

BEST LARGE CITY

TORONTO*"Diversity our strength"*

Toronto knows well that two (million) heads are better than one. Diverse people bring diverse approaches, contributing to the city's Big City bracket win. Toronto overpowered last year's winner, Edmonton, with corporate GHG emissions currently 40 per cent below 1990 levels, regional trade initiatives strengthening the local economy, and a growing middle class. The city reaps the benefits of its density, with more citizens choosing green commuting options and consuming less energy residentially.

69%

Ecological Integrity	57%
Economic Security	66%
Governance & Empowerment	77%
Infrastructure & Built Environment	73%
Social Well-Being	73%

BEST MEDIUM CITY

VANCOUVER **76%***"By Land, Sea, and Air We Prosper"*

By nearly all measures of land, sea, and air, Vancouver is moving towards sustainable prosperity. Vancouver upset two-time Medium City winner Halifax, with stricter GHG reduction goals, more bike paths and green space, and better access to local food. While the jury is still deciding whether the 2010 Olympics deserves a gold medal, the host city is assuredly at the top of the Canadian contest. New multi-family condominium projects must have 20 per cent of parking stalls wired for electric vehicle charging—a new gold standard.

Ecological Integrity	69%
Economic Security	72%
Governance & Empowerment	80%
Infrastructure & Built Environment	83%
Social Well-Being	76%

BEST SMALL CITY

YELLOW KNIFE*"Much in little"*

Yellowknife proves that it is possible to achieve much with little. Best Small City for three consecutive years, Yellowknife had a strong showing in economic indicators—like unemployment and labour force participation—as well as green infrastructure policies and incentives. In spite of cold weather, Yellowknife boasts a high active commuter rate, thanks to investment in the city's extensive trail network, with 24 per cent of residents using their own two feet to get to work.

61%

Ecological Integrity	48%
Economic Security	61%
Governance & Empowerment	64%
Infrastructure & Built Environment	66%
Social Well-Being	63%

FOURTH ANNUAL

Sustainable Cities

RANKING

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My Sustainable City

Online
Expanded Sustainable Cities coverage and
detailed methodology

Urban Intervention

by HILARY BEST

In spite of a can't-do attitude on Parliament Hill, this year's ranking demonstrates that our cities can be carbon neutral, ecologically supportive, efficiently governed, inclusive, and creative.

American journalist David Owen argues that New York City is a “utopian environmentalist community.” By living closer together, taking public transit, and sharing green spaces, appropriately planned and governed urban environments offer significant opportunities for reducing our impact on the planet. As Jaime Lerner, former Mayor of Curitiba, Brazil says, “Cities are not the problem, they are the solution.”

Our fourth annual Sustainable Cities ranking echoes both Mr. Owen and Mr. Lerner's sentiments: solutions are abundant in cities across Canada. While federal leaders embarrassed Canadians in Copenhagen, our municipal representatives led (as in Toronto mayor David Miller, who headed up the C40 Climate Leadership Group cities) and inspired (as in Vancouver mayor Gregor Robertson's announcement that his city has the lowest

greenhouse gas [GHG] emissions per capita of any major North American centre).

The result is a nascent vision of urban sustainability, with all ranked cities demonstrating progress in this year's ranking: Toronto, Vancouver and Yellowknife are our best Big, Medium, and Small Cities. Vancouver also took the overall top spot this year, buoyed by avant-garde green building regulations (LEED Silver equivalence is mandated in all new construction) and the prioritization of active transportation over automobiles. The city's upward climb in the rankings was partially accounted for by increased disclosure of their initiatives via survey completion. As we continued to refine our methodology, some cities' scores decreased. This does not necessarily indicate a regression on the part of these cities, but rather a deeper understanding of each city's initiatives and the sustainable ideal.

METHODOLOGY

We rank 17 cities: the most populous centres in each province and territory and the ten most populous cities in the country. Cities are grouped into three brackets on the basis of population size: Big Cities have a population over 700,000, Medium Cities have a population over 250,000, and Small Cities have a population under 250,000.

To see expanded methodology, a list of indicators and sources, and to learn more about our Sustainable Cities advisor The Natural Step, go to: corporateknights.ca/cities

The City of Calgary is taking action to ensure clean land, air and water for all.



Land

- ✔ Public/private partnership built the largest and most advanced recycling sorting facility in Canada.
- ✔ On track to double the amount of recycling from households.

Air

- ✔ Largest municipal user of renewable electricity in Canada.
- ✔ On track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City operations by 60 per cent by 2012.

Water

- ✔ Gold LEED®-certified state-of-the-art Pinecreek Wastewater Treatment Facility built to meet treatment needs for the next 30 years.
- ✔ On track to meet our 30-in-30 water efficiency goal to accommodate future population growth with the same amount of water removed from the river in 2003.



Protecting what's precious.
Land. Air. Water.



ENHANCING ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Though performance was weakest in the Ecological Integrity category, civic leaders are beginning to recognize the value of low-impact development and conservation. On the whole, water consumption has improved and half our cities have banned insecticides. But there's more to be done: "People need to start thinking of 'ecological infrastructure' as something they can and should invest in," said Pavan Sukhdev, Project Leader of the UNEP's Green Economy initiative, at the 2009 launch of his *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* report.

In Metro Vancouver, the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Partnership recently conducted a study to evaluate the economic value of ecological infrastructure. According to the study, "managing contaminant loadings was shown to be up to 10 times more effective in areas with extensive tree coverage than in those with minimal tree cover. An increase in roughly 25 per cent of tree cover was estimated to save more than \$1.1 million in stormwater infrastructure costs. The loss of 1,500 hectares of tree cover

can be translated into more than \$254 million of extra infrastructure costs to manage the stormwater that was being controlled through natural processes."

When these figures are available, cities like Vancouver can make ecologically and economically sound choices. But where they are not, it is difficult for cities to initiate and measure success. The lack of information regarding the state of the environment in many cities is staggering. Water quality, presence of non-native species, and the rate of conversion of natural and agricultural areas are useful metrics currently unavailable in many locales.

In the Big City bracket, Edmonton takes the ecological lead. With a Local Action for Biodiversity project underway, Edmonton is securing, expanding, and restoring the city's conservation network. Monitoring of species, protected areas, and ecological connectivity informs Edmonton's Biodiversity Action Plan. Vancouver outperformed its Medium City peers, benefiting from its 1,500-hectare green space network and the Kyoto-level GHG emissions reduction of six per cent by 2012 from a 1990 baseline,

achieved through a green building and renewable energy renaissance. St. John's swept the Small City bracket on account of its strong air quality and low water consumption results.

In the next year, we urge cities to demonstrate their leadership on climate change by making progress on their emissions reduction targets. Citizens must support these goals by taking steps to reduce their own carbon footprint.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC SECURITY

Poverty and inequality continue to plague urban areas and require cash-strapped municipal governments to think creatively. Savvy cities are marrying environmental and economic progress through integrative green economic development and regional trade strategies.

Edmonton took the top Big City spot in the Economic Security category. With low unemployment and substantial economic diversity, the city is striving to further develop its eco-industrial cluster that caters to cleantech and environmental

FIRST ANNUAL CANADIAN CLEAN TECH SUMMIT

SHAPING CANADA'S CLEAN TECHNOLOGY FUTURE

Seize this opportunity to discuss, forecast and shape Canada's clean technology industry at the first annual Canadian Cleantech Summit, April 27 to 29 in Ottawa.

Join representatives of leading multinationals, research institutions, Canadian cleantech companies, trade commissioners, and federal, provincial and municipal governments as they identify, discuss and determine the future direction for Canada's globally competitive stance on clean technology.

THE SUMMIT WILL INCLUDE: Thought-provoking analysis of Canada's unique natural resource, industry and climate change drivers for the development of specific clean technologies; insights from leading thinkers; and a glimpse during panel discussions into some of our research labs and cutting-edge technologies. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference.

Clean Water. Clean Energy. Clean Land.

www.canadiancleantechsummit.com



CANADIAN
CLEANTECH
SUMMIT

APRIL 27

Registration and
Welcome Reception, 6 to 8 p.m.

APRIL 28

8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

APRIL 29

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

THE WESTIN OTTAWA

www.thewestinottawa.com

For more information, registration
or sponsorships, please contact:

- 613-828-6274 x 276
- info@canadiancleantechsummit.com
- canadiancleantechsummit.com





ecological integrity

My city is an ecosystem. The meandering stream, local birds, and beautiful trees inform my thoughts and actions and make this city a healthier place to live. Plants and animals flourish here because the land is healthy and the water and air are clean. We've learned that ecosystems are complex—and I honour that complexity by limiting my impact on the earth.



economic security

My city is economically secure. My job is meaningful and I'm compensated appropriately. As a community we ensure that no one is left behind. Together we've made sure that our local economy accounts for the needs of the community and achieves genuine economic, social, and environmental progress. Our economy is in a respectful relationship with human communities and the natural world.



governance & empowerment

My city is well governed. Our leaders are responsible and we engage in civic life. I ask questions at our town hall meetings and my ideas are reflected in our decisions. We've integrated sustainability into our decision-making framework to ensure our resources will flourish for future generations. Our government represents our diversity and makes decisions that serve our community in the long-term.



infrastructure & built environment

My city is intelligently designed. We've taken a thoughtful approach to infrastructure decisions. These features change the way we relate to our landscape and we've decided to get it right with scenic bike paths and intuitive buildings. We build sustainably—efficient homes are nestled into neighbourhoods worth investing in. We take responsibility for the impact of our choices.



social well-being

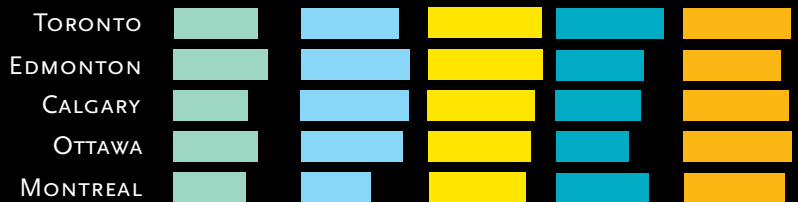
My city is supportive of well-being. We ensure that everyone is happy and healthy. We have lots of fresh food thanks to community agriculture. We know that economic progress is not the only way to measure well-being, so we use additional yardsticks like life satisfaction and citizen health to ensure that we are learning, celebrating, and contributing to our cultural development.

CITY RANKINGS

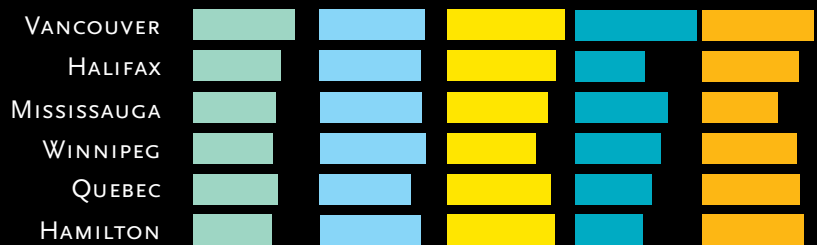
CK presents the city-by-city highlights of this year's Sustainable Cities ranking. We define sustainability as the ability of individuals and communities to flourish without contributing to the progressive degradation of the human and natural systems on which we depend. CK measures sustainability along five parameters: ecological integrity, economic security, governance and empowerment, infrastructure and built environment and social well-being. Cities receive scores out of ten on indicators in each of our five categories of evaluation. Each category of indicators is worth 20 per cent of the final score.

For the numbers behind the chart go to corporateknights.ca/cities

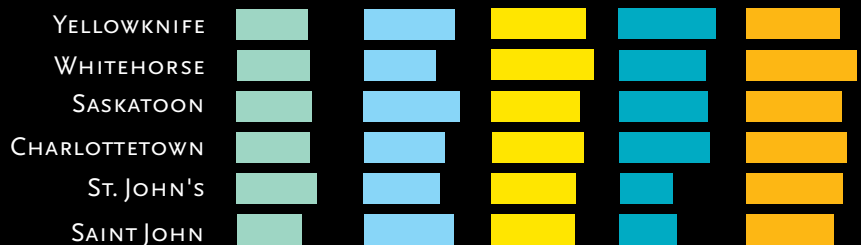
BIG CITIES



MEDIUM CITIES



SMALL CITIES



consulting firms. Medium City winner Vancouver has proposed Low Carbon Economic Zones that would serve as incubators for climate friendly technologies and practices. In the meantime, the city is addressing issues of housing affordability and exploring regional trade agreements to strengthen the local economy. Saskatoon led the Small City category, scoring well on account of fewer low-income households and less long-term household debt than its peers.

Cities should ensure their economic development initiatives create a broad range of positive spin-offs beyond just monetary wealth. Citizens: consider the benefits of supporting your local living economy by making informed purchasing decisions and joining business alliances, like Green Enterprise Toronto, which has amplified the voice of responsible business.

GOOD GOVERNANCE & EMPOWERMENT

Municipal governments have identified their own operations as low-hanging fruit on the road to sustainability: implementing green building, procurement, and fleet policies;

eliminating bottled water; and encouraging energy conservation. While leading by example is important, it is not enough: systemic, transformative leadership is required.

And a transformation in governance is precisely what we need. There's a sobering truth behind our cities' sustainable progress: every city on this list is fundamentally unsustainable. Cities making half-hearted promises about reduction targets need to be reminded of our collective challenge: in the next decade, we have to completely transform our relationship with our resources, our places, and our neighbours. Our thinking needs to evolve to the point that sustainability is integrated into each and every decision that we make. Our leaders must recognize that the choice is no longer how to make their city less harmful, but instead how to make their city beneficial to the planet. This shift begins with leaders who understand the

biological, chemical, and physical realities of our urban spaces, and commit themselves to bringing human activities into accord.

Effective governance requires both a top-down approach—providing municipalities with the jurisdictional power and financial discretion they need to make changes—and

Cities should ensure their economic development initiatives create a broad range of positive spin-offs beyond just monetary wealth.

a bottom-up approach—strong public participation and equitable representation in council. Our cities have become more ethnically but less gender representative over the past year. Without these pieces, progress and accountability are hindered and systemic

68%

EDMONTON

"Industry, Integrity, Progress"

Edmonton is helping to redefine sustainable progress in this country. With a strong sustainability policy filter, an inclining water pricing structure, and a representative city council, it's little wonder that Edmonton performed well in economic, ecological and governance measures. Sustainability gap: low population density has hindered progress on sustainable infrastructure improvements.

CALGARY

"Onward"

Onward to where, Calgary? The city's strong performance in economic indicators such as economic diversity, percentage of citizens living in poverty and unemployment suggest the city is on firm ground. But we urge Cowtown's new Sustainability Office to address these sustainability gaps: little green space and poor progress on waste diversion.

65%

MISSISSAUGA

"Pride in our Past, Faith in our Future"

Mississauga residents may have too much faith in their future: only 24.7 per cent showed up at the last municipal election—the lowest of any of our cities. Nonetheless, the city has the best representation of women on council and the lowest long-term debt per household of our considered set. Sustainability opportunity: a plan to address poor GHG reductions by increasing green space.

63%

OTTAWA

"Advance Ottawa"

Ottawa is advancing the waste management agenda: this year, the city will add organic waste collection to its comprehensive recycling program. Ottawa's highly educated and financially sound citizens benefit from extensive cultural opportunities but should work on the following sustainability gaps: low population density and minimal green retrofit incentives.

64%

HALIFAX

"From the Sea, Wealth"

Halifax knows that the environment is the source of all wealth. The city has the best waste diversion levels but the most sprawl, the lowest population density and the least green space of the considered set. Sustainability opportunity: more bike paths to encourage citizens to green their commute.

63%

HAMILTON

"Together Aspire, Together Achieve"

Hamilton's aspirations have not produced much in the way of inspiration. Our lowest-scoring medium size city suffers from the poorest air quality of any city under our consideration. Steeltown has held waste down with a strict garbage bag limit but could seize a sustainability opportunity: increase the density of built-up areas to facilitate green commutes and reduce GHGs.

60%

change becomes impossible.

Cities that scored well in the Governance and Empowerment category support an integrated vision of sustainability and regularly evaluate their progress. This approach is evident in Big City leader Edmonton, where council uses a triple bottom line value management tool to make decisions and measures progress on these axes. Similarly, Medium City winner, Vancouver's endorsement of sustainability as a guiding principle for planning and practice has translated into strong progress across the board. Small City leader Charlottetown achieved the highest voter turn out, with 59 per cent voting in its most recent municipal election, compared to the 38 per cent average of considered cities.

Many cities reported financial and jurisdictional roadblocks in advancing the sustainability agenda. Last year's top Medium City, Halifax (HRM), demonstrated exceptional leadership in spite of a lack of municipal authority by working with regional, provincial and national partners. Affordable housing is under the purview of the province of Nova Scotia so the city exerts

its influence in other ways: favourable taxation, land use regulations and partnerships with community groups. Seeking further opportunities to extend their impact, HRM officials founded the Sector Sustainable Procurement Network to collaborate and enhance the integration of sustainability into public procurement in Nova Scotia.

We look to city governments to empower citizens to set ambitious sustainability goals by making it easier to become engaged. Citizens must recognize that the city you want requires active participation in environmental assessments, community consultation, and volunteer opportunities, not just at election time.

INNOVATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite an ageing and increasingly unsuitable infrastructure, sustainable ideas are still taking root. Cities looking to inspire sustainable innovation should turn infrastructural challenges into opportunities. Most cities have improved their green construction incentives this year but other prime targets

62%

WINNIPEG

"One with the Strength of Many"

Winnipeg is planning to do more with the strength of many. With an active transportation stimulus plan and community GHG and waste reduction strategies in the works, the Peg stands to improve in coming years. Sustainability gaps: no ban on the use of pesticides and minimal effort to support regional economic development.

QUEBEC CITY

"I shall put God's Gift to use"

Quebec boasts the lowest average expenditure on shelter and the most ethnically representative council of the considered set. However, weaker performance in the Infrastructure and Built Environment category underscores the need to take advantage of green businesses incentives and retrofit programs to achieve GHG reductions.

61%

59%

CHARLOTTETOWN

"Birthplace of Confederation"

Charlottetowners love to celebrate our Confederation. They have the highest voter turn out in municipal elections and the lowest residential energy consumption. As city officials iron out the details of their integrated community sustainability plan, Charlottetown should seize the sustainability opportunity of meaningful GHG targets and strategies.

MONTREAL

"Well-Being Through Harmony"

Montreal's well-being is increasingly dissonant. Living in the only major city without an organic waste program, Montrealers also suffer from high long-term household debt and have the highest water consumption of our considered set. Sustainability opportunity: implement an increasing volume-based water-pricing structure to reduce consumption.

59%

Sustainable Thinking

More than 50% of the world's population lives in urban areas.

Their sustainable future demands innovative ideas in planning, design, infrastructure, business and lifestyle.

School of Planning

School of Environment,
Enterprise and Development



FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT
www.environment.uwaterloo.ca

include water and wastewater systems, transportation, and building retrofits.

Big City winner Toronto is working hard to maintain its status as the nation's LEED building capital. Under the city's new Sustainable Energy Strategy, staff are developing additional financial tools and by-laws to support retrofits for energy efficiency in addition to existing financing available through its Better Building Partnership. Moreover, the city shows remarkable creativity in its Mayor's Tower Renewal project—an initiative to “dramatically improve the energy efficiency of more than 1,000 high rise residential buildings” while addressing job creation and transit accessibility. In Vancouver, the city is making an unprecedented transition to green transportation by limiting overall road capacity. The city already boasts one of the country's highest levels of active transportation, with 37 per cent of residents commuting sans-car (not to mention, Vancouver also has the lowest obesity rate). Small City winner Yellowknife is implementing a remarkable Community Energy Plan that has enabled aggressive energy efficiency by-laws and geothermal district heating for the downtown core.

This complements the city's Smart Growth Plan incentives for intensification, redevelopment, and LEED certification.

Cities looking to spur shovel-ready innovation should consider the use of both carrots and sticks to move existing and future infrastructure in the right direction. Citizens should take advantage of green infrastructure incentives where they are available and push for civic leadership where they are not.

WEALTH IN WELL-BEING

City councils have recognized synergies between a healthy populace and strong economic performance, and are investing in human capital to ensure long-term sustainability. Farmer's markets are more accessible in cities across Canada and crime rates are down. But there is still ground to cover with respect to educational attainment, food security, and community participation.

In the nation's capital, social well-being is a definite strength: 85 per cent of residents have completed high school and Ottawa's many markets and events provide

INVEST LOCAL

Tough economic times have encouraged many organizations to search for new revenue streams. Why not cities? Investment opportunities with social, environmental, and economic benefits abound—they simply require institutionalization.

In the United States, many municipalities are benefiting from Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Bonds. Municipalities sell PACE bonds to investors and use the proceeds to finance commercial and residential energy retrofits. The beneficiary business or homeowner pays back the loan over several years through a levy on annual property taxes. Bondholders get a financial and social return on their investment, the city facilitates reductions in energy use, and the homeowner's financial burden is alleviated, with energy savings in most cases outweighing the small increase in property taxes. With the big hurdle of upfront costs out of the way, homeowners are lining up to take advantage of these programs. In Berkeley, the first PACE funds were snapped up within nine minutes.

Canadian cities looking for a similar boost should consider “value capture strategies” to finance public transit infrastructure, as Montreal's Transgesco, Toronto's Metrolinx, and Vancouver's TransLink are doing. The idea is simple: transit adds value to surrounding buildings and neighbourhoods. Rather than raising fares, value capture strategies, such as land value taxes, reclaim the subsidies embedded in real estate located near public transit. This mechanism is one of the reasons that Hong Kong's MTR is so financially successful.

61%

WHITEHORSE

“Our People, Our Strength”

Whitehorse's focus on its citizens has paid off. The city boasts a plethora of public arts events, low obesity rates, and an abundance of family physicians—a rarity in northern communities. Sustainability gaps: inordinate water consumption, low population density and less than 20 per cent of residents choosing green transportation options.

60%

SASKATOON

“Commerce, Industry, Education”

Saskatoon's prioritization of commerce and education has paid off in some respects: 79 per cent of residents have completed high school and the city's employment base is diverse. But Saskatoon would do well to expand the breadth of its priorities. Sustainability gaps: a toothless waste diversion target and minimal green economic incentives.

53%

ST. JOHN'S

“Go Forward”

St. John's continues to move forward on the road to sustainability. St. John's has the lowest water consumption of our cities but the highest obesity and unemployment rates. Continue to move forward, St. John's, by combining economic initiatives and green infrastructure improvements.

52%

SAINT JOHN

“O Fortunate Ones Whose Walls Are Now Rising”

The only place Saint John can go is up. New Brunswick's largest city has the poorest overall score, the worst waste diversion rates and the least women on council. The city can boost its results considerably in the coming years by taking advantage of the low hanging fruit identified by other cities. Sustainability opportunity: push for a pesticide ban.

A BRIGHT GREEN FUTURE



Vancouver Mayor
Gregor Robertson

WELCOME TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREENEST CITIES

Inspired by our spectacular surroundings and our record as an environmental leader, Vancouver has already made many smart green decisions. We've proven that a city can grow and prosper while still being green — through strategic investments in green infrastructure, policies and industry.

Our greenhouse gas emissions have already been reduced to 1990 levels. And with innovative ventures such as the Neighbourhood Energy Utility (which turns waste water into heat), transformational urban renewal projects and improvements to walking, cycling and transit, we're helping to create a bright green future for everyone. Join us as we make Vancouver the world's new green capital.

To learn more, visit vancouver.ca or vancouvereconomic.ca



* An official mark of the City of Vancouver

Halifax Regional Municipality #1 medium city in 2009

HRM is committed to a healthy, sustainable, vibrant community. Over the last few years we have invested more than \$7 million in energy efficiency projects.



Mayor Peter Kelly

Here are a few 2009 initiatives:

LED Streetlights



285 LED lights installed as a pilot project. A Nova Scotia made solution with significant savings expected.

Greenest Buildings in Canada



Large scale solar hot water to be installed in the new Canada Games Centre. 150 boreholes - more geothermal than anywhere else in Atlantic Canada.

Smart Car



The Smart Car Program for workplace travel encourages use of sustainable transportation for daily commuting.

Bottled Water



As part of a broader initiative to ensure clean drinking water is available for staff and citizens at all HRM facilities; Regional Council has agreed to discontinue the purchase and sale of bottled water in city hall.

HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY



www.halifax.ca/environment/sem0

OTHER CITIES DOING GREAT THINGS

OKOTOKS, AB—Recognizing the capacity of its local watershed, Okotoks established an urban growth boundary and population cap in 1998 to protect the community's quality of life and ecological integrity. Okotoks has embraced a holistic approach to community well-being which has yielded meaningful improvements in housing options, water use, and commuting decisions. The town also boasts North America's first solar community, Drake Landing, where a district energy system distributes a summer's worth of sunshine to meet 90 per cent of residential space heating needs during the winter months.

WATERLOO, ON—Canada's technology triangle is innovating in more than just high-tech. Sustainable Waterloo (SW), a not-for-profit group, is fortifying local green enterprise and guiding the region towards a more sustainable future. Orchestrating collaborations between industry, local government, academia and NGOs, SW supports these groups in the measurement and reduction of their carbon emissions. Sharing success within the region and with other communities, SW is catalyzing change in the way businesses approach carbon reductions.

WHISTLER, BC—When Whistler welcomes the world to the 2010 Olympic Games, lucky visitors can catch a glimpse into the future: 2020. That's the target year the Resort Municipality is using for envisioning, enabling, and entrenching its idea of a sustainable future. Whistler2020 uses The Natural Step's backcasting approach to consider where the city wants to go and evaluate progress on the journey towards that goal. The municipality shines in its web engagement platform, <http://www.whistler2020.ca>—an informative stop for anyone wondering how the project is progressing.


rich opportunities for community engagement. In the Medium City category, Vancouver has tackled housing affordability head on, mandating 20 per cent non-market rate housing in all new major housing developments, while providing 32 temporary shelter beds for every 10,000 residents. Finally, Whitehorse's densification strategy and frequent public arts events have contributed to high levels of life satisfaction.

Opportunities for increased well-being include citizen and government partnerships to nurture healthy, active, and creative neighbourhoods. Take Ottawa, for example, where art, urban revitalization, and community engagement are converging in the city's Hintonburg neighbourhood. Using funds from its "one per cent for art" policy, the city is working with residents to create a *Quartier des Artistes*—complete with local theatres, creative businesses, and community art projects.

Of course, our cities still face obstacles in achieving sustainability. Without a concerted effort on the part of citizens and municipal governments, without enlightened leadership from the provincial and

federal levels, and without collaboration and shared learning, our cities remain far from sustainable.

But as economist Kenneth Boulding once wrote, "Anything that exists is possible." The possibilities presented in every city we examined this year are immense. Imagine the magnitude of change that can be achieved through the sharing of best practices. Adapting what works to the particularities of each city ensures that urban areas will continue to be the source of solutions to the problems we face in this country and beyond.

In spite of unfavorable conditions, enlightened city governments across the country are making the bold steps that we require on the road to sustainability. It takes thoughtful leaders. It demands an engaged citizenry. But the short and long term benefits of the transition to sustainability are manifold and available to communities willing to put aside their differences in the service of a common goal. 

Hilary Best is Researcher, Special Projects at Corporate Knights.