

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION — A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Calgary, Canada

Leading the way in combatting climate change

STORY IN SHORT: Climate change poses an unprecedented challenge. The City of Calgary has responded by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from City operations by 35% compared to 1990 levels and is on track to achieve a 60% reduction by 2012. As part of Calgary's reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, it has become the largest municipal user of renewable electricity in Canada and has the first North American light rail transit system powered solely by wind.

Calgary's Climate Change Action Program

The City of Calgary has a proven track record of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from municipal operations. Specifically, it established a Climate Change Action plan which will reduce GHG emissions by over 60% from the period 1990 to 2012, exceeding the 6% reduction established by the Kyoto accord. The city has recently set its sights on future reductions with a goal of 80% less GHG emissions by 2050 than the 2005 level. These actions are helping to combat climate change, ensuring clean air for all, and protecting Calgary's high quality of life.

Highlights from the plan include:

Lighting the way with energy efficient street lighting

Calgary was the first City in North America to install energy efficient flat lens streetlight fixtures. The city retrofitted over 37,000 streetlights, saving over \$1.7 million a year from reduced energy consumption including a 25,000 tonne reduction in GHG emissions. Electricity saved from the project is enough to power 3,000 homes every year.

Building green

In 2003, Calgary was the first Canadian municipality to adopt a sustainable building policy. The policy required all new City buildings and renovations to existing facilities to meet or exceed the Silver level of Leadership and Environmental Design (LEED) rating. In 2008, the City raised the standards and now requires Gold level certification on new buildings.

Ride the Wind

The City of Calgary is the largest municipal government user of renewable electricity in Canada and is on track for all electrical needs to be met with renewable energy by 2012. Almost 95 million trips are taken on Calgary's CTrain, which is the first public light rail transit system in North America to be powered by the wind.



Mayor Dave Bronconnier with school children at Mayor's 20th Environment Expo

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Plans built on "pillars of strong environmental stewardship"

Mayor Dave Bronconnier of Calgary states, "Reducing green house gases by encouraging energy conservation and investments in renewable energy are pillars of strong environmental and economic stewardship. At The City of Calgary we take that seriously because we believe the quality of life of our citizens, today and generations from now, is at stake. We are committed to working together with our community, other cities and governments to ensure that this goal is achieved on a local and global basis."



The City of Calgary is the largest municipal user of renewable electricity in Canada

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Downtown District Energy Centre

Calgary is implementing an innovative green heat and power system to fuel the downtown core and connect communities. The new system will utilize natural gas and drive electric generators resulting in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Energy will also be distributed through a network of underground insulated pipes which is more energy efficient than the old heating systems which had separate boilers built into every building. District energy is also integral to the rejuvenation of the East Village community, which is connected to Calgary's downtown core. Calgary's birth place is on its way to being transformed into a vibrant, mixed use inner city community that incorporates sustainable design and planning principles.

Achievements thus far

In 2012, the City of Calgary will become the only large municipal government in North America to have reduced its GHG emissions by over 60%. In addition to energy conservation this is achievable through a partnership with ENMAX energy to purchase 100% renewable energy for the city's electrical needs. This agreement has been a catalyst for ENMAX to invest in wind energy and develop renewable technologies such as solar, micro-turbine wind and heat-to-electricity generation for residential and industrial applications. The vision is to have homes generating more renewable energy than they consume.

Involvement in international initiatives

The City of Calgary played a leadership role in creating the Calgary Climate Change Accord for the World Energy Cities Partnership (WECP). The WECP represents the leading energy cities in the world. Through conservation, energy-efficiency and the development of renewable energy the partnership is uniquely positioned to be a catalyst for global GHG reductions. The WECP came together to commit their municipal governments to reduce GHG emissions by 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 compared to a 2005 baseline. The Accord also called for the signatories within the authority of their Municipal Government to pursue parallel community GHG reduction strategies.



Calgary is the largest city in the province of Alberta, Canada

City profile & contacts

Calgary is situated in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in western Canada. Calgary is home to a million citizens with over 18,000 acres of parks, including one of the largest urban parks in North America. The city boasts the largest path and bikeway network in North America, much of which follows the pristine Bow River which originates in the Rocky Mountains. Calgary's climate is very sunny and windy, creating opportunities to tap into a wealth of solar and wind energy.

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