

West Coast and Central Canada cities lead the way in national sustainable urban transportation rankings

For second year in a row, Victoria first and St. John's last in joint GreenApple Canada—UBC study of most sustainable urban transportation by Canadian cities.

VANCOUVER (November 13, 2008) – Major cities from central Canada are on the rise, while West Coast cities remain at the top, a national ranking of sustainable urban transportation practices announced today.

The second annual GreenApple Canada Smart Transportation Rankings, compiled by the Appleton Foundation in conjunction with the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia, has placed Victoria and Vancouver first and second – and St. John's, Newfoundland last – for the second straight year in the study of 27 Canadian metropolitan areas. Ottawa-Gatineau, Montréal and Toronto rounded out the top placing cities – with both Montréal and Toronto moving up from their 2007 rankings.

Other highlights from the 2008 report:

-- Sherbrooke and Kelowna, both with metro area populations under 200,000, held their own with larger metro regions, both placing in the top 10. Kelowna moved up four places to #10 from its #14 ranking in 2007.

-- The manufacturing-heavy Southern Ontario cities of Windsor, St. Catharines-Niagara and Oshawa continue to reside in the bottom-third of the rankings.

-- Calgary suffered a significant drop in 2008, attributed in part to land-use patterns; it fell three spots, from #16 in 2007 to #19 in 2008. Still in Alberta, Edmonton rose from the #19 spot in 2007 to this year's #18 placing.

The GreenApple Canada Ranking Report is Canada's only sustainable urban transportation ranking. It addresses public interest in transportation policies that can be taken by municipal governments to address climate change. The GreenApple Canada Report hopes to assist governments in stimulating debate and adopting sustainable urban transportation best practices.

"Citizens win when cities compete to adopt best practices. The GreenApple Report allows citizens to see how well their urban governments are doing on sustainable urban transportation," said Barry Appleton, National Director of the GreenApple Project. "It is hard for cities to know how they are performing if they do not know how they compare with others. The GreenApple Report lets cities know what they can do to improve the sustainability of urban transportation systems in their cities."

The GreenApple Canada Report is the most comprehensive report of its kind. The GreenApple Report secretariat spent over 4,000 hours completing this comprehensive study. More than 2,000 telephone calls were made to obtain primary data not collected by any other party. Among the primary data are important findings such as alternative fuel vehicles in municipal fleets and the greenhouse gases generated by motorists in each of the 27 Canadian municipal regions studied.

In constructing the 2008 GreenApple Canada Ranking Report, 27 municipal regions across Canada were ranked on performance in four policy categories:

- Transportation Policy such as public transit infrastructure, expenditure and transit ridership;
- Air quality measures such as ozone and carbon dioxide emission levels;
- Public policies such as anti-idling laws and trip reduction programs; and
- Technology Adaptation such as the total number of hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles in the public transit and municipal fleets.

"Significant economic and environmental developments in recent times have placed a historic emphasis on sustainable forms of urban transportation," said Daniel F. Muzyka, Dean of the Sauder School of Business at UBC. "This report will allow governments and other agencies to enhance environmental and public health benefits and share progress and best practice while accommodating the economics of public transportation."

GREENAPPLE CANADA 2008 RANKINGS

1. Victoria
2. Vancouver
3. Ottawa-Gatineau
4. Montréal
5. Toronto

6. Winnipeg
7. Québec
8. Hamilton
9. Sherbrooke
10. Kelowna
11. Kingston
12. Saguenay
13. London
14. Abbotsford
15. Kitchener
16. Halifax
17. Regina
18. Edmonton
19. Calgary
20. Windsor
21. Saskatoon
22. Oshawa
23. St. Catharines—Niagara
24. Barrie
25. Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury
26. Moncton
27. St. John's

The GreenApple Canada Report has received funding from the Appleton Charitable Foundation. The Appleton Foundation was graciously supported by an expert team based at the Sauder School of Business, which was also assisted by other units at the University of British Columbia. Faculty members from UBC have provided independent expert advice on design methodology, economics, atmospheric science and urban transportation best practices.

The full report can be downloaded from the foundation site (www.appletonfoundation.org).

About The GreenApple Program

GreenApple is a project of the Toronto-based Appleton Charitable Foundation (www.appletonfoundation.org). The GreenApple Project arose from a collaboration with the New York City-based Jack D. Hidary

Foundation's SmartTransportation.org project and is based on a commitment made by the Appleton Foundation at the 2006 Clinton Global Initiative.

About The Sauder School of Business

The Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia is Canada's leading academic business school, recognized globally for its contributions to the transformation of business practices through innovative research and teaching. The school has over 29,000 alumni in 70 countries around the world.

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