

CORPORATE CLIMATE LEADERS PROGRAM

Helping Edmonton businesses grow and succeed by taking climate action

CHANGE BUSINESS FOR CLIMATE



Overview

We're living through an important time in history where businesses and organizations play a pivotal role in creating a resilient, vibrant, and low-carbon future. Many businesses are keen to take climate action, but knowing how to navigate a sustainability journey can be challenging. The Corporate Climate Leaders Program (CCLP) supports organizations through this process by providing capacity-building workshops, enabling peer learning opportunities, celebrating successes, and building a network of like-minded businesses that can do more together than they could alone. CCLP members are not only reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but saving money, engaging their employees, and increasing their profile as climate leaders in Edmonton.

While many businesses are keen to take action on climate, knowing what steps to take can be difficult. The City of Edmonton's Corporate Climate Leaders Program was founded to help simplify this process by providing educational support, direction, and a community of like-minded businesses.

What's Driving the Corporate Climate Leaders Program?

Edmonton has committed to achieving a 50% reduction in GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 and to become net-zero by 2050. In a 2021 study conducted by the City of Edmonton, we found that 75% of Edmontonians are concerned about climate change and 77% of them want climate action now. To reach our climate goals, Edmonton businesses of all sectors and sizes need to be engaged in the transition to a low-carbon economy. By joining the CCLP, your business can get a head start on building its resilience and being a proactive leader that contributes to Edmonton's net-zero future.

CHANGE IS COMING

77%

Research conducted by The City of Edmonton in 2021 showed that 77% of Edmontonians want climate action now.

50%

The City of Edmonton has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 50% from 2005 levels by 2030.

40%

A 2019 survey found that nearly 40% of Millennials have chosen a job because of company sustainability.¹

¹ Swytch.io conducted a survey in 2019 of 1,000 employees in the U.S. to explore their sentiments around employers' corporate sustainability activities.



Who Can Benefit from the CCLP?

Public and private organizations of all sectors and sizes in Edmonton are invited to join the Corporate Climate Leaders Program. This includes for-profits, non-profits, government organizations, and corporations that are located in and operate in Edmonton.

How Does the CCLP Work?

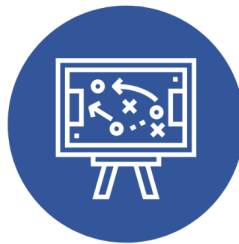
The CCLP is a program run by the City of Edmonton and administered by Green Economy Canada, a national non-profit that brings a decade of experience working with businesses on emissions reductions. The program was established in 2018 by the City of Edmonton as a critical component of the Council Initiative on Energy Transition and Climate Change.

When you join as a member of the CCLP, you commit to:



Measure your footprint

Members commit to establishing a GHG inventory within 12 months in accordance with the World Resource Institute Green Gas Protocol Standard or ISO 14064-1.



Develop a plan

Members commit to developing a reduction plan within 12 months and setting reduction targets within 18 months of joining.



Share commitments

Members commit to sharing their GHG reduction commitments and progress made towards their goals each year through the program to provide transparency and credibility around their climate action efforts.

What Does a Member Commit To?

1. Establish and Maintain a Corporate GHG Inventory:

- o CCLP members commit to measure and maintain a GHG inventory in accordance with the World Resource Institute (WRI) Greenhouse Gas Protocol, ISO 14064-1, or other internationally recognized standards. These inventories are updated and reported annually.

2. Develop Plans and Targets for Reducing GHG Emissions:

- o Members commit to setting absolute GHG reduction targets for the years 2025 and 2035. These targets are expressed as tonnes of CO₂ (equivalent) reduction, compared to either: (a) the annual emissions in a historic, baseline year the member is currently referencing, or (b) their average annual emissions over the most recent three-year period.
- o Alternatively, members may choose to set GHG intensity targets that are expressed in terms of tonnes of CO₂ (equivalent) per unit of output, with a target to reduce these intensities by a defined percentage compared to either: (a) the intensity that existed in a baseline year the organization is currently referencing, or (b) their average annual GHG intensity in the most recent three-year period.
- o The targets set by members should represent a significant ambition as determined by each member. We recognize that targets will vary by industry and by member.
- o Members commit to establishing evidence-based GHG reduction plans detailing the actions they intend to take and explaining how these actions will achieve their targets.
- o The targets and reduction plans will be formally approved by the member's senior management team and/or board of directors.
- o Targets and reduction plans must be actively monitored, progress reported to senior management, and ongoing action taken to reduce the member's emissions.

3. Share these commitments publicly:

- o Members commit to publicly sharing their commitments and success stories through the official program website and other City of Edmonton communication channels established for the program. Certain high-level details will be collected annually from all members including total tonnes of CO₂ (equivalent) emissions produced, boundaries set, and baseline year. Targets will be collected 18 months after registration.



What Are the Benefits of Membership?

The CCLP helps businesses take action on climate change and connects them to a broader network of local businesses working to accelerate Edmonton's transition to a thriving low-carbon economy.

The CCLP offers:



Capacity-building Workshops

Four free workshops each year featuring peers and experts in the field to inform GHG reduction efforts and keep your knowledge and skills current.



Updates on funding opportunities and relevant sustainability news

News on available funding programs, broader sustainability news, and what peers are doing to help advance emissions reduction work.



Connection with like-minded businesses & a growing peer network

Opportunities to network, learn, and share best practices with peers on a similar sustainability journey and be part of a growing network of businesses committed to meaningful climate action.



Public recognition for your achievements

Through case studies, award opportunities, online recognition and an annual Leaders Summit, the CCLP celebrates members' progress and highlights success stories.

What Are the Benefits of Taking Climate Action?

There is a strong business case for you to reduce your GHGs, including:



Strengthen your brand and reputation with customers

Studies have shown that customers are more likely to purchase from companies with environmentally sustainable practices.

At a time when the scrutiny around greenwashing is high, businesses that are taking action to measure, reduce, and publicly report on their climate impacts can build credibility with their stakeholders.



Reduce operational costs

Reducing energy, waste, and water consumption helps reduce your operating costs while lowering your carbon footprint.



Recruit and retain like-minded employees

Employees are more likely to be attracted to, and stay engaged with, businesses that are value aligned with themselves. Today's workforce wants to know their workplaces are contributing positively to their community and the planet.



Mitigate business risks

Reducing your emissions prepares your business to become more resilient and stay competitive in the face of increasing risks, including: changing investor, employee, and customer expectations, new climate-focused regulations, property damage, and supply chain disruptions.



Prepare your business for upcoming emissions regulations

The trend is clear. Governments around the world are becoming more stringent in their effort to regulate and reduce GHG emissions. The program will help to prepare Edmonton corporations for carbon pricing mechanisms, reporting requirements, and regulations that are being implemented.



What Can You Expect As A CCLP Member?

Member experiences will vary depending on where you are at in your sustainability journey.

You can expect to be:

- **Taking Action:** Working on developing, updating, and implementing your organization's GHG inventory, emissions reduction plan, and target, and annually reporting your progress to the CCLP.
- **Learning from Peers & Experts:** Invited to attend capacity-building and networking workshops that build industry capacity and explore emerging business opportunities related to climate action, energy transition, clean energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation.
- **Sharing Your Commitments & Successes:**
 - You will be showcased on the program website - including your company logo, climate commitments, and good news stories.
 - You will be invited to share your GHG reduction success stories with other members.
 - If you are more advanced in your sustainability journey you can expect to be invited to be featured in communication materials produced for the program (e.g. annual report, social media campaigns), and invited to participate in the Corporate Climate Leaders Summit as a presenter, storyteller, or proponent for climate action.
- **Celebrating our Collective Impact:** You will be invited to attend Edmonton's annual Corporate Climate Leaders Summit, along with other staff and senior executives from members.
- **Growing the Corporate Climate Leaders Program:** You will be invited to help mentor and recruit new members from your supply chain and professional networks.
- **Profiling Your Sustainability Commitment:** You will be equipped with decals and electronic logos indicating you are a member of Edmonton's Corporate Climate Leaders Program, along with instruction on their use.

How Do You Demonstrate Your Program Commitments Are Met?

In order for the program to have maximum impact, members will provide evidence of commitment follow-through, including: (1) evidence that a GHG inventory has been established and maintained, (2) evidence that significant targets and a reduction plan have been developed and approved by senior management, and (3) evidence that performance is being actively monitored, measured, and reported to senior management. This evidence will be reported to the City of Edmonton.

In order for the process to be as efficient as possible, evidence must be either:

1. Formal verification or certifications awarded through third-party training/education programs, or
2. Letters from qualified third-party engineering or energy management firms attesting to the criteria being met (letter would be provided at least once every three years).

Where Can You Find Support Services?

Some member organizations will require expert external support and tools in order to develop their GHG inventories and reduction plans, and set targets. Others will want to maximize the potential benefits of a deeper commitment to sustainability with external guidance and accountability. In finding this support, members are free to choose from any service providers that serve the Edmonton market, including various engineering, energy management, and energy advisory firms.

To facilitate the process, the City of Edmonton has arranged for Green Economy Canada to support interested member organizations in building the skills and capacity to set and achieve their GHG reduction targets. With a decade of experience working with businesses of all sectors and sizes on emissions reductions, this award-winning not-for-profit provides comprehensive, tailored one-on-one support to help you complete the CCLP requirements and leverage your sustainability work to drive business value.

Green Economy Canada provides:

- Small group training sessions and direct tailored one-on-one support to help members:
 - Understand the basics of GHG accounting and measure your footprint
 - Set an ambitious and achievable GHG reduction target
 - Develop and implement an emissions reduction plan
- Guidance to help members sustain action and maximize business value through:
 - Engaging staff
 - Forming and managing Green Teams
 - Communicating with senior leadership
 - Incorporating sustainability efforts into brand and stakeholder communications

Annual support fees depend on organizational size and your operations, but typically range from \$1,250 - \$6,400. Please contact at joshua@greeneconomy.ca for more information.

Who Are The Current Members?

The CCLP is a growing network of 72 members that have collectively committed to reducing over 207,428 tonnes of carbon emission by 2035 - the equivalent of taking almost 64,000 cars off the road annually. Below is a sample of some of our members.



How Do You Sign Up?

Becoming a member of Edmonton's CCLP is simple. To register, complete the [Registration and Consent Form](#).

As part of the registration process, you will be asked to:

- o Indicate the name of your organization, the name of the senior executive sponsor(s) who has approved participation, and the name and contact information for a primary contact who will represent your organization in this program.
- o Include a short profile of your organization (<200 words) indicating the nature of your business, size, number of employees, and Edmonton locations.
- o Confirm your organization's commitments to: (1) establish and maintain a corporate GHG inventory for your organization compliant to international protocol, (2) develop plans and targets for reducing GHG emissions, and (3) share these commitments publicly.
- o Indicate whether your organization is: (1) currently meeting these requirements or (2) currently not meeting these requirements but will take steps in the next 12-18 months¹ (as part of the program) to meet them fully.
- o Indicate whether you require additional support through the program to meet the commitments (e.g. Green Economy Canada training and support services or other similar service provider).

Within a few working days, the primary contact you identified will be contacted by the City of Edmonton to:

- o Confirm registration information,
- o Discuss additional training/education support your organization may wish to receive through the program, and
- o Obtain additional information on your organization for inclusion in the program website which may include logos, photos, and content for success stories.

Next steps?

If you'd like to learn more or you're ready to register as a member of Edmonton's Corporate Climate Leaders Program, visit <http://change4climate.ca/business> to complete the [Registration and Consent Form](#).

If you any have questions regarding the CCLP, please contact:

- o Marni Devlin Moses, Commercial Energy Program Coordinator,
marni.devlinmoses@edmonton.ca, 780-496-1923

¹ Member's GHG inventory and reduction plan must be completed within 12 months after registration, while targets are due within 18 months. Extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.