



Becoming the
greenest city in the
world by 2020

Park Board Planning and
Environment Committee

September 9, 2010



IMAGINE 2020. JUST TEN YEARS FROM NOW. VANCOUVER IS THE GREENEST CITY IN THE WORLD.



In early 2009, Mayor Gregor Robertson formed the Greenest City Action Team (GCAT) to determine how Vancouver can become the greenest city in the world by 2020.



Greenest City Action Team



Local experts in:

- Climate protection
- Transportation
- Land use
- Green energy
- Food security
- Environmental health
- Biodiversity
- Economic development
- Finance





VANCOUVER 2020 A BRIGHT GREEN FUTURE

AN ACTION PLAN FOR BECOMING THE WORLD'S GREENEST CITY BY 2020

- Report created by GCAT, containing:
 - 10 broad **long-term goals**
 - 10 suggested **targets** to achieve by 2020
 - Suggested action items



VANCOUVER 2020 A BRIGHT GREEN FUTURE
AN ACTION PLAN FOR BECOMING THE WORLD'S GREENEST CITY BY 2020



THE GREENEST CITY GOALS



ONE



Green Economy: Secure Vancouver's international reputation as a mecca of green enterprise

Proposed 2020 target: Double the number of green jobs by 2020



TWO



Climate Leadership: Eliminate Vancouver's dependence on fossil fuels

2020 target: **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33 per cent from 1990 levels**



THREE



Green Buildings: Lead the world in green building design and construction

Proposed 2020 targets: **All new construction carbon neutral;**

Improve efficiency of existing buildings by 20 per cent

FOUR



Green Mobility: Make walking, cycling, and public transit preferred transportation options

Proposed 2020 targets: Over 50 per cent of trips on foot, bicycle, and public transit;

Reduce motor vehicle km traveled per resident

FIVE



Zero Waste: Create zero waste

Proposed 2020 target: **Reduce by 40 per cent the solid waste going to landfill or incinerator**

SIX



**Easy Access to Nature:
Provide incomparable access to green spaces**

Proposed 2020 targets: Every person lives within a five-minute walk (300 metres) of a natural space;

Plant 150,000 trees

SEVEN



Lighter Footprint: Achieve a one-planet ecological footprint

Proposed 2020 target: Reduce per capita ecological footprint

EIGHT



Clean Water: Enjoy the best drinking water of any major city in the world

Proposed 2020 targets: Always meet the strongest of BC, Canadian and WHO drinking water standards;

Reduce per capita residential water consumption by 20 per cent by 2020 and 50 per cent by 2050

NINE



Clean Air: Breathe the cleanest air of any major city in the world

Proposed 2020 target: Always meet the most stringent of WHO, US EPA, Canada, BC or Metro Vancouver objectives for air quality

TEN



Local Food: Become a global leader in urban food systems

Proposed 2020 target: **Reduce the carbon footprint of our food**



Process



- Developing implementation plans
 - The process is guided by the Sustainability Office
 - The GCAT Steering Committee is an interdepartmental group who manage the process
 - An interdepartmental Working Group for each of the goal areas leads the development of 2020 implementation plans, in consultation with the external advisory committees and with input from the broader community.

PROCESS



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Talk Green to Us



- Pecha Kucha Night kick off event
- 2,000+ attendees
- 13 inspirational presenters
- Video available on talkgreentous.ca
- On-line consultation





HOME

ABOUT

READ THE GOALS

SHARE YOUR IDEAS



Imagine 2020. In just ten years, Vancouver will be the **greenest** city in the world.



WHAT IS THE GREENEST CITY INITIATIVE?

Find out more

Start contributing your green ideas today.

OUR GREEN CITY

Our Green Goals

Create zero waste. Eliminate dependence on fossil fuels. These are just two of the City of Vancouver's [ten greenest city goals](#). Learn about all ten, and tell us how you think they can best be achieved.

MORE ABOUT THE GOALS

A VISION THIS BOLD CANNOT BE REALIZED ALONE.

That's why we're inviting you to 'talk green to us.'

Share your ideas for making Vancouver the greenest city in the world. Help us make the critical choices. Help us prioritize between blue-sky visions and immediate opportunities. This is your city – make it better. Between June and September, add your voice to this life-changing conversation. Share your ideas or vote on the ones you like.

SHARE YOUR IDEA

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

How can we reach our 2020 Greenest City Targets?


Start by **searching** keywords for a similar idea

[top ideas](#)[hot](#)[new](#)[accepted](#)[completed](#)

118
votes

Put the Blue into Green: daylight our Lost Creeks


The few Vancouver creeks that have been daylighted is a tragedy. In just a century, we've covered over dozens of fresh water creeks that used to traverse Vancouver. In doing so, we've also annihilated the plant, marine, bird and ground animal wild life that thrived in these natural, unique ecosys... [more](#)

by Janna L. Sylvest in Improve access to nature |  13 comments

65
votes

Revitalize the False Creek Flats

False Creek used to end all the way out before Clark Drive as tidal flats 100 years ago, before the construction of a bulkhead near Quebec street to keep the tide back. These tidal flats formed an important estuary system for the salmon-spawning creeks which flowed into False Creek and is essent... [more](#)

by anonymous in Improve access to nature |  4 comments


61
votes

Convert streets to mini parks, green linkages and/or open space

[Sign](#)

20 VOTES LEFT!

[What happens if I run out?](#)

 GC 2020 activity feed

Categories

All Ideas

Build carbon neutral new buildings (11)

Create green jobs (28)

Encourage local food (23)

Encourage shorter vehicle trips (9)

Green existing buildings (17)

Improve access to nature (22)

Improve air quality (13)

Improve water quality (5)

Lighter Footprint (18)

PARK BOARD PARTICIPATION



Easy Access to Nature: **Provide incomparable access to green spaces**

Proposed 2020 targets:

Every person lives within a five-minute walk of a natural space.

Plant 150,000 trees.



Easy Access to Nature Working Group



○ Representatives of:

- Park Board
- Engineering Services
- Development Services
- Community Planning
- Street Design
- Greenways
- Sustainability Group
- Greenest City “scholars” program

Easy Access to Nature External Advisory Committee

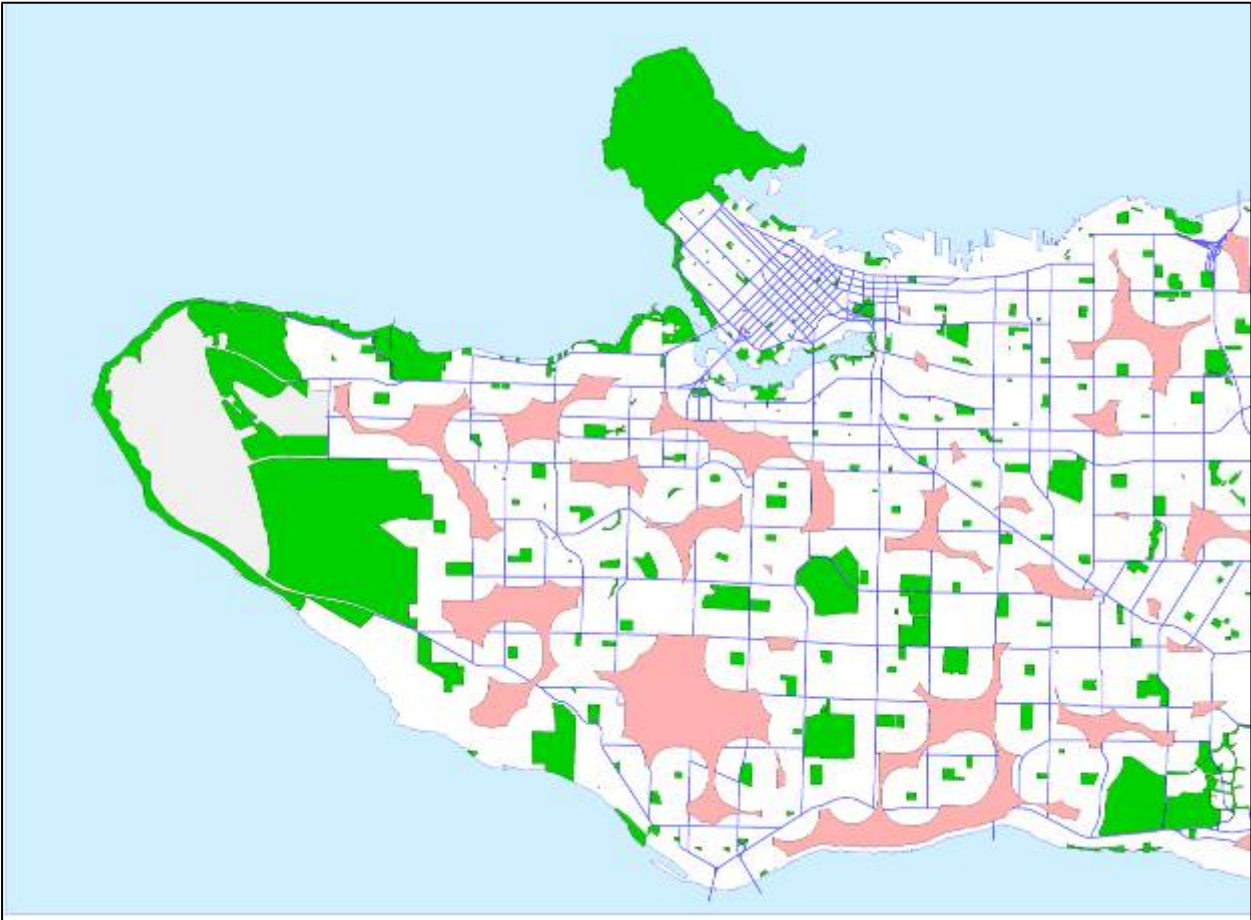


○ Representatives of:

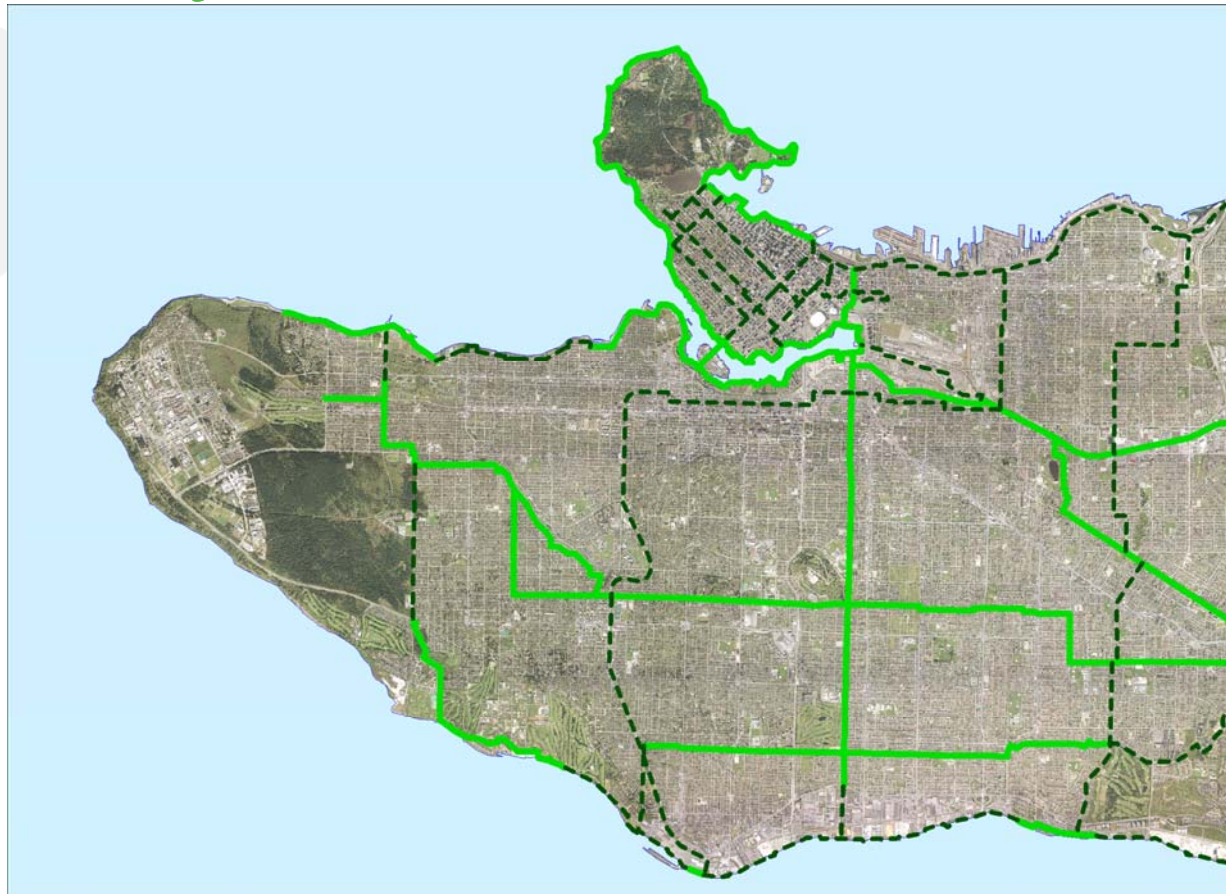
- Science and Environmental Education Faculty of Education Simon Fraser University
- Vancouver Public Space Network
- Evergreen
- Jericho Stewardship Group
- BC Society of Landscape Architects
- Institute for Resources, Environment & Sustainability, UBC
- Nature Vancouver
- Vancouver School Board
- Stanley Park Ecology Society



Target 1:
Every
person
lives within
a five-
minute
walk of a
natural
space



Strategy 1: Complete the Council-approved City Greenways network.



Strategy 2: Re-purpose existing local street bikeways into greenways.



29th Avenue
Bikeway



Strategy 3: Develop sections of streets into natural and usable park-like spaces



Strategy 4: Acquire more park land and public open spaces



Target 2 - Plant 150,000 trees



Strategy 1:
Develop an
Urban Forest
Management
Plan, which would
include updating
and incorporating
existing tree
management
plans.





Action 1: Increase street tree planting



Action 2: Increase park, playground, golf course, cemetery and other city-owned lands tree planting





Action 3: Increase tree planting on private property





Next steps

- **September 15: Easy Access to Nature working group meets with the External Advisory Committee**
- **Late September: Share Easy Access to Nature draft implementation plan with EAC for comment**
- **October 8: Submit draft plan to GCAT**
- **Fall 2010/Winter 2011: Public feedback on draft plans**
- **Spring 2011: Greenest City 2020 plans completed**