

SFU

MORRIS J. WOSK
CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE

MAI · 2021
MAY · 2021

ON THE ROAD TO GLASGOW

Canadian Cities +
COP26

BRIEFING · DOSSIER · D'INFORMATION

FORE — WORD

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SHAUNA SYLVESTER

Executive Director

On behalf of the SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and our partners, I want to welcome you to our discussion primer for our upcoming roundtable **Cities On the Road to Glasgow**. I am excited that we have such a strong community of government, municipal, non-profit, academic and private sector leaders joining us on May 13, 2021 for this focused and policy-oriented dialogue.

To help prepare us for our discussion, we have prepared a short introduction to each of the issues we will be addressing:

1. **The Role of Cities in Canada's National Determined Contributions (NDCs)**
2. **The Race to Zero Campaign**
3. **The Role of Canadian Cities in the Convening of Mayors at COP 26**

Following each section, we have also identified some guiding questions to help prepare us for the dialogue.

We recognize that due to COVID-19 we may not be able to meet in person in Glasgow. Nevertheless, whether we are convening in virtual or in-person meetings, COP26 will play an important role in advancing a new era in global climate action. As leaders in climate mitigation and adaptation, Canadian cities have traditionally played an important role in advancing new thinking, approaches and strategies in reducing global greenhouse gases. They have been a driving force in the commitments to 100% renewable, they have introduced new innovations in the built environment, transportation, land-use planning, green financing and energy efficiency and they are leading public engagement in the race to net-zero.

Canada has a history of strong convening and facilitating within the international arena. As the first Centre for Dialogue in the world with a clear commitment to climate solutions, SFU is excited to serve as the host of this roundtable dialogue. Our goal is to support, not duplicate the excellent work of groups and municipalities across Canada and support collaborative efforts to increase the impact and effectiveness of cities in advancing climate solutions.

I want to thank the **Yosef Wosk Family Foundation** and **SFU** for financially supporting this work and I want to thank each of you for your contributions during our dialogue. We look forward to continuing to work with you to advance this critical effort.

If you do have any questions about the content or you would like to share your own documents, please send **Fergus Linley-Mota** (flinleym@sfu.ca) an email. We will prepare a list of additional resources to share with participants following the meeting.

Best Wishes,

SHAUNA SYLVESTER
SFU MORRIS J WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE



— OVER VIEW

OVERVIEW

ON THE ROAD TO COP26

Canada is preparing for COP26 against the backdrop of COVID-19. How will the nation recover? How will that recovery incorporate climate action, and what role will cities play?

Cities on the Road to Glasgow is as much about a city-led green and just recovery as it is about the global fight against climate change.



ADAPTATION + RESILIENCE

The global community must unite to develop anticipatory systems to protect communities from the worst effects of climate change.

ENERGY TRANSITION

Bring together energy ministers, finance leaders, and experts to support the transition to clean power globally.

CLEAN ROAD TRANSPORT

Work together to grow the market for zero emission mobility to scale up production and bring down costs quickly.

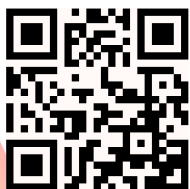
FINANCE

Shift investment environments in emerging markets, with global major financial decisions taking into account climate impacts.

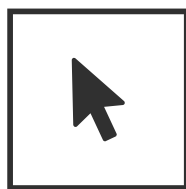
NATURE

Build momentum of efforts to transition to sustainable agriculture, and improved food, water and economic security.

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**COP26
DETAILS**

— **NDCs**
P.3

**THE RACE
TO ZERO**
P.5

**THE ROLE
OF CITIES**
P.7

**APPENDIX +
GLOSSARY**
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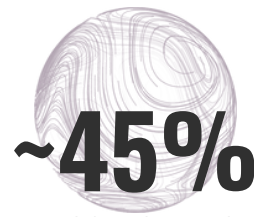
NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

At the heart of the Paris Agreement, are Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

CANADA'S CURRENT NDC

On April 22, Canada announced its plans to set its NDC at **40–45% below 2005 levels by 2030**¹. Canada will formally submit this new target to the UNFCCC in summer 2021.

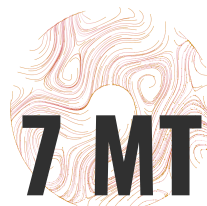
The federal government states that the **Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change** will yield a 142 MT reduction below 2005 levels by 2030. The implementation of **A Healthy Economy and a Healthy Environment** will yield a further reduction of 85 MT, bringing the total reduction to 31% below 2005 by 2030². New plans are underway to bridge the gap.



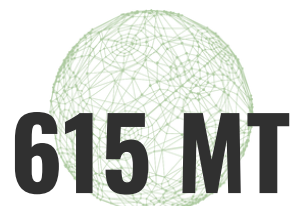
NEW GOAL CUT IN GHGs
BELOW 2005 LEVELS BY 2030¹



OLD GOAL CUT IN GHGs
BELOW 2005 LEVELS BY 2030¹



NEEDED CUT IN GHGs TO
ACHIEVE 1% BELOW 2005²



GOAL REDUCTION OF
GHGs IN MEGATONNES

SUFFICIENCY OF NDCs

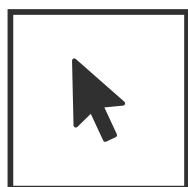
Current pledges, as of September 2020, would limit warming to between 2.6 – 2.8°C³. This would violate the terms of the Paris Agreement. COVID-19 has already derailed global ability to take stock, act, and update to more aggressive targets.

All parties are requested to submit updated NDCs to the UNFCCC by Nov 1, 2021. This update will be crucial in determining the success of our efforts before 2030. While a vast improvement, Canada's own new NDC is believed, by some, to be inadequate for what we are capable of doing domestically and through international cooperation.

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TRACK
COUNTRY
NDCs

THE ROLE OF CITIES + NDCs

THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Greater action is needed to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement; the IPCC says that cities need to be carbon neutral by 2050, if we are to stay within the 1.5°C goal.

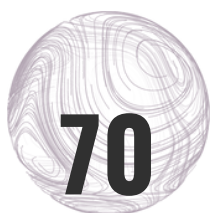
GLOBAL COMMUNITY

There are calls within the expert community to localize NDCs as part of the bigger picture of localizing the Paris Agreement, consistent with our response to the global pandemic⁴.

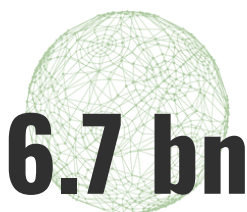
CITIES + CLIMATE

Local governments own and manage 60% or more of all infrastructure, including energy, water and waste, and are on the distribution frontline of goods and services.

SUGGESTED OPTIONS FOR CITIES + NDCs



LARGE CITIES PLEDGE NET ZERO CARBON BY 2050⁴



POPULATION EXPECTED TO LIVE IN CITIES BY 2050⁴

PARTNERSHIP

The federal government needs to partner directly with cities to develop, resource, implement, and monitor the outcomes and impacts of the NDC, all structured with a bottom-up approach.

REPORTING

Embed local climate plans into NDC reporting, effectively becoming Regional or Local Contributions (RLCs), and attach them to policy and funding through a National Urban Strategy.

RESOURCES

Direct resource flows to local implementation, impact measurement, and refinement of local plans, including financial supports like non-capital funding to reflect investments required.

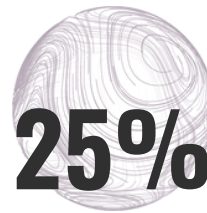
GUIDING QUESTIONS

- 1** Incorporating cities into NDC is a long-term goal. What can be done before and following COP26?
- 2** What mechanisms can cities use to adequately engage in the NDC reporting process?
- 3** What innovations in climate action, including measurement and reporting, do we need to invest in?

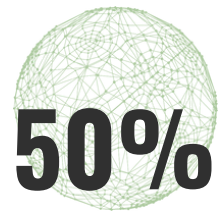
THE RACE TO ZERO

Race to Zero is a global campaign to rally business, cities, regions, and investors for a zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth ahead of COP26.

The coalition of leading net-zero initiatives join 120 countries to commit to net zero carbon emissions by 2050⁵. The objective is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy and send governments a resounding signal that business, cities, regions and investors are united in this effort.



SHARE OF GLOBAL CO₂
FROM COALITION ACTORS



SHARE OF GLOBAL GDP
FROM COALITION ACTORS

STARTING LINE CRITERIA

All commitments in the campaign are channeled through networks and initiatives that require participants to meet the following procedural criteria.

ENDORSE → PLEDGE → PLAN → PROCEED → PUBLISH

Endorse the four **Global Green New Deal Principles**.

Pledge to reach net zero by the 2040s to limit warming to 1.5°C.

Explain steps that will be taken + set an interim target for the decade.

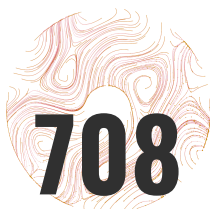
Take immediate actions, that are consistent with the interim targets.

Commit to reporting progress regularly, including through UNFCCC platforms.

CITIES RACE TO ZERO

The Cities Race to Zero is organised by **C40 Cities**, the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)**, **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)**, **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**, **CDP**, the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, and the **World Resources Institute (WRI)**.

It is an official partner of the COP26 Race to Zero, and is designed to help cities meet the Race's commitment criteria using the best available tools and expertise. **The objective is to recruit 1000 cities by COP26⁶.**



708
CITIES ALREADY IN THE
RACE TO ZERO PROCESS

CANADIAN CITIES + THE RACE TO ZERO

Seven Canadian cities (listed on right) are currently in the Race to Zero. Over 450 municipalities are part of the **Partners for Climate Protection** (PCP) and nearly 100 municipalities are using the **Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities** (BARC) programming.

Guelph, ON North Vancouver, BC
Halifax, NS Toronto, ON
Hamilton, ON Vancouver, BC
Montréal, QC



ICLEI Canada and the FCM are working to align the reporting for all municipal climate programs in Canada.

BENEFITS OF JOINING

VISIBILITY AT COP26

Official membership in Race to Zero and formal recognition by the COP26 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions.

TOOLS + RESOURCES

Tools to set or increase the ambition of a city's targets, and resources to support the implementation of climate action.

INCREASED ISSUE CAPACITY

Increased ability to address equity, climate, economic recovery, and job growth.

ALIGNMENT WITH PARIS

Align each member city's actions with the Paris Agreement.

ENDORSEMENT + PLATFORMS

Access to partner initiatives and endorsements, and global platforms to share city stories.

RALLY PRIVATE SECTOR

Opportunity to rally businesses, investors, and universities to partner in meeting the city's ambition.

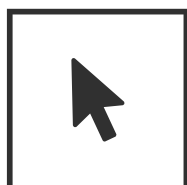
GUIDING QUESTIONS

- 1 How can we encourage Cities Race to Zero engagement among cities while avoiding confusion with other municipal climate programs and prevent commitment fatigue?
- 2 What will a strong showing of Canadian cities in the Cities Race to Zero accomplish domestically and/or internationally?
- 3 How can Canadian business, governments, and civil society work with cities to achieve net-zero by 2050?

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**LEARN MORE
+ JOIN**

THE ROLE OF CITIES

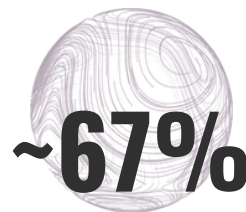
What role can Canadian cities play ahead of COP26? What are the next steps on the road to Glasgow? How can we engage the public on climate action?

KEY MESSAGES FOR COP26

1 We still need a green recovery, and we need to raise global ambition ahead of COP26. Our response to COVID-19 can help or hinder us. Leading economists agree that a low-carbon, sustainable recovery will help combat climate change, increase resiliency, and produce the best economic outcomes.

2 It must happen in cities. Cities have been hardest hit by COVID-19 and climate impacts, but are uniquely positioned to fight back. C40 has new [analysis](#) to show that a massive investment in city-led recovery by all levels of government can catalyze economic, health, and climate benefits.

3 Global city networks are ready. GCoM's network includes 10,000+ cities, with the strength in numbers to rapidly test, refine, and deploy policies and practices. NGOs are working closely to close the investment gap to fund climate-smart urban infrastructure projects. It is also working with the private sector, scientists, and research institutions to identify ways to address critical gaps to enable cities to take more ambitious action.



SHARE OF WORLD ENERGY CONSUMED BY CITIES⁸



SHARE OF WORLD GHGs PRODUCED BY CITIES⁴

VISIBLE PRESENCE

At COP26, Mayors can demonstrate that they are on the front lines of climate action, and collaborate with national government partners.

CANADIAN CONTEXT

Canadian mayors can work with Ottawa to channel investment in green infrastructure to cities on a rapid scale, and ensure climate, health, and economic targets are aligned.

COLLECTIVE VOICES

Not all individual cities across the nation can or will engage directly. Many will look to the FCM to be the collective voice of city interests, and link individual voices to broader voices and actions across the field.

THE ROLE OF MAYORS ON THE ROAD TO COP26

VISION FOR A MULTILEVEL COP26

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency of the UNFCCC has laid out the following 7-pillar vision for a "Multilevel Action COP"⁹.

- 1** Raise Ambition
- 2** NDC vertical integration + transparency
- 3** Localize climate finance
- 4** Balanced approach in mitigation and adaptation
- 5** Link climate to circular economy and nature
- 6** Amplify global climate action
- 7** Climate justice and social equity

THE NEED TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC

Cities are closest to the populations they serve. They also recognize that climate change does not need to be a polarizing issue, and that action on reducing GHG emissions can be taken through technically feasible and available mitigation measures.

The Katowice Climate Package from COP24, referred to as the **Paris Rulebook**, reaffirms the key role that a broad range of youth, women, and indigenous peoples play in ensuring climate action empowerment. It also encourages public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples in a gender-responsive manner⁴.

By engaging the public and bringing them along the journey of acting on climate change, we have a better chance of success in fulfilling the UN Sustainable Development Goal of Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)⁷. Building safe, affordable, and resilient cities requires an engaged public that can better inform decision making that affects these goals.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- 1** What role can and should cities play in national climate negotiations?
- 2** What are the most effective ways to bring national governments onside to support cities in their climate action?
- 3** How do we ensure a true green and just recovery? What role does equity play in these discussions (i.e. climate equity, vaccine equity, etc.)?
- 4** How can we better engage the public in these efforts?

IN — BRIEF

Canada's renewed NDC sets a target for the country as a whole. Cities can play a very important role in meeting these targets, and exceeding them. In the months leading up to COP26, it is important for Canadian entities to work together to identify strengths and needs to ensure that we approach Glasgow with a common purpose and sense of collaboration.

A unified Canadian presence speaking to each of the five campaigns of COP26 under the UK Presidency may yield partnership and investment opportunities that will support a green and just recovery for Canada from COVID-19. The urgency for action is clear – our next challenge is to centre the role of communities.



APPENDIX + GLOSSARY

REFERENCES USED

1. **Environment and Climate Change Canada.** (2021, April 23). Canada's Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/canadas-enhanced-nationally-determined-contribution.html>
2. **Service Canada.** (2021, March 17). Backgrounder: Updating Canada's Nationally Determined Contribution. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/backgrounder-nationally-determined-contribution.html>
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4. **UN Habitat.** (2020, June). Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through urban climate action | UN-Habitat. United Nations. <https://unhabitat.org/enhancing-nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs-through-urban-climate-action>
5. Coalition of leading net-zero initiatives represents 708 cities, 23 regions, 2162 businesses, 127 of the biggest investors, and 571 higher education institutions. **Race to Zero.** (n.d.). Home. Retrieved April 30, 2021, from <https://racetozero.unfccc.int/>
6. **C40 Knowledge Hub.** (n.d.). C40 Knowledge Community. Retrieved April 30, 2021, from https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/cities-race-to-zero?language=en_US
7. **UNDP.** (n.d.). Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities. Retrieved May 3, 2021, from <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-11-sustainable-cities-and-communities.html>
8. **C40 Cities.** (n.d.). C40. Retrieved May 4, 2021, from https://www.c40.org/why_cities
9. **LGMA.** (2020, December 11). COP26 – Cities & Regions Pavilion – LGMA. <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/cop26/>

DEFINITION OF TERMS

C40 Cities: The network of megacities committed to addressing climate change, that connects 97 world cities and represents 700+ million residents.

FCM: The Federation of Canada Municipalities, the national voice of municipal government in Canada representing 2000 municipalities.

GDP: Gross Domestic Product, the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a set period.

ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability, a network of 2500+ local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development.

MT: Megatonnes, the standard unit of measurement in the order of millions (10^6) tonnes and commonly used to quantify GHG emissions output.

Paris Agreement: The 2015 agreement made by 196 countries, signed in Paris, to ensure that global temperatures don't rise above 2°C , and pursue a goal limit of 1.5°C .

UNFCCC: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; entered into force in March 1994 with the aim "to prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system".

COP26: The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties, hosted by the United Kingdom in Glasgow from 1-12 November 2021.

GCoM: Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, the global alliance for 10,000 cities and local governments representing 900+ million residents.

GHGs: Greenhouse gases; refers to any gas capable of absorbing infrared radiation and contributing to climate change, via the greenhouse effect.

IPCC: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the UN body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change.

NDCs: Nationally Determined Contributions; refers to GHG reduction pledges made by sovereign nations party to the 2015 Paris Agreement

SDGs: UN Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by UN member states in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity by 2030.

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ON THE ROAD TO GLASGOW

Canadian Cities +
COP26

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MORRIS J. WOSK
CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE