

Greening the City's vehicles and heavy equipment

Transportation is responsible for 36% of greenhouse gas emissions in BC.

To help contribute to the Greenest City 2020 target of reducing carbon emissions by 33%, the City has implemented an extensive program to reduce the environmental impact of our vehicles and heavy equipment.

Emission reductions will be achieved through:

- Green technology
- Training and operations
- Purchasing decisions

Green technology

Biodiesel fuel

Nearly all of the City's diesel-powered vehicles use biodiesel, a fuel made from canola oil, a renewable resource. 85% of the fleet uses B5 (5% biodiesel) and 15% of the fleet uses B20 (20% biodiesel).

Biodiesel reduces unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and smoke emissions.

Electric vehicles

In November, 2009, the City added an all-electric Mitsubishi iMiEV to the fleet, as part of a larger vehicle-testing agreement with Mitsubishi, the Province of BC, and BC Hydro.

The fleet also includes a Toyota Prius, which has been modified to work as a plug-in electric hybrid, giving it several times the normal electric capacity, and even lower fuel use and carbon emissions.

Vancouver is also part of a Renault-Nissan Zero-Emission partnership, and has added the first Nissan LEAF all-electric car to the fleet.

Training and operations

Efficient driving practices

The City has implemented a comprehensive program to reduce vehicle idling and wasteful fuel use.

The program includes:

- Driver training and staff education
- "Idle-free" signee
- Idle cut-offs set to three minutes
- A complete "no air conditioning" policy

To complement these, vehicles now have cab heaters to allow staff to keep warm without idling, and some test vehicles have instant-feedback devices so drivers can monitor their fuel economy.

Did you know?



Vancouver is the first Canadian city to require that all new houses and developments install wiring to allow for future charge stations for electric vehicles.

[Read the requirements](#)

Car sharing

The City has a contract with the Co-operative Auto Network to maintain a pool of vehicles near City Hall.

During the day, the shared vehicles are available to City staff, reducing the cost of the City owning and maintaining fleet vehicles. During off hours, most of the cars are available to the public, boosting the growth of this green alternative to car ownership.

Recycling

The Equipment Services Branch now recycles 150 tonnes of scrap metal a year, recycles oil and vehicle batteries, and uses retread tires. Even the bed liners in City pickup trucks are made from recycled tires.

This saves 80,000 liters of oil and over \$300,000 annually.

Purchasing

The City's fleet is managed centrally. This allows us to:

- Save fuel, by making sure new vehicles are of the minimum size and power necessary.
- Minimize the number of idle vehicles, by evaluating the best mode of ownership (rent, lease, or own).

The City also does many services in-house, including outfitting, maintenance repair, and fabrication. This not only saves money up front, it reduces the time that vehicles are out of service, which has added cost savings.

These efforts allow us to free up money to offset the cost of new energy-efficient technologies and improved training. At the same time, a smaller and more intensively used fleet reduces environmental impact.

[Learn how you can green your own business](#)

[Sustainable programs for businesses](#)

Learn about programs and incentives you can take advantage of to reduce energy use, save money, and make your business operations more sustainable.