finalized and implemented.

## Who we are

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Engineers Canada is the national organization representing the 12 provincial and territorial engineering regulators that license the more than 330,000 members of the engineering profession across the country. Our organization has a long-standing history of collaborating with the federal government to inform and develop legislation, regulations, and policies. We are the only national voice of the engineering profession.