



FEDERATION
OF CANADIAN
MUNICIPALITIES

FÉDÉRATION
CANADIENNE DES
MUNICIPALITÉS

FCM Environmental Sustainability Charter

Policy & Action Plan

2019-2024



Introduction

Over the years, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has made increasing efforts to incorporate sustainability considerations into its operations. These initiatives have ranged from relatively small (e.g., converting to 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper) to monumental (e.g., achieving LEED Gold certification for FCM’s 10 Rideau office and pursuing LEED Gold certification for 24 Clarence). In 2010, FCM’s Management Committee mandated the Sustainability Working Group¹, to develop a sustainability charter for the organization in order to formalize the organization’s sustainability efforts and provide a roadmap to further reduce the environmental impact of its operations.

From 2010 to 2018, FCM made important gains in improving the environmental sustainability of our operations. These actions were guided by FCM’s Sustainability Charter and Action Plan (2010-2020) and were grounded in a commitment to “Continue to implement sustainable practices in FCM operations.” FCM’s progress towards that objective and established targets that are reported in FCM’s Corporate Sustainability Report (2019).

In 2019, FCM’s Strategic Plan (2019-2024) adopted a new, ambitious vision of Canada and FCM’s place in that future. This plan includes a broader commitment to “FCM models excellence in environmental stewardship, gender equality and reconciliation through its internal policies and practices, service delivery, operations and events, meeting the targets set out in its Environmental Sustainability Charter, Gender Equality and Reconciliation plans.” The targets set out in this document seek to move FCM further along the path to meet that standard of excellence in environmental stewardship.

¹ Then known as “The Green Team.”



Environmental Sustainability Policy

In support of FCM's vision to ensure local governments are respected, resourced and empowered to create vibrant, sustainable communities, FCM has a core value of being a leader in environmental sustainability, promoting and supporting best practices. To achieve our vision and act in accordance with this core value, FCM incorporates the principles and practices of environmentally sustainable development into its decision-making, governance, policies, operational processes, programs, events and day-to-day activities.

By minimizing the negative environmental impact of its operations, and contributing positively to the health and well-being of its workplace and the broader community, FCM aims to lead by example and provide a model for municipalities and other organizations across Canada.

FCM is committed to:

- Minimizing the consumption of resources and selecting products and services with consideration for their environmental, social and economic impacts, throughout their life cycle.
- Moving toward carbon neutrality for FCM offices, events, and business travel.
- Promoting staff awareness of sustainability through continuous learning, monitoring, and recognizing efforts to implement sustainability goals and targets.
- Ensuring a healthy work environment for employees.
- Sharing and promoting our successes and lessons learned to better inform and inspire municipalities across the country about how they can improve their environmental sustainability.

This policy is supported by the FCM Sustainability Action Plan 2019-2024 outlined below.

Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

Baseline

The first generation of FCM corporate sustainability commitments were laid out in FCM's Sustainability Charter Policy and Action Plan (2010-2020). In 2019, FCM released its first corporate environmental sustainability report, which reported on FCM's actions, results, staff leadership and lessons learned over the first eight years of action. Results include:

- Achieving a 90 percent reduction in total GHG emissions from electricity and heating in FCM buildings;
- No longer offering bottled water at FCM events;
- Offering an option to purchase carbon offsets for travel to FCM events;
- Environmentally friendly certification for 50 percent of our products; and
- In 2017, the consolidated diversion rate for waste generated at FCM Ottawa offices was 69 percent.

Targets

Building on its initial successes and lessons, FCM is setting the next generation of performance targets and aligning the timeline of our targets with the FCM five-year strategic planning cycle (2019-2024).

FCM will continue working in the five key activity areas to reduce FCM's GHG emissions and environmental impact: **transportation, procurement, energy use in buildings, waste management and FCM events/meetings**. FCM is adopting two new activity areas (water consumption and staff engagement) and is expanding the scope of action to include our international offices by beginning baseline data collection and tracking initial actions.

Specific targets have been determined for each of these eight activity areas, and results will now be tracked based on the fiscal year to better align with other corporate reporting. The targets are primarily based on targets that have been achieved by organizations similar to FCM, but adjusted to reflect FCM-specific research and staff feedback.

FCM's Sustainability Action Plan will aim to achieve the following targets:

1. Transportation

- Decrease the overall footprint of FCM's business travel by 10 percent (per employee) through training, policy implementation, improved tools and carbon offsetting.
- 10 percent reduction in average GHG emissions per employee related to employee commuting.

2. Procurement

- 90 percent of all purchases certified environmentally friendly by 2024, relative to the 2012 baseline of 61 percent of major purchases.

3. Energy Use in Buildings

- Continue to optimize energy performance of buildings and to upgrade at end of life.

4. Solid Waste Management

- Strive for zero waste and the elimination of single-use plastics at FCM
- Increase the diversion rate to 80 percent by 2024 relative to the 2018 baseline of 72 percent.
- Eliminate contamination of recycling and waste cross-contamination by 2024.

5. FCM Events and Meetings

- Institutionalize events greening, promote successes, and share best practices.
- Minimize the environmental impact and maximize the local benefits of FCM corporate events.
- Strive to achieve carbon neutrality for all travel to FCM corporate events.

6. Staff Engagement

- Ensure all FCM staff have received training on the FCM Sustainability Charter.
- Support FCM staff to implement sustainable practices and processes to support achieving the FCM Environmental Sustainability Charter targets.
- Collaborate with Social Committee to ensure FCM social activities are sustainable.

7. Water

- Establish a baseline of FCM's water consumption and optimize systems.

8. International offices

- Begin baseline data collection and tracking initial actions, where possible, at FCM's international offices.