



GREENEST CITY

2020 ACTION PLAN





IMAGINE

... by 2020 Vancouver will be the Greenest City in the world. Together, we will create a more resilient, healthy, and prosperous city, and a better life for future generations.

Vancouver has proven that a city can grow and prosper and still become a Green Capital.

- Vancouver is set to bring our community-based **greenhouse gas emissions** down to **five per cent below 1990 levels**, even as our population has grown by over 27 per cent and jobs have increased by over 18 per cent.
- Vancouver's electricity is generated in British Columbia—93 per cent of it from renewable sources. We are also developing neighbourhood-scale **renewable energy projects**.
- The City has implemented the **greenest building code** in North America.
- And Vancouver is rising to meet the **green transportation challenge** by creating **compact neighbourhoods** with easy access to work, shopping and recreation. The City has **shifted investment** to walking, cycling and transit infrastructure instead of building new roads.

From Local Food to Green Transportation, Access to Nature and Lighter Footprint, the **10 Greenest City 2020 Action Plan goals** call for local and international leadership.

They set out a **clear path towards a bright green future** for our community and our planet.

CLEAR FOCUS: CARBON, WASTE & ECOSYSTEMS

A plan this comprehensive requires many partnerships, transparency about progress, and focused action.

The *Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (GCAP)* is divided into 10 smaller plans. Together, they address three areas: carbon, waste and ecosystems.

We're working with partners throughout the city, including other public sector agencies, businesses, non-profits, and residents. We've committed to regularly report on our progress towards the targets and to share stories about our successes and challenges.





LEADING THE WAY

It's important that the City demonstrates leadership in its own operations, while implementing this community-wide plan.

Our high priority corporate actions include:

- A comprehensive program to reduce waste and increase recycling in City-owned buildings.
- A plan to purchase and use local food in City-run facilities.
- Partnerships to encourage the greening of community events to reduce waste and increase active transportation.
- A plan to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City-owned buildings, cars and trucks, and become carbon neutral in our operations.



1 / GREEN ECONOMY

GOAL: SECURE VANCOUVER'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS A MECCA OF GREEN ENTERPRISE

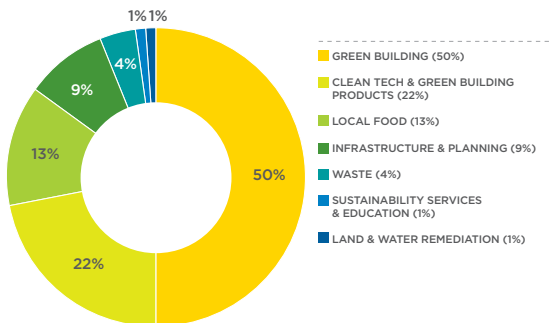
TARGETS:

- Double the number of green jobs over 2010 levels by 2020.
- Double the number of companies that are actively engaged in greening their operations over 2011 levels by 2020.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Develop programs to support each of the five green job clusters that the City has identified as priorities.
- Establish a Green Enterprise Zone (recommended locations include the Downtown Eastside and the False Creek Flats).
- Deliver a business engagement program that achieves measurable improvements in the environmental performance of Vancouver businesses.

Distribution of additional green jobs generated by 2020 through Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (total 10,000+)



2 / CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

GOAL: ELIMINATE DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL FUELS

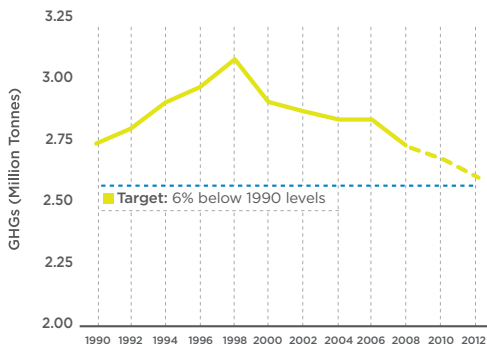
TARGETS:

- Reduce community-based greenhouse gas emissions by 33% from 2007 levels.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Work with partners in the city to build new neighbourhood-scale renewable energy systems.
- Work with partners to convert large-scale steam systems to renewable energy.
- Develop a policy framework outlining when the City will consider different renewable energy sources for district energy systems.

Vancouver's GHG emissions are declining, even as our population has grown and jobs have increased



SOURCE:
Vancouver's GHG
Emissions 1990-2012;
City of Vancouver.

3/ GREEN BUILDINGS

GOAL: LEAD THE WORLD IN GREEN BUILDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

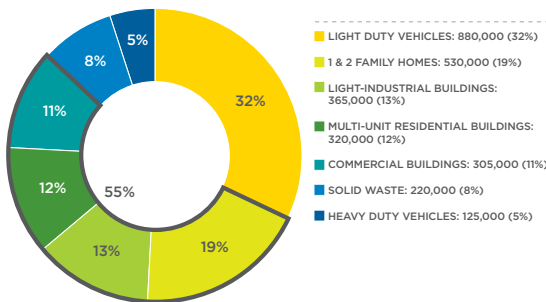
TARGETS:

- Require all buildings constructed from 2020 onward to be carbon neutral in operations.
- Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in existing buildings by 20% over 2007 levels.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Update Vancouver Building Bylaw to improve energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions in new and existing buildings.
- Develop and promote financing tools that enable energy efficiency retrofits.
- Use price signals in permit fees to reward energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions in new and existing buildings.

Vancouver's 2008 GHG emissions (tCO₂e) (Buildings account for 55% of Vancouver's GHG emissions)



SOURCE: 2008 Emissions Inventory; City of Vancouver "An updated 2011 Emissions Inventory is expected to be available in 2012."

4 / GREEN TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: MAKE WALKING, CYCLING, AND PUBLIC TRANSIT PREFERRED TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

TARGETS:

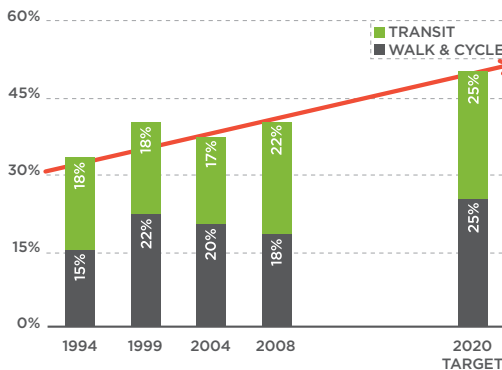
- Make the majority (over 50%) of trips by foot, bicycle, and public transit.
- Reduce average distance driven per resident by 20% from 2007 levels.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Complete a new Active Transportation Master Plan and update the Transportation Plan with direction from the GCAP.

- Improve pedestrian safety by developing and implementing a pedestrian safety study and action plan.
- Support transportation and active transportation planning with land use policies that enable the City to meet mobility and transportation targets.
- Work with partners to advocate for rapid transit for the Broadway Corridor.
- Pursue the development of a bike-share program in Vancouver's downtown and other high-potential cycling areas.

City-wide, 24-hour mode share (%) of all trips to and within city by walking, cycling & transit





5 / ZERO WASTE

GOAL: CREATE ZERO WASTE

TARGET:

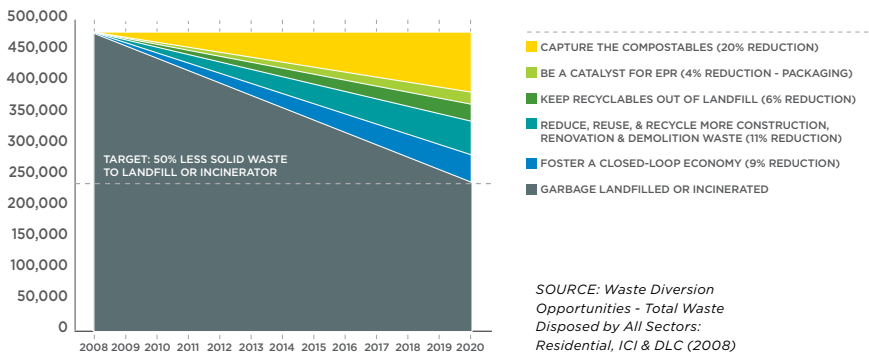
- Reduce solid waste going to the landfill or incinerator by 50% from 2008 levels.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Collect all compostables from single-family homes and pilot food scraps collection in apartments and condominiums.

- Develop education and enforcement programs to keep recyclables out of the waste stream.
- Advocate for more Extended Producer Responsibility programs for packaging and more.
- Develop a program to encourage building deconstruction for renovation and demolition projects.

Pathways to 50% waste reduction target



6 / ACCESS TO NATURE

GOAL: VANCOUVER RESIDENTS ENJOY INCOMPARABLE ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES, INCLUDING THE WORLD'S MOST SPECTACULAR URBAN FOREST

TARGETS:

- All Vancouver residents live within a five-minute walk of a park, greenway, or other green space by 2020.
- Plant 150,000 new trees by 2020.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Create four to six new mini-parks by converting street right-of-ways to parks.
- Work to acquire new parks in priority neighbourhoods.
- Plant 15,000 new trees on City land and other public property.
- Green Hastings Park.

Planting 150,000 new trees is the equivalent of one tree planted for every four Vancouver residents.



LIGHTER FOOTPRINT

GOAL: ACHIEVE A ONE-PLANET ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

TARGET:

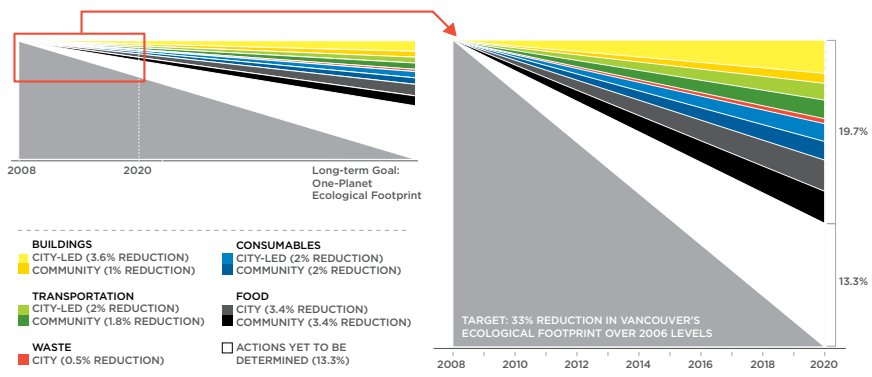
- Reduce Vancouver's ecological footprint by 33% over 2006 levels.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Start a neighbourhood-focused pilot project to showcase and test Greenest City infrastructure and initiatives.
- Provide resources to community organizations engaged in activities that support Greenest City targets.
- Work with the Open Data Initiative to make Greenest City data available for use in innovative ways.

Wedge analysis of the reduction in ecological footprint expected from proposed GCAP actions

SOURCE: Using data from J. Moore, 2011 (in progress).



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CLEAN WATER

GOAL: VANCOUVER WILL HAVE THE BEST DRINKING WATER OF ANY CITY IN THE WORLD

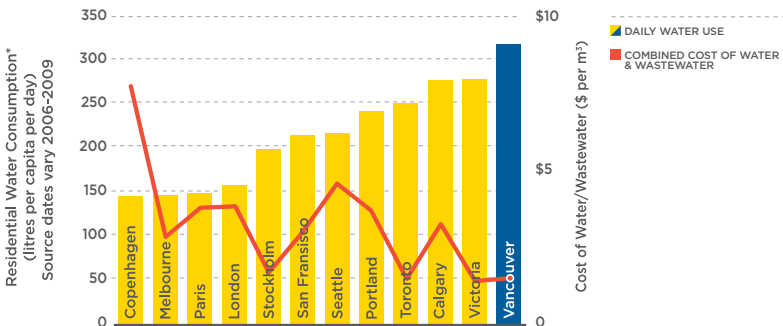
TARGETS:

- Meet or beat the strongest of British Columbian, Canadian and appropriate international drinking water quality standards and guidelines.
- Reduce per capita water consumption by 33% from 2006 levels.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Require water metering on all new one- and two-family homes, effective 2012.
- Develop and implement enhanced water education, incentive and conservation programs.
- Continue to expand public access to drinking water and reduce use of bottled water.
- Eliminate combined sewer overflows from outfalls at Crowe and Burrard Streets and develop Integrated Rainwater Management Plans.

Comparison of municipal water consumption & prices





9 / CLEAN AIR

GOAL: BREATHE THE CLEANEST AIR OF ANY MAJOR CITY IN THE WORLD

TARGET:

- Always meet or beat the most stringent air quality guidelines from Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and the World Health Organization.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Encourage electric vehicle transport.
- Regulate uncontrolled wood burning appliances for residential buildings.
- Establish a framework to integrate air quality considerations into City of Vancouver planning.
- Collaborate with Port Metro Vancouver, BC Hydro and Metro Vancouver on joint air quality issues.

Clean air can be easy to take for granted, even though it has a huge impact on our health and well-being.



10/ LOCAL FOOD

GOAL: VANCOUVER WILL BECOME A GLOBAL LEADER IN URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS

TARGETS:

- Increase city-wide and neighbourhood food assets by a minimum of 50% over 2010 levels.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Develop a draft municipal food strategy to coordinate all aspects of the food system.
- Support urban agriculture by: creating 15 new community gardens, enabling three new urban farms, encouraging new farmers markets, adding public fruit trees, and supporting the development of a Vancouver Food Hub.
- Make local food available in City-run facilities through a local food procurement plan.

Food Asset Growth

FOOD ASSET	CURRENT	2020 GOAL	PER CENT INCREASE
Community Kitchen	69	100	45%
Farmers Market	4	22	450%
Community Produce Stand	3	15	400%
Community Food Composting Facilities	0	5	500%
Community Garden Plots	3,260	5,000	53%
Urban Orchards	3	10	330%
Urban Farms	1	5	400%
Food Hub	0	1	100%
Total	3,340	5,158	54.4%



A VANCOUVER ORIGINAL SINCE 1957, SAVE-ON-MEATS PREPARES A LOCAL FOOD FUTURE.

Save-On-Meats is a newly opened local food hub in the Downtown Eastside. At street level, it is an affordable diner, as well as a sandwich and butcher shop. The second level is a commissary kitchen preparing food for five local restaurants, and business planning is underway for a local food processing business incubator on an upper level.

The basement provides cold storage for SOLEfood urban farm. SOLEfood is also conducting a feasibility study to build a high-yield greenhouse on the rooftop. Of the roughly 90 people employed at Save-On-Meats, at least 30 are overcoming barriers to employment, with support provided in partnership through the Potluck Café Society.

This project embodies the local economic development principles of the Green Enterprise Zone—promoting and supporting local products and services, creating partnerships, encouraging capacity building, and focusing on local food as a key sector of the green economy.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL KIND

EMBERS Green Renovations is the first business in Vancouver to offer weatherization services to residents who want to lighten their ecological footprint and save money by making their homes less drafty and more energy efficient. It's also a social enterprise that provides training and job opportunities to residents who've experienced barriers to employment and found it difficult to enter the job market.

EMBERS, the Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal Society, began its Green Renovations program in September 2010 with four employees who provided services to 50 homes in the first few months of operation. With a goal of 5,000 homes by 2020, Green Renovations supports the City's plans to create low-threshold green jobs while also supporting the GCAP's Climate Leadership and Green Buildings goals.

Home weatherization improves the energy performance of buildings by installing low-energy, double-glazed windows, sealing gaps around doors, pipes and wiring, and installing insulation in walls, floors and ceilings. It's estimated that comprehensive home weatherization improvements can reduce up to one metric tonne of carbon dioxide per year per home. That's about one seventh of the annual emissions produced by the average American car.

CORPORATE CLIMATE LEADERS PROGRAM HELPS BUSINESSES GREEN THEIR OPERATIONS

In two years, more than 100 Vancouver businesses have been able to green their operations with the support of the City's Corporate Climate Leaders program.

The City of Vancouver partnered with the Vancouver Economic Commission, Metro Vancouver and the Province's LiveSmart program to provide small to medium-sized businesses with advice, training and energy assessments.

Participating businesses meet with an energy advisor who performs a free one-hour energy assessment and provides recommendations on upgrades that will maximize energy savings. For example, the advisor may recommend more energy-efficient lighting options and calculate the associated savings and rebates. The advisor can also help with rebate applications and with the coordination of the upgrades themselves.

ALONG WITH OTHER CITIES AROUND THE WORLD, VANCOUVER IS AT A CRITICAL TURNING POINT.

The growing world population, a significant increase in migration to cities, climate uncertainty, rising fossil fuel prices and shifting economic opportunities call for decisive action and innovation.

These challenges also bring possibilities. For example, the green economy is expanding three times faster than other sectors, and the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan ensures we're ready to take advantage of this important opportunity.

As community leaders, business owners, and decision-makers, the choices we make today will have a lasting impact on our shared future. Whether we live in Vancouver, on the other side of the continent, or on the other side of the globe, we all have a role to play in creating a world full of healthy, prosperous, Greenest Cities.



GREENEST CITY 2020

For More Information:

Visit vancouver.ca or call: **377**

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Outside Vancouver: 604.873.7000

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By using paper made with 100% post-consumer recycled content, the following resources have been saved.

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4	7,176	2	54	191
fully grown	litres	million BTU	kilograms	kilograms

Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Paper Network Calculator. For more information visit <http://calculator.environmentalpaper.org>