

A POLICY AGENDA FOR CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

There is enormous opportunity for Canadian cities to exemplify leadership in sustainable development, while stimulating the green economy, dramatically reducing reliance on fossil fuels, creating resilient and adaptable cities, and improving the overall quality of life for Canadian citizens.

This policy agenda provides for the implementation of sustainable development at the municipal level in a systematic, concrete, and step-wise fashion. The agenda is derived from a sustainable cities strategic review, including six international case studies, and an analysis, conducted by the Royal Roads University Canada Research Chair on Sustainable Community Development (CRC), and the Sustainable Solutions Group (SSG) in collaboration with an advisory team drawn from 20 Canadian municipalities and organizations, towards the potential applicability and adaptation of the best practices to Canadian contexts.

Two action agenda items were identified as key for successful sustainable development: first, **clear multi-level governance arrangements** must be in place to ensure that all key actors articulate a clear vision for their community, outcomes-based strategies and plans, a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities, specific policy/regulatory/fiscal tools each will bring to the table and a robust accountability and reporting arrangement to monitor and report on implementation progress, adjust planning and keep citizens engaged; and, second, **data**, everything from baseline information on the starting points (environmental and other) describing where the municipality is in terms of sustainable development performance, to performance indicators and metrics of success to measure progress toward strategic outcomes.

While Canadian municipalities do not have access to the significant financial resources seen in a number of the case studies, they can however, adopt, adapt, and prioritize a number of the best practices seen across the case studies to further the implementation of sustainable development.

1. Adopt a systems-wide, integrated approach to sustainable development planning.
2. Reframe sustainable development in business cases, illustrating the economic benefits, as well as the ecological and the social benefits gained through sustainable development projects.
3. Implement quantitative and qualitative performance measurement indicators, monitor and report regularly on progress and benefits accrued.
4. Integrate on-going community engagement into municipal sustainable development planning.
5. Facilitate partnerships and alliances for sustainable development plans and projects.
6. Re-direct cost-savings to fund additional projects.
7. Leadership and Investment.
8. Implement integrated solutions to infrastructure provision.

For the complete policy agenda, visit

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