

Partners for Climate Protection

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Initiative of the Month

Mississauga's green fleet program



Municipal Profile

Population: 700,000

PCP Member since 1999

In 2005, as part of its commitment to the Partners for Climate Protection program, the City of Mississauga, Ontario, passed its *Clean Air Strategy*. The strategy was designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 12% from 1998 levels by 2010 and covers a wide variety of initiatives, including green procurement strategies, a smog alert response plan, educational and outreach activities and a green fleet program.

Background

As part of that strategy, an interdepartmental staff team undertook a *Fleet Emissions Reduction Study* in 2006 to identify ways to make the city's fleet cleaner and greener. A major component of the study examined how the city could "right size" its municipal fleet by downsizing engine size, using biodiesel and replacing some vehicles with more efficient or hybrid models. The city's fleet, excluding transit buses, includes vehicles for corporate, fire and emergency, parking enforcement and small transit uses.

Implementation and Approach

The interdepartmental staff team comprised city managers as well as fleet managers from Mississauga's Transportation and Works, Corporate, and Community Services departments. The fleet was inventoried for the number of vehicles, fuel types and the cost and amount of fuel used, data that was used to determine GHG emissions. In all, 211 vehicles were considered of which 113 had right-sizing opportunities.

To date, 93 vehicles have been right sized: 54 from the corporate fleet, 25 smaller transit vehicles, two fire department vehicles and 12 parking enforcement vehicles. As part of the city's regular vehicle replacement program, the majority of the right-sizing initiatives involved purchasing hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles (*Pictured at right. Photo courtesy of the City of Mississauga*).



"We're working on a biodiesel [B5 blend of 5% biodiesel] tender and expect to be using biodiesel in our vehicles by the summer of 2010," reports Brenda Osborne, the city's manager of environment. Mississauga Transit already uses a B5 blend in all of its buses. "Greening the fleet is based on a five-year replacement strategy and we are on target with that schedule," she says.

The city also offered EcoDriver workshops to its employees. Delivered by the Community Environmental Alliance in conjunction with Smart Commute Mississauga, a local transportation management association, the EcoDriver program educates motorists about energy-efficient driving techniques.

Results

As a result of the right-sizing initiatives, GHG emissions will be cut by approximately 548 tonnes; emission reductions from biodiesel have not yet been factored in. All hybrid vehicles are labelled with the city's *Greening Our Fleet* logo to make them more visible within the community.

Once the full five-year replacement program has been completed, the city will have saved \$227,000 in capital costs and \$446,000 in cumulative operating savings. "After full replacement, we'll save about \$125,000 in annual operating costs," says Ms. Osborne.

Ms. Osborne reports that the response from employees who have had their fleet vehicle switched to a hybrid has been very positive. "Our mayor and city manager drive hybrids and they love them."

Lessons Learned

"One of the best things we did was developing a toolkit for all fleet managers," says Ms. Osborne. The toolkit provides a wealth of information about the green fleet program, hybrid vehicles and energy-efficient driving techniques. "All in all it's been a very successful program," she says, but admits it could have built in more driver training at the onset.

Future Direction

Mississauga Transit will take delivery of hybrid diesel-electric buses in the summer of 2010. The city is also undertaking several other related initiatives, such as car-sharing opportunities and the construction of a bus rapid transit corridor in 2010 to better meet the transportation needs of the community.

"We used to export more labour to Toronto than we imported," says Ms. Osborne. "That's not the case anymore so we need to deliver better express transit service within the city."

Further Information

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Download a copy of Mississauga's Fleet Emission Reduction Study at:
<http://www.mississauga.ca/file/COM/GreenFleetReport.pdf>.

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change. PCP is the Canadian component of ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) network, which involves more than 900 communities worldwide. PCP is a partnership between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. PCP receives financial support from FCM's Green Municipal Fund.