Moving Best Practices Forward for Sustainable Communities

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National Academy of Sciences
May 29, 2013

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Points of Inquiry

- **What have we learned about cities as agents of sustainability?**

- **What big opportunities are not being realized?**

- **What should be the top priorities for scaling municipal accomplishments?**

- **How can we bring private capital, foundation capital and federal support to this effort?**

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Carbon Neutral City Research

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

"What are the building blocks for carbon neutral communities, and what are the developmental stages for getting there?"

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http://carbonneutral.in4c.net

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What Does It Mean to Achieve "80X50"?

An 80% reduction in total emissions by 2050

= 88% reduction in per capita emissions
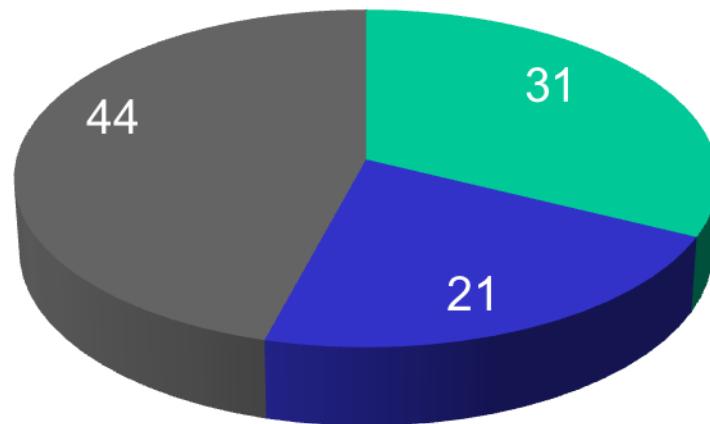
= 97% reduction in per unit GDP emissions

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In a recent survey of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) members 52 out of 96 (54%) respondents indicated that they have long term plans in place for GHG emissions reduction.

Has your city/county set transformation LONG TERM GHG reduction goals (by 2050)?

- Yes, we have established GHG reduction goals for 40-50 years from now
- We are just starting or still in the process to establish such goals
- No, we have not established such goals and don't plan on doing so in the next few years

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There are Nine Key Strategies Across Six Sectors

Emissions Source	Carbon Reduction Strategy
Commercial & Residential Buildings	Achieve net zero emissions in 100% of new buildings by 2030
	Achieve 30%-50% emissions reductions in 100% of existing buildings
Industrial	Achieve 3%+ annual improvements in energy efficiency of industrial processes, and reduce building energy use by at least 15%
Transportation	Achieve annual net decreases in total Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
	Decrease emissions per VMT by 50%-75%
Waste	Eliminate 100% of solid waste disposed of via landfill or incinerator
Energy Generation	Achieve 80%-90% de-carbonization of the electricity and heating supply
System-Wide	Implement efficient land use planning
	Design municipal infrastructure for low carbon performance

These strategies require multi-decade "roadmaps".

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Some Issues & Challenges

- 80X50 requires fundamental redesign of multiple systems

- System "owners" must internalize the goals to drive innovation
    - Buildings
    - Industrial
    - Transportation
    - Waste/Water
    - Energy Generation
    - Land Use

- 80X50 GHG emissions scopes typically omit significant emissions sources – cities can't "go it alone"

- Leading cities will serve as the "innovation labs" for broader policy solutions

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Panel Members

- Melanie Nutter, Director, San Francisco Department of the Environment

- Jill Fuglister, Program Officer, Meyer Memorial Trust

- Susan Anderson, Director, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, City of Portland

- Julia Parzen, Coordinator, Urban Sustainability Directors Network

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