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Breathe the cleanest air of any
major city in the world.



CLEAN AIR

TARGET:

ALWAYS MEET OR BEAT THE MOST STRINGENT AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES FROM METRO VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

Breathing might be one of the most natural things we do. We move air in and out of our lungs anywhere from 720 to 1,200 times an hour. Clean air can be easy to take for granted, even though it has a huge impact on our health and well-being.

The quality of our air affects the health of everyone in our community, particularly young children, pregnant women, seniors, and other vulnerable populations. Although Vancouver enjoys relatively clean air compared to other major North American cities, even low levels of particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide can negatively impact our health.

As Vancouver grows we create more and more air pollution through exhaust from trucks, buses, ships, trains, planes, and industrial operations. It will take work to improve our air quality.





BASELINE NUMBERS

Metro Vancouver is responsible for air quality planning, monitoring, and management within the region, and has two monitoring stations in the City of Vancouver—one in Kitsilano and one at Robson Square in the downtown core.

Vancouver has cleaner air than we did 20 years ago. However, our air quality does not always meet the Greenest City 2020 target. Achieving the Clean Air target will require working in partnership with Metro Vancouver and other levels of government, businesses, non-profit organizations, and residents.

GREEN JOBS

- GHG emissions auditor
- air quality modeller
- marine charging station manufacturer and installer
- vehicle charging station manufacturer and installer
- electric vehicle mechanic
- environmental service provider
- air quality tester
- policy analyst and researcher
- educator

HIGHEST PRIORITY ACTIONS

The following are the highest priority actions for 2011–2014. The complete list of Clean Air actions can be found in the *Greenest City 2020 Action Plan* available at talkgreenvancouver.ca

1. *Encourage electric vehicle transport.* This action connects to the Green Transportation plan. The increased use of vehicles such as electric cars, which do not burn fossil fuels, improves air quality and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
2. *Regulate uncontrolled wood-burning appliances for residential buildings.* Metro Vancouver is leading the way on this issue, and the City of Vancouver is working closely with Metro to design and implement their new policies and programs.
3. *Establish a framework to integrate air quality considerations into City of Vancouver planning.*
4. *Collaborate with Port Metro Vancouver, Metro Vancouver, and BC Hydro on joint air quality issues.*



KEY STRATEGIES TO 2020

Encourage cleaner modes of transportation

This strategy, which involves motor vehicles and non-road diesel engines, will have the largest impact on air quality. It is closely connected to the Green Transportation section of the GCAP. Some of the actions include: establishing charging and fuelling infrastructure for zero-emission electric and low-emission vehicles, and increasing the use of electrical shore power for ocean vessels using Vancouver's port.

Reduce wood smoke from home wood-burning appliances

The improper operation of wood-burning appliances generates excessive smoke and fine particulate matter, which can cause a range of health concerns. Metro Vancouver plays a large role in this area and is part of a regional Wood Stove Exchange Program in which residents are able to receive funding to update their appliances. The City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver are exploring a range of bylaws and regulatory options to reduce exposure to wood smoke from residences.

Enhance air quality assessment and planning

Children, seniors, pregnant women, and people with pre-existing lung and heart conditions are particularly vulnerable to poor air quality. The City will work with its partners to consider these issues in land use planning. The City will increase its understanding of the role of air quality monitoring and computer modelling as they relate to future projects like district energy systems, separated bike lanes, and large redevelopments.

Reduce marine vessel emissions while in port

Marine vessels are the major source of sulphur dioxide in our air. One of the most effective ways to protect Vancouver residents and visitors from exposure to marine engine emissions is to install electrical shore power so that vessels do not have to idle their engines while docked.

Develop a strategy to address volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

VOCs create the strong smells associated with paints, solvents, and cleaners. These pollutants are important to address because they contribute to ground-level ozone and fine particulates in our air, both of which can cause health problems.

WHAT IT'S GOING TO TAKE TO GET THERE

The Clean Air goal is closely linked with the Green Transportation goal as many transportation strategies will have significant positive effects on air quality in Vancouver and the region. There are also links with Climate Leadership and some other important planning initiatives at the City like the Urban Health Strategy. The City of Vancouver will work closely with Metro Vancouver and many other stakeholders to achieve this target.

EMITTER	POLLUTANTS	RESPONSIBLE JURISDICTION
 MARINE VESSELS	Sulphur Dioxide Nitrogen Dioxide Particulate Matter	Environment Canada Port Metro Vancouver
 LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES	Nitrogen Dioxide Ground-Level Ozone	Metro Vancouver City of Vancouver
 NON-ROAD EQUIPMENT	Nitrogen Dioxide Particulate Matter Ground-Level Ozone	Metro Vancouver
 RESIDENTIAL WOOD COMBUSTION	Particulate Matter	Metro Vancouver City of Vancouver
 CONSUMER PRODUCTS	Ground-Level Ozone	Metro Vancouver



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