



In 2015 we created the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA or “Alliance”)—a collaboration of leading global cities working to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80% or more by 2050 or sooner (“80x50”)—the most aggressive greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets undertaken by any cities across the globe. The purpose of the Alliance is to advance the practice of planning for and achieving deep, transformational GHG reductions in ways that simultaneously improve local quality of life, economic opportunity and social equity.

The objectives of the Alliance are to:

- Accelerate deep decarbonization around the world;
- Foster leadership and show the “art of the possible” in urban climate change;
- Advance the practice of planning for and achieving deep, transformational GHG reductions in cities in ways that simultaneously improve local quality of life, economic opportunity and social equity; and
- Foster a “next wave” of cities adopting and implementing carbon neutrality targets.

The following summarizes work accomplished by the Alliance in 2015:

- **Raised Nearly \$3M USD to Create and Sustain the First Three Years of 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 V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation to create and sustain the Alliance for its first three years.
- **Hired the CNCA Director and Established the CNCA Governing Body** – The CNCA Steering Committee, which is composed of seven founding CNCA cities—Boulder, Copenhagen, Melbourne, Oslo, Portland, Seattle and Vancouver—sets direction for the Alliance, guides the work of staff, and oversees the management of the CNCA Innovation Fund. The CNCA Director staffs the Alliance and reports to the CNCA Steering Committee.
- **Officially Launched the Alliance** – The Mayors of the 17 founding cities collectively launched the Alliance with a press release on March 27, which included quotes from six CNCA mayors and generated international and local press. A number of CNCA cities issued companion press releases we had developed for them to showcase more details about their local sustainability leadership.
- **Created a Public Presence** – Created the CNCA logo, website (www.carbonneutralcities.org and www.carbonneutralcitiesalliance.org) and twitter handle (@CarbnNtrlCities).
- **Facilitated Greater Discussion and Collaboration among CNCA Members** –
 - Created a peer-sharing platform through USDN.org to foster discussion and transfer knowledge and best practices between peers.



- 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.
- Launched [CNCA 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.

- **Launched the CNCA Innovation Fund and Awarded the First Round of Projects –** Created the CNCA Innovation Fund to invest in cutting edge de-carbonization strategies, and selected the first round of projects to be supported by the Fund:
 - “Utility of the Future” District Scale Pilots (lead by Boulder)
 - New Models for Retrofitting Buildings (lead by London and Copenhagen)
 - Carbon Neutral Buildings: Accelerating Market Transformation to High Performing Building Envelopes in North American Cities (lead by Vancouver)
 - Accelerating Net-Zero Energy High-Rise Residential Buildings in Australia (lead by Sydney)
 - Natural Gas, Fuel Oil and Related Thermal Energy Decarbonization Strategies (lead by Boulder)
 - Accelerating the Transition to 4th Generation District Heating Systems (lead by London)
 - Mobility: Up-scaling Green Vehicles (lead by Copenhagen)
 - Blueprint for Hydrogen Refuelling Stations (lead by Sydney)

- **Developed the CNCA “Framework for Long-Term Deep Carbon Reduction Planning” –** Available for download on the CNCA website, the Planning Framework increases cities’ understanding of how other leading-edge cities are planning for long-term deep carbon reductions, and enables cities to take a more robust, consistent, and comprehensive approach to carbon neutral planning and implementation.

- **Held 2nd Annual CNCA Meeting –** Held the 2nd Annual CNCA Meeting on May 11-13 in Vancouver to advance discussions on transformative deep carbon reduction planning and implementation, and set CNCA strategy and priorities to guide the work of the CNCA over the next three years.

- **Developed Partnerships with Key Global Thought Leaders to Strengthen CNCA Cities’ Global Impact –**
 - [Vatican Mayors’ Summit with Pope Francis](#) – Eleven CNCA mayors and senior officials and the CNCA Director participated in a historic meeting between Pope Francis and global mayors on July 21-22 to discuss the linkages between climate change, poverty and modern slavery, and the leadership cities are showing in addressing these challenging issues—the largest mayoral gathering ever at the Vatican.
 - Launched the [CNCA “Deep Decarbonization Thought Leaders Series](#),” webinars led by global thought leaders in the urban deep decarbonization space, starting with a 17 November webinar by William McDonough on “Cradle to Cradle-Inspired Cities.”



- **Supported Strategic Communications to Allow Members to Communicate With a Common Voice –**
 - Created strategic partnership with Climate Nexus to provide communications support to CNCA cities
 - Developed member-requested communications tools, including 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.
 - Hired a research assistant to support member-directed research products.

- **Fostered a “Next Wave” of Cities Adopting and Implementing Carbon Neutrality Targets –**
 - Began outreach to prospective new core members, including Adelaide, Amsterdam, Auckland, Barcelona, Bogota, Chicago, Curitiba, Hamburg, Los Angeles, Rio de Janeiro, Singapore, Tokyo, Toronto and others.
 - Held “Getting Serious About 80x50 Planning” Workshop for ten “next wave” cities on 24 October in Minneapolis to provide step-by-step guidance on the structure, content and communication of a long-term deep carbon reduction plans based on plans developed by founding CNCA cities, as well as implementation challenges and how CNCA cities are addressing them.