

The +30 Network

The +30 Network is a peer learning Network of cities engaged in long-term planning for sustainability. The Network was launched at an inaugural conference and professional development seminar at the University of British Columbia in March 2004. As of the publication of this newsletter, 15 cities are members of the Network:

- Adelaide, Australia
- Bucharest, Romania
- Calgary, Canada
- Curitiba, Brazil
- Dakar, Senegal
- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Edmonton, Canada
- eThekweni (Durban), South Africa
- Matamoros, Mexico
- Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Salvador, Brazil
- San José, Costa Rica
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- The Greater Vancouver Regional District, Canada
- Whistler, Canada

This newsletter is intended to update members of the Network and the wider public on Network events and activities, website features, and sustainability highlights of member cities.

Current Events

The +30 Network held its third web dialogue March on Transportation and Long-term Planning. This dialogue session was guest facilitated by Jeff Kenworthy from the International Panel of Advisors and Gordon Price from the ICSC Board of Directors.

Some highlights included:

- The need for reduced supply of traditional energy and much higher energy costs to be included in the long-term vision for sustainable transportation. Energy efficiency

initiatives also address other urban goals such as reduced green house gases.

- Disincentives for the use of the personal automobile, such as charging peak hour traffic tolls and pay parking can be very effective, especially when combined with incentives that reward alternatives.
- The need for a regulatory framework - a spatial development framework - for transportation planning in combination with the art and creativity of transportation planners.
- Reduction of car registration within Vancouver and the densification of neighbourhoods contributing to this phenomenon. Vancouver was identified by Jeff Kenworthy as "the most interesting laboratory we have at present in a wealthy car owning environment to investigate the impacts of changes in urban development on car ownership, car use, transit use and so on."

Dr. Cissé, Director of the African Urban Management Institute and a key member of the +30 Network Dakar City Team, was in Canada from May 7 - 20, 2005. A specialist in waste management, Dr. Cissé was a keynote speaker at a conference in Edmonton, where he connected with the +30 Network City team representative. Over the course of his two day stop in Vancouver, he met with +30 Network representatives and affiliates from the GVRD, the City of Vancouver, University of British Columbia's Design Centre for Sustainability, Building Bridges Initiative, and EPI EcoPlan Group. This invaluable peer exchange proved beneficial for all participants and strengthened the Network's connection with the Dakar team.

ICSC Director of Programs - +30 Network, Jane McRae, attended Americana in Montreal from April 5 - 8,

2005. She hosted a +30 Network City Team meeting on April 8, 2005 for representatives from Dakar, Matamoros, Porto Alegre, Reynosa and Salvador. She also met with representatives from Sula Valley, Honduras, who are currently considering membership in the +30 Network.

Dakar, Senegal's first peer consultation workshop was held in on March 14-18, 2005. The workshop was co-facilitated by Jane McRae and Dr. Oumar Cissé, and organized by the Secretary General of Dakar, Mourade Gueye. Dakar city staff from numerous departments, local NGOs and National government representatives participated in the workshop which addressed the need to do strategic long-term planning, and presented tools and frameworks for long-term planning and public participation processes. eThekweni city planner, Sogen Moodley, and +30 Resource Consultant, Elisa Campbell, presented case studies from Vancouver region and Durban.

Sustainability Highlight

"30-year Waste Management Strategic Plan" (Edmonton, Canada)

Edmonton has become a national leader in effective waste management and through recycling, reuse and composting programs, about 60% of residential waste is diverted from the landfill - more than in any other major Canadian city.

The waste management plan begun in 1988 and incorporates key components of integrated project design. This article will focus on two components that are very relevant to +30 Network members - the multi stakeholder approach and the long-term time frame.

The strategic planning process included public hearings, open houses, requests

for proposals from private sector companies, a financing task force, and a waste management advisory group. Options and criteria for the plan such as financial, technical and political factors were debated and evaluated throughout the public consultations.

The waste management advisory group was formed by the City Council in order to access feedback from a cross-section of stakeholders including members at large, the federation of community leagues, the chamber of commerce, the building owners and managers association, labour unions, private waste companies, environmental organizations, school boards and the Edmonton Home Builders Association. The group remained active for 3 years, at which time they voted unanimously to disband, entrusting that the city would continue to uphold its commitment to public consultation and operations.

The major components of the plan, such as the composting facility, the materials recovery facility, the blue bag program, the Eco Stations for household hazardous waste and multi-family recycling collection, have been implemented and the City has integrated public input and dialogue into its daily operations. For example, the City has a call centre, a volunteer program, and a partnership with the school board and various outreach programs, all of which work to ensure that the Waste Management Branch receives ongoing input from citizens and is able to track citizen satisfaction levels.

Given that most facilities have a minimum operating life of 30 years, the City chose to develop a 30 year strategic plan in order to accommodate the needs of the private sector in making commitments based on the life span of their facilities. This method of establishing an appropriate planning time frame can be extended to other urban issues, given that most infrastructure now lasts 50 - 100 years.

The city is currently looking to expand the plan to 2015 based on an assessment of the City's needs over the next 10 years. A key area that will be addressed is further diversion from landfill. Gasification technology is being assessed to determine the feasibility of using the residuals from the composting and recycling facilities as an energy source, which could potentially increase the rate of diversion from the landfill to up to 90 per cent (from the current 60%).

"The plan and its policies and operations have helped to instill a sense of pride and ownership among the citizens of Edmonton. The city has very high participation rates in all its programs, including curbside recycling, multi-family recycling, backyard composting and reuse, and satisfaction levels are consistently high."

Connie Boyce, Director of Strategic Planning and Community Relations

One of the outcomes of the strategic plan is the Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence. This non-profit corporation combines the expertise and facilities of the City of Edmonton, various post-secondary educational and research institutions and a private sector company. The organization is focused on advancing waste management research and practitioner training. This collaborative effort continues to evolve each year as more sponsors and members are recruited to the organization. The synergy created by this coalescence will contribute to the protection of public health, the sustainable use of environmental resources and the quality of life in Alberta and globally.

Waste Hotline: 496-5678
www.edmonton.ca/waste



One of Edmonton's two Eco stations - comprehensive waste drop-off facilities

We would like to highlight a best practice urban sustainability initiative in each of the Network's cities. Please contact Samantha Anderson sjanderson@icsc.ca 604-666-5505 with suggestions for future sustainability highlights.

Web Features

There have been many additions to the +30 Network Resource Library. Articles we would like to highlight include the following.

From the Sustainability Background section:

- *Transportation and Urban Planning for Sustainable Cities*, Jeff Kenworthy, Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy - Murdoch University
- *Green City Adelaide*, Alison Dwyer, City of Adelaide, Australia
- *Child-and-Youth Friendly Land Use and Transport Guidelines* - Centre for Sustainable Transportation, Ontario Canada

From the Best Practices and Case Studies section:

- *Durban's City Development Strategy* - Durban City Planning Department

Organizational Structure

The Partners

The +30 Network Partners serve as the management committee for the Network, sit on the selection committee and on the International Panel of Advisors. They are:

- The International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC)
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
- The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), and
- The University of British Columbia's Design Centre for Sustainability

Key Secretariat Personnel

The International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC), a non-government organization based in Vancouver, Canada is the secretariat of the +30 Network. For more information on ICSC, please visit our website at www.icsc.ca.

Dr. Nola-Kate Seymoar, President and CEO of the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, Chair, Management Committee, International Panel of Advisors

Jane McRae, Director of Programs

Samantha Anderson, Communications Manager and Web Administrator

Alison Ritchie, City Liaison

International Panel of Advisors

Co-Chairs:

Mike Harcourt, Chair, Government of Canada External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities, Canada

Liz Dowdeswell, President, Nuclear Waste Management Organization, Canada, former Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program

Network Partner Representatives:

Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

Johnny Carline, Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD)

Nola-Kate Seymoar, International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC)

Elisa Campbell, University of British Columbia (UBC)

Affiliates:

Heather Schoemaker, Industry Canada

Members:

Alan Artibise, Divisional Dean, Arizona State University, USA

Sengul Ackar, President, Foundation of Support for Women's Work, Turkey

Jeb Brugmann, President, Globalegacy International Ltd., Canada

Ken Cameron, CEO, Homeowner Protection Office, Canada

Gwynne Dyer, Journalist, England

Prema Gopalan, Executive Director, Syawam Sikshan Prayog, India

Sir Peter Hall, Professor of Planning, University College of London, England

Hazel Henderson, Evolutionary Economist and Author, USA

Jeff Kenworthy, Associate Professor, Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy, Murdoch University, Australia

Ashok Koshla, President, Development Alternatives, India

Karl - Henrik Robèrt, Founder The Natural Step, Sweden

Alice Soulek, President, Back Stop Light Reflector, LLC and Alice B. Soulek, LLC, USA

Nicholas You, Coordinator Best Practices and Local Leadership UN Habitat, Kenya

Contact Us

For further information about the +30 Network: Planning for Long-term Urban Sustainability please visit the website at www.plus30network.ca or contact:

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