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Trends in Canada
Facts from the *Renewables in Cities 2021 Global Status Report*

Key Takeaways on Renewable Energy in 2020 in Canada

- In Canada, a major policy focus in large cities (notably **Montreal**, **Toronto** and **Vancouver**) was increasing the share of renewable energy across not just the power sector, but also heating, cooling and transport.
- In 2020, climate emergency declarations were set in 504 municipal governments in Canada (1,852 worldwide). Governments in Europe dominated these efforts, with a total of 826 declarations, followed by Canada (504). One city in Canada (**Vancouver**) had a climate action plan as well.

Brand new data shows

- Only 16 cities in Canada with renewable energy targets and policies (from a global total of over 1,300 cities). This covers 10.7 million people, 36% of the urban population in Canada.
- On a global scale, Canadian cities are lagging behind on setting net-zero[1] targets: only 25 cities had a net-zero target (from a global total of around 800 cities with net-zero targets)
- Canadian cities are frontrunners in declaring a climate emergency: 504 cities (of which 403 councils in Québec) had declared a climate emergency; worldwide 1,852 cities have such a declaration.

2020 Renewable Energy Developments in Canadian Cities

City renewable energy commitments and policies

- 16 cities in Canada have renewable energy targets
    - 8 cities, including **Calgary**, **Edmonton**, **Vancouver** and **Victoria** set targets to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050.
- To harness renewable energy potential, solar maps have been made available by municipal governments around the world, including in **Calgary**.
- **Fossil fuel bans are slowly picking up in Canadian cities:**

[1] Net-zero" emissions can be achieved, for example, by using natural sinks, such as reforesting land or adopting agricultural best practices, or through a technological solution, such as carbon capture and storage. Net-zero targets also are referred to commonly as “climate-neutral”, “carbon-neutral” or “zero-emission” targets, although technically these are not the same. Carbon neutrality refers to net-zero emissions of only CO2, whereas climate neutrality indicates a broader focus on net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases. There is no agreed-upon definition, and implementation of these targets also varies broadly.

    - **Montreal** passed a fossil fuel bans in buildings for oil by 2021, and **Montreal** passed a target for natural gas ban by 2030.
    - **Vancouver** has a ban on natural gas in buildings and a policy for Carbon-Neutral New Buildings requiring all new buildings be carbon-neutral by 2030.
- **Integrated policy design: Vancouver** adopted new or revised local green building and energy codes requiring that certain new buildings be "EV ready" as well as "solar ready", which entails installing the appropriate electrical infrastructure to enable EV charging stations to rely on renewable electricity.
- The **Vancouver** city council approved a bylaw requiring zero-emission space and water heating for all residential buildings of three stories or less starting in January 2022.

Scaling up renewables in buildings and transport

- **EV charger mandates for new buildings have become more commonplace at the city level**, thanks to city mandates.
- District **cooling and heating is expanding:**
    - In **Toronto**, a ground-source heat pump system to provide heating and cooling for a new 600-unit apartment complex was completed in 2019.
    - In 2019, **Toronto** announced a new investment into its district cooling system (launched in 2004) utilising direct heat exchangers and the municipal water supply from Lake Ontario to cool hospitals, data centres, educational campuses, government buildings, and commercial and residential buildings.
- **Electrification of urban transport is gaining ground,** although most cities with e-mobility targets do not link them directly to renewable electricity, several cities have adopted separate targets for e-mobility and renewable electricity, including **Toronto**.
    - In Canada, the electric taxi service Téo Taxi put 55 EVs on the roads of **Gatineau** and **Montreal** in 2020.
- **Partnering with stakeholders: Toronto** partnered with the gas company Enbridge Gas to install biogas upgrading equipment for biomethane production (expected production 3.3 million cubic metres of biomethane per year), to fuel waste collection trucks and other municipal vehicles and provide renewable heat for **Toronto's** buildings and other facilities.

Financing renewables in cities and citizen participation

- Green bonds amounted to USD 150.7 million in **Toronto**, Canada in 2019.
- The PPA model also has been used in Canada: for example, in 2020 the Royal Bank of Canada signed a PPA for two utility-scale solar PV farms in Alberta totalling 39 MW.

Canada's Energy Profile

https://www.iea.org/countries/canada

Regional Trends: North America

- In North America, the use of shore power is mandatory under state regulation at ports in California (US), including **Los Angeles**, **Oakland**, **San Diego** and **San Francisco**. Shore power

connections also are available in **Halifax** (Nova Scotia), **Seattle** (Washington, US) and **Vancouver** (British Columbia).

- 136 North American cities had net-zero emission targets (of which 85 had both net-zero and renewable energy targets).
- There were 532 renewable energy policies in place in North American cities: 252 regulatory policies, 79 fiscal/financial policies and 201 enabling policies.

Questions? Please contact press@ren21.net or +33 1 44 37 50 99.

All report materials, figures, case studies and the full data pack can be downloaded here: http://ren21.net/rec2021press