



YEAR-IN-REVIEW – 2016

Created in early 2015 the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance is the only global network of cities focused and collaborating on transformative change in urban systems to achieve carbon neutrality. In 2016 Alliance members unanimously indicated that the Alliance's value proposition is unique among city-based global networks, and that they are strongly satisfied with the value that working together as an Alliance had delivered so far. The following provides an overview of CNCA's activities and key accomplishments in 2016.

- **Raised Nearly \$2.75 Million USD to Sustain and Advance the Alliance** – We were awarded generous grants from The Kresge Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Barr Foundation, Summit Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Bullitt Foundation to sustain and advance the Alliance's work in 2016-17.
- **Added Three New Member Cities:**
 - Adelaide, Australia
 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 - Toronto, Canada
- **Awarded a Second Round of Projects under the CNCA Innovation Fund** – Awarded a second round of funding—eight projects totaling \$879,240 that endeavor to accelerate deep de-carbonization around the world by showing the "art of the possible" in urban climate change. Projects include:
 - Capitalizing Carbon to Accelerate EV Charging Investments (lead city: Portland)
 - Thermal Break Shear Wall (lead city: Portland)
 - Bringing Renewable Thermal Solutions to Scale in New England (lead city: Boston)
 - How to Scale Corporate Renewable Electricity PPAs in Australia (lead city: Melbourne)
 - Food and Energy in a Circular Economy (lead city: Stockholm)
 - London Energiesprong Trial Project (lead city: London)
 - RealIZE: Bringing the clean industrial revolution to existing residential buildings (lead city: San Francisco)
 - Scandinavian Green Public Procurement Alliance (lead City: Copenhagen)
- **Facilitated Greater Discussion and Collaboration Among CNCA Members** – A core function of CNCA is to facilitate ongoing dialogue among CNCA cities to help cities share results of individual and collaborative strategy work and discuss Alliance strategy. In 2016 CNCA:



- Hosted several webinars/calls to allow CNCA cities to discuss overcoming particular deep decarbonization challenges.
 - Held two “Deep Carbon Reduction Plan Peer Review Sessions” for members to present their 80x50/carbon neutrality/fossil fuel-free plans and offer peers the chance to ask questions and provide feedback.
 - Distributed a monthly e-news to update CNCA members on Alliance activities and upcoming events and share members’ deep de-carbonization milestones and global carbon neutrality-related news.
- **Supported Strategic Communications to Allow Members to Communicate More Effectively and With a Common Voice** – Provided enhanced research and communications support to CNCA cities to allow them to communicate with a common voice on visions of the future, more effectively engage with external stakeholders critical to the cities’ success, foster deep decarbonization behavior change, and build support for policies necessary to achieve deep carbon reductions. CNCA:
 - Helped member cities place high-profile media stories and raise awareness about key deep decarbonization policies and strategies, including [Oslo](#), [Portland](#), [Vancouver](#) and [Yokohama](#).
 - Developed member-requested communications tools, such as an infographic showing how much money is leaving the community in fossil fuel expenditures, where that money is going, and what that money could instead fund locally to contribute to the city’s clean energy future (see some of the cities’ infographics [here](#)).
 - Conducted a social media training for members.
- **Advanced the Carbon Neutrality Agenda at COP 21** – Provided research and communications support to CNCA cities in the run-up to COP 21 to allow members to communicate with a common voice going into Paris. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon [called out CNCA’s leadership](#) by saying, “Alliances like the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance are accelerating and scaling up climate commitments.”
 - Helped create recognition platforms for mayors and CNCA cities to speak about their commitments at COP at several events, including the “Climate Summit for Local Leaders,” “Subnational Leaders Showing the Way: Governors and Mayors Around the World Reducing Emissions & Creating Economic Opportunity,” “100% Renewable Cities Dialogue,” and “Zero Emissions by 2050 Symposium.”
 - Developed and shared talking points for cities to use in communicating about their carbon neutral goals and leadership at COP 21.
 - Helped CNCA cities to publish joint statements at COP and pre- and post-COP events.



- **Developed a Three-Year Strategic Plan** – In 2016 CNCA undertook a strategic planning process to establish the vision and priorities for CNCA, identify opportunities to increase CNCA’s global influence, and develop a business plan and fundraising strategy to implement the vision and priorities for the next three years (2017-2020). Part of the strategy involves expanding the CNCA Innovation Fund to significantly scale up a robust, pipeline of key innovations in deep decarbonization system-change practices.
- **Held 3rd Annual Meeting** – Held CNCA’s third Annual Meeting in Oslo on June 17-23, 2016, for CNCA cities to engage in advanced discussions on transformative deep carbon reduction planning and change, reflect on and prioritize CNCA strategy going forward, deepen members’ collaborative relationships, receive training in “Transformational Leadership,” and dig deeply into the work the City of Oslo is doing to decarbonize transportation and thermal energy systems.
- **Conducted a “Transformational Leadership” Training for Members** – CNCA worked with renowned “system change” thinkers to conduct a training for CNCA members in Oslo in June 2016 on how to most effectively catalyze and facilitate societal, environmental and economic change on a transformative scale.
- **Pursued Strategies for Improving Social Equity Through Carbon Neutrality** – In 2016 CNCA worked to advance the thinking about social equity in carbon neutrality planning and implementation in the following ways:
 - Identified and documented emerging best practices in robust community engagement in cities’ deep carbon reduction strategies in the Planning Framework and 80x50 Plan Outline.
 - Required projected funded by the CNCA Innovation Fund to identify how their projects will address key priorities related to equity, quality of life, and economic prosperity.
 - Highlighted social equity as a key Principle and Initiative in CNCA’s Strategic Plan.
 - Launched the “100% Renewable and Equitable Cities” initiative, which will pilot test the development of city strategies for getting to 100% renewables with social equity as the core driver.
- **Developed Key Partnerships** – In 2016 USDN worked with existing project team partners to strengthen existing partnerships, especially between USDN and C40, to maximize the collaborative partnership going forward, and leverage each organization’s strengths, and explore additional strategic programmatic partnerships with organizations, academics, business sector leaders, and others to serve as technical advisors to Alliance cities.



- CNCA partnered with C40 to promote collaboration and capitalize on synergies across the existing USDN and C40 organizations, including holding a joint workshop at C40's Biennial Mayor's Summit in Mexico City in November 2016.
 - CNCA partnered with Siemens to provide pro bono support to CNCA cities in the use of the City Performance Tool (CyPT) to evaluate the GHG reduction, job creation and other benefits of undertaking various deep decarbonization pathways.
 - CNCA is exploring additional strategic partnerships with to serve as technical advisors to Alliance cities based on member needs.
- **Fostered a “Next Wave” of Carbon Neutral Cities** – To accelerate deep carbon reduction activity in a wider set of cities, CNCA fostered lesson-sharing between CNCA members and other cities around the world that are also interested in achieving carbon neutrality.
 - Required projects funded by the CNCA Innovation Fund to be scalable and replicable to other cities, and inviting non-member cities to participate in funded projects.
 - Produced a Deep Carbon Reduction Planning Framework and accompanying “80x50” plan outline available for use by all cities (available at www.carbonneutralcities.org).
 - Held a 2nd annual "Getting Serious About Achieving Carbon Neutrality" workshop for non-member cities to discuss deep decarbonization planning and implementation, key challenges in decarbonizing particular sectors, and how to communicate and message around deep decarbonization Posting products of CNCA Innovation Fund projects on both the public CNCA website and CNCA page on USDN's internal members-only web page.
 - Invited non-member cities to participate in aCNCA peer learning calls/webinars.