



Households and the Environment Survey

National Housing Research Committee

November 6, 2007

Ottawa, Ontario





What is the survey about?

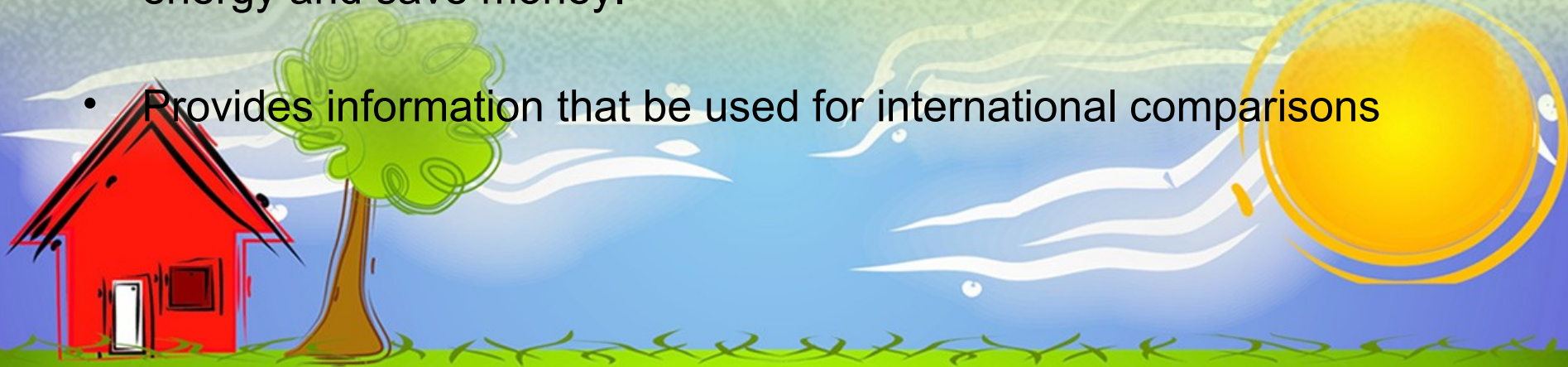
- The HES Survey gathers information from households across the country on their practices and behaviours regarding such topics as energy and water use, recycling, composting and transportation decisions.
- The survey also provides an expanded window into understanding the impacts that the household sector has on the natural environment and resource use.





Why is it important?

- The survey results will contribute to the development of programs and policies at the federal, provincial and municipal levels to deal with issues such as:
 - climate change
 - access to public transit
 - air and water quality
- Information relating to the consumption of natural resources (e.g water & electricity) can also be used to help households use less energy and save money.
- Provides information that be used for international comparisons





Background

- The HES was previously conducted in 1991, 1994 and in 2006
 - In 2006 as a live supplement to the Labour Force Survey.
- The Survey of Household Energy Use (SHEU) was previously conducted as the in 1994, 1998 and 2004 on behalf of Natural Resources Canada.
- The 2007 HES is combining these two surveys.





Methodology

- The 2007 survey is being conducted using part of the Canadian Community Health Survey sample.
- The selected dwellings were all respondents to the CCHS for the first 6 months of 2007.
 - approximately 30,000 dwellings
- Actual respondent is the person (16 or over) most knowledgeable about the household's environmental practices and behaviours.





Methodology

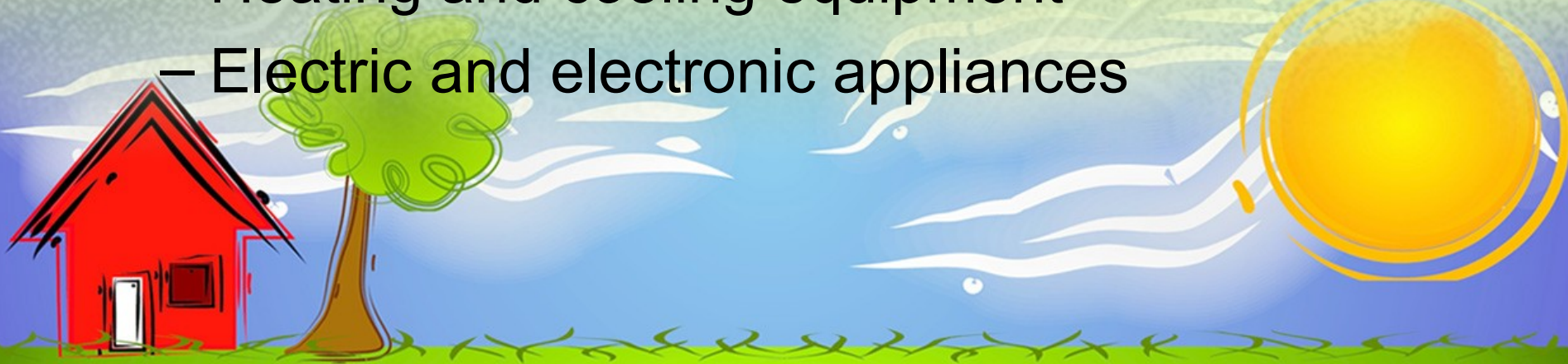
- First, information is collected from households by means of a short telephone interview on the behaviours and practices relating to the environment (Phase 1).
- This is followed by a voluntary mail-out/mail-back survey (Phase 2) that focuses on the energy use and characteristics of dwellings (formerly SHEU).
- Respondents will also have an option of completing this Phase 2 of the survey online (tentative).
- Phase 2 surveys to be mailed starting in early November





Phase 2 - content

- Dwelling characteristics, for example:
 - Age
 - Types and number of light bulbs
 - Heated area
 - Window types
 - Heating and cooling equipment
 - Electric and electronic appliances





Phase 2 - content

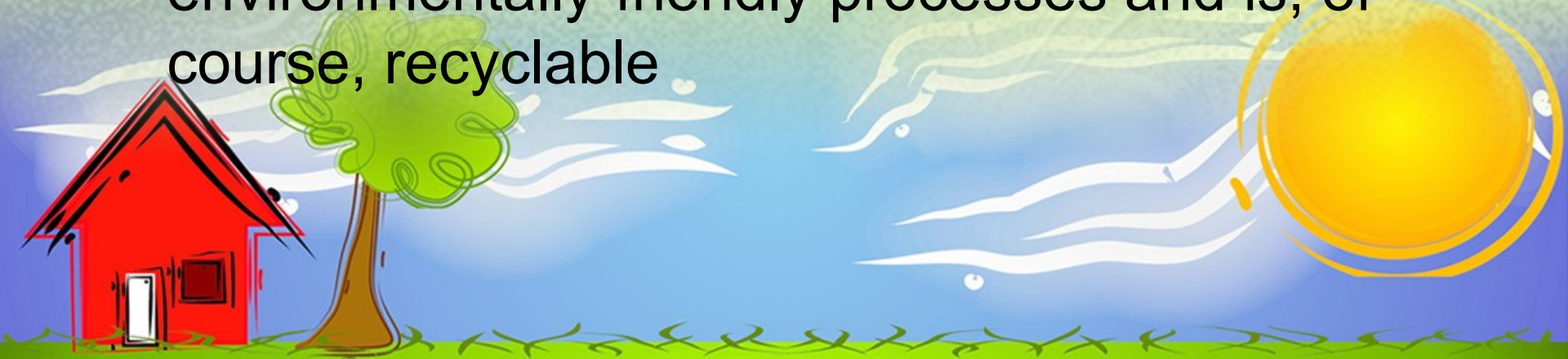
- Quantities of energy consumed
 - Electricity
 - Natural gas
 - Propane
- Respondents will be asked:
 - To manually fill in quantities (kw/h, m³) of energy consumed using their bills as a reference, or,
 - they can give us their utility company information and STC will collect the data directly through these firms.





Respondent information

- In addition to the standard introduction letter, a pamphlet providing information about the survey and findings from the last iteration is being mailed to each respondent
- The pamphlet itself is printed on paper made from 100% post-consumer fibre using environmentally-friendly processes and is, of course, recyclable





Households and the Environment Survey 2007 - Timelines

- Collection began October 1, 2007
- Have booked 5 months of collection (until end of February, 2008)
 - But may end a little earlier if target response rate of 75% is reached beforehand





Households and the Environment Survey 2007 - Timelines

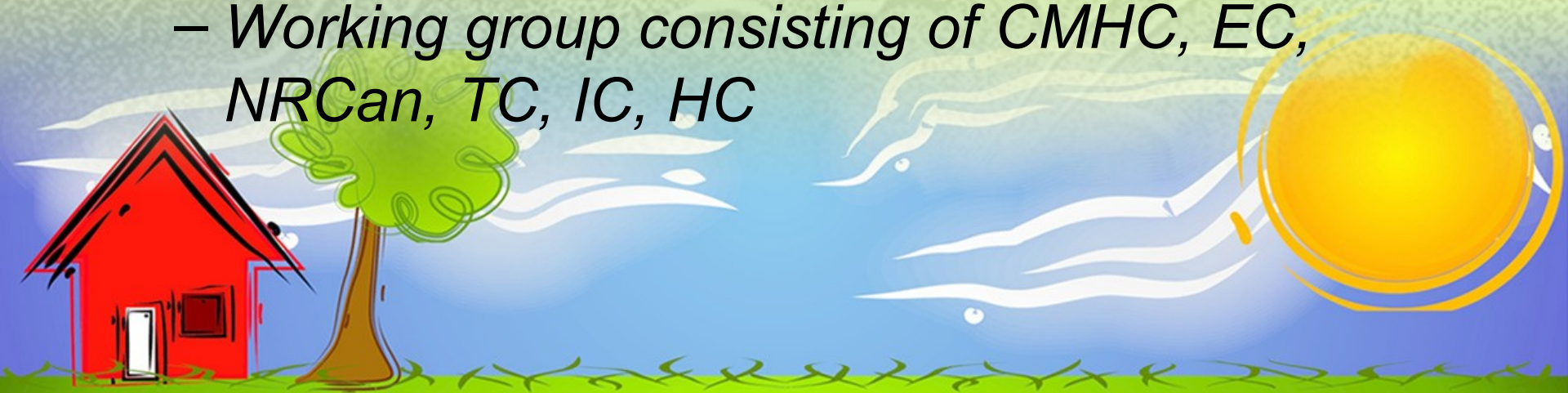
- Clean data file by late March or April, 2008
- Selected first results to be published in fall, 2008
– possibly in *EnviroStats*
- Full report in early 2009





Households and the Environment Survey 2009 - Timelines

- Content consultations to begin in April, 2008
- Similar process to 2007 HES
 - *Working group consisting of CMHC, EC, NRCCan, TC, IC, HC*





Households and the Environment Survey 2006

Selected results





Results from HES 2006

- Released on July 11, 2007
 - widespread media coverage
- Key findings include:



29% drank primarily bottled water



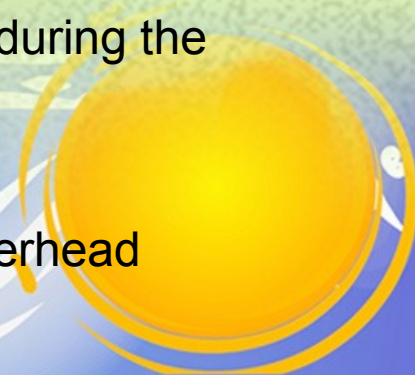
11% travelled to work by public transit



64% travelled to work alone in a motor vehicle during the colder months



56% of households have a water-saving showerhead





Results from HES 2006



97% of households used at least one recycling program



27% composted their kitchen or lawn and garden waste



29% of households used pesticides on their lawn



24% of households used a sprinkler timer when watering their lawn or garden





Results from HES 2006

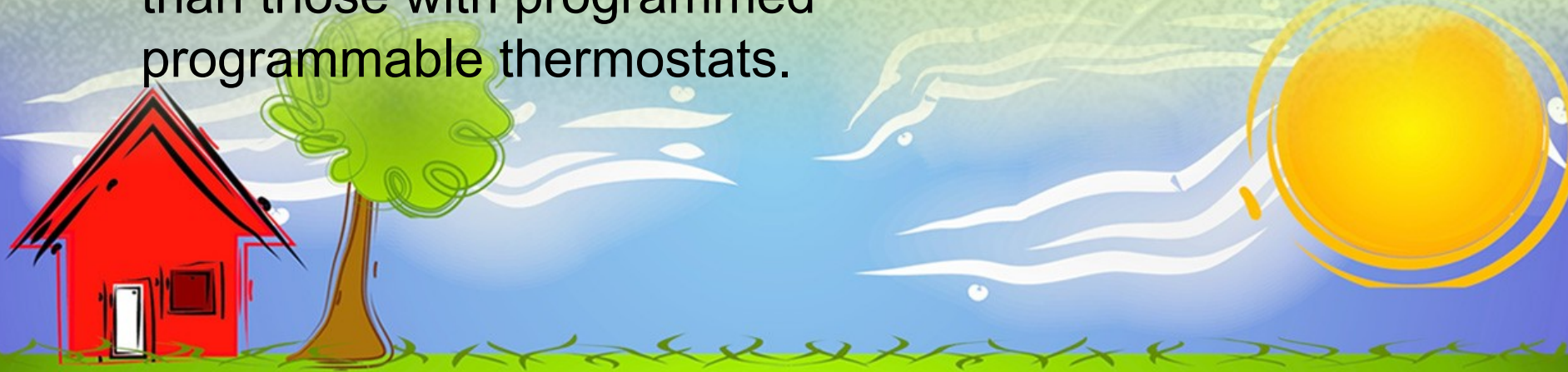
- 91% of households have a thermostat, of which...
 - 42% are programmable, of which...
 - 84% are actually programmed
 - 57% are used to lower the temperature at night





Results from HES 2006

- 53% of households with any type of thermostat lower the temperature before going to bed at night.
- Households with unprogrammed or non-programmable thermostats less likely to lower the temperature at all than those with programmed programmable thermostats.





Results from HES 2006

- 59% of households have at least one compact fluorescent light bulb





Dissemination

- Articles that have already been released in EnviroStats
 - Recycling practices
 - Lawn and garden care
- ...with several more planned for release in the next year
 - Upcoming topics include:
 - Home heating practices
 - Demographics of bottled water drinkers
 - Composting
 - Special wastes disposal





Thank-you!

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