


# HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

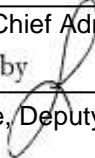
**Item No. 11.1.4**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**March 10, 2015**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original signed by 

**SUBMITTED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** January 29, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Invitation to participate in 2015 Carbon Disclosure Project

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## **ORIGIN**

Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee, January 15, 2015 approved motion: That the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request that staff prepare a report for Halifax Regional Council responding to the invitation to participate in the 2015 CDP Annual Information Request.

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

HRM Charter, Part VIII, Planning and Development, Purpose of Part 208 (B) and (C)

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council endorse participation in the 2015 CDP Annual Information Request.

## **BACKGROUND**

On January 5, 2015, the municipality received the invitation to participate shown in Attachment One. The Mayors Office forwarded the correspondence to The Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee for consideration.

The reporting period is by March 31, 2015.

## **DISCUSSION**

Upon receipt of the invitation, staff reviewed the request to assess:

- Policy rationale
- Level of effort
- Value of effort

Policy Rationale: There are four key Council approved plans that provide the policy direction that aligns with the request to participate in the Carbon Disclosure Project:

1. Regional Plan: The overarching policy guiding municipal activity adopted a vision that states that *HRM's vision for the future is to enhance our quality of life by fostering the growth of healthy and vibrant communities, a strong and diverse economy, and sustainable environment.*
2. Corporate Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Emissions: Approved in 2012, the plan adopts a target to reduce corporate GHGs by 30% by 2020.
3. Community Energy Plan: In 2009, the municipality was signatory to the World Energy Cities Calgary Climate Accord and adopted the community GHG reduction target of 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.
4. Municipal Climate Change Action Plan: As a prerequisite for Gas Tax funding eligibility, all municipalities in Nova Scotia were required to complete a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan.

Level of effort: The Halifax approach will be to consolidate information already assembled for the Halifax Index and reporting required under Regional Plan and the approved Priorities and Functional Plans (Community Energy Plan, Municipal Climate Change Action Plan, and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan). There will be no new effort for revised data requirements. It is estimated that based on that approach, and reporting what is available, that the effort is approximately 10 hours of staff time.

Value of effort: The value in responding is consistent with the existing Halifax approach. The case for city disclosure, which can be viewed at <https://www.cdp.net/en-US/Programmes/Documents/Case-for-City-Disclosure.pdf>, states that the effort will help drive economic competitiveness, improve risk management, and demonstrate value to society. CDP is recognized as an official reporting platform of the Compact of Mayors, an agreement of C40 Cities, United Cities and Local Governments, and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability). Staff assess that the tangible value of submitting will be the ability to use the CDP deliverables, such as the 2014 Infographic shown in Attachment Two, to support dialogue around Community Planning and the improved integration of identified hazards with planning. The effort is consistent with the municipal application and approach to the Rockefeller Foundation's Resilient Cities Program, and increasing municipal engagement on resiliency. The global example will help with the usage of local and specific deliverables from the 2015 updated Community Hazard and Risk Vulnerability Analysis, led by HRM's Emergency Management Office, in supporting Community Planning projects in the near future. Further, by participating, Halifax will receive a benchmark report comparing the municipality to regional and global peers, highlighting areas for action and providing external recognition of Halifax's successes to date in this area.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no implications to the 2014 / 2015 Operating or Project Budget. The level of effort is expected to be approximately 10 hours of staff time.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The desired outcome of responding to the information request is improved tools for community engagement.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The desired outcome of responding to the information request is increased community awareness and dialogue on climate change and community resiliency.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Regional Council may choose to not endorse municipal participation in the annual information request.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment One: Invitation to Participate in 2015 CDP Annual Information Request

Attachment Two: CDP Cities 2014 Infographics

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy & Environment, 902.233.4846  
Shannon Miedema, Environmental Performance Officer, 902.490.3665

Original Signed by Director

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Report Approved by: Bob Bjerke, Chief Planning and Director, Planning & Infrastructure, 902.490.1627

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115A  
Halifax Regional Municipality

JAN 05 2015



DRIVING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

132 Crosby Street, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10012

Office of the Mayor  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, NS Nova Scotia B3J 3A5  
CANADA

Dear Mayor Mike Savage,

I am writing because your city has been selected to participate in the 2015 CDP annual information request to disclose your city's climate, energy and sustainability efforts.

CDP is an international non-profit and over 200 city governments and 5,000 companies report their data to CDP. Cities disclose to CDP to better manage their climate, energy and sustainability activities, compare their progress to other cities and communicate resiliency efforts to investors and the business community. The CDP information request is endorsed by more than 760 institutional investors representing an excess of US\$92 trillion in assets.

In 2014, 48 cities in the U.S. and Canada disclosed through CDP including New York, Los Angeles, San Antonio, Calgary and Richmond, VA. Participation is completely voluntary and there is no cost. **We invite your city to begin reporting alongside these leading U.S. and Canadian cities.**

"What makes CDP such a strong option is that it is really focused on indexing best practices and understanding what the common challenges and opportunities are." - Alex Dews, Mayor's Office of Sustainability, City of Philadelphia

"... the more a city discloses the better investors and ratings agencies can assess them compared to other cities. When you have standardization of disclosure, it makes it much easier for us and others to compare and contrast one city against another." - Naomi Richman, Moody's Investors Service

"Good analytics is behind any good decision making process. Cities have customers— their population and the fact that they are trying to attract businesses to create jobs — in order to understand where the opportunities and risks are they should first look at their footprint." - Christopher Wellise, Global Environmental Sustainability, Hewlett Packard

This year, CDP is recognized as an official reporting platform of the Compact of Mayors, which means that your city can make a commitment to the compact simply by reporting through CDP. You can access our data, as well as our reports by visiting our website [www.cdp.net](http://www.cdp.net). The reporting period opens in January 2015 and closes late March 2015.

To learn more, please contact Katie Walsh, Cities Manager at [Katie.Walsh@cdp.net](mailto:Katie.Walsh@cdp.net)

Yours Sincerely,  
Original signed

Paul Dickinson  
Executive Chairman, CDP

cc: Richard MacLellan

CDP cities represent a growing slice of the world's economy.



That's **28%** of world GDP...

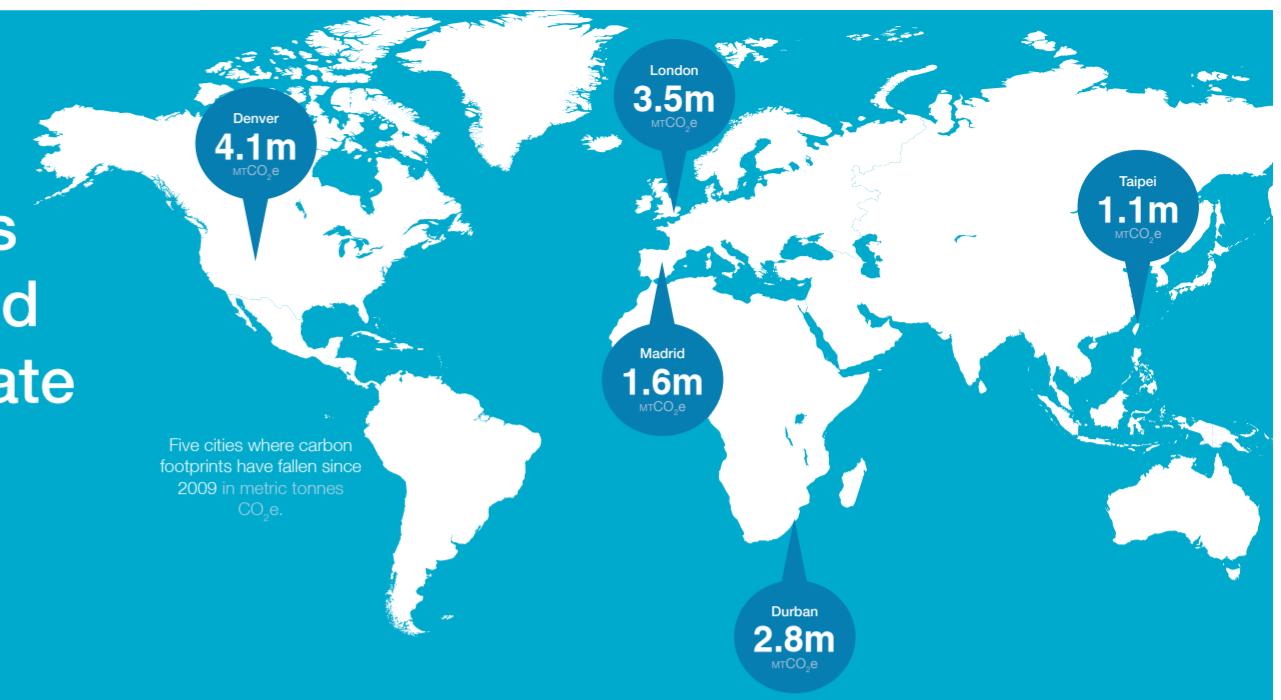


...an incredible **\$21 trillion** in total annual output.



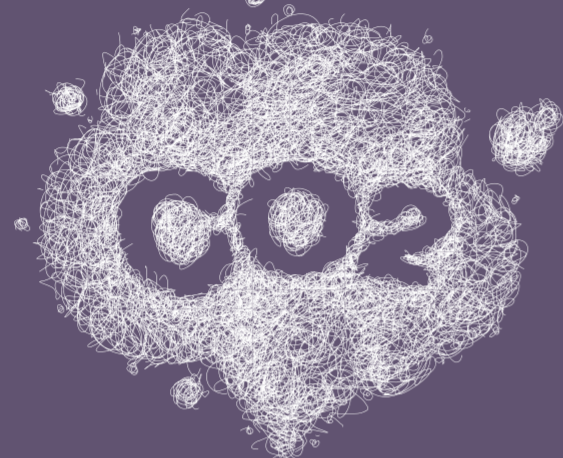
Cities reporting to CDP have a combined annual budget of **\$954 billion** roughly the annual budget of the UK.

Cities are undertaking 2110 activities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Five cities where carbon footprints have fallen since 2009 in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

From Rio to Boston, more and more cities are measuring their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

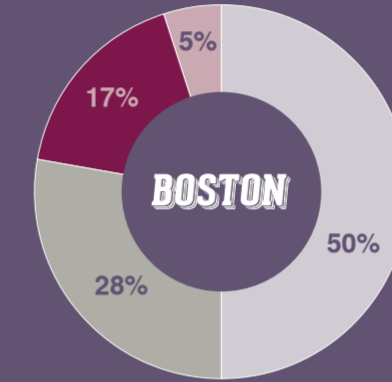
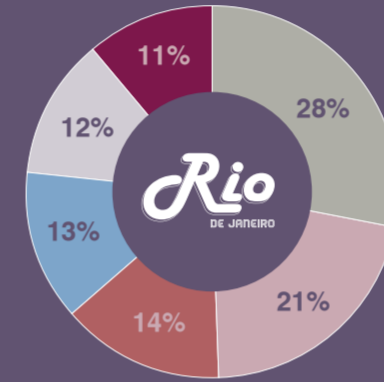


This year, **1.2 billion** metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e have been reported by 108 cities.



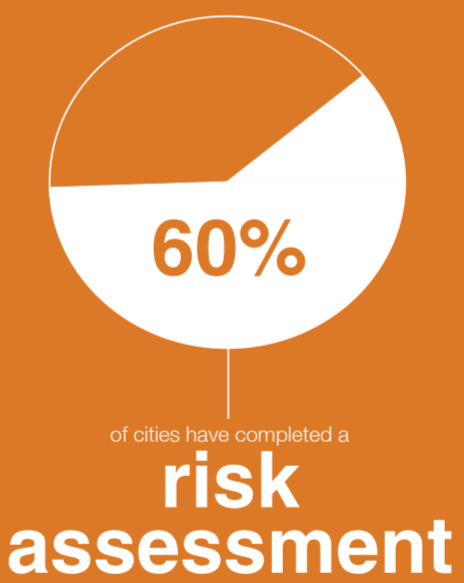
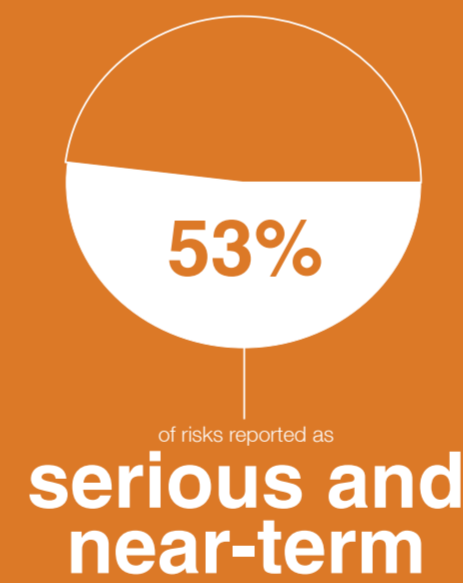
Of surveyed cities, **52%** have completed an emissions inventory...

- Commercial / institutional facilities
- Industrial buildings
- Industrial process and product use emissions
- On-road transportation Cars, LDV, HDV / buses, others
- Residential buildings
- Other



...and our research reveals that sources of emissions can vary significantly from city to city.

Cities are facing risks from climate change.



# CDP CITIES 2014

**This is CDP Cities 2014**  
Now in its fourth year, CDP Cities is the most comprehensive climate change reporting platform at the city level.



Activities set to cut the most carbon emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

- 4.0m** metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e: Rotterdam CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction from industry
- 3.0m** metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e: Washington, DC Financing mechanisms for retrofit
- 2.7m** metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e: Rotterdam Low or zero carbon energy supply generation
- 2.3m** metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e: Washington, DC Building performance rating and reporting
- 2.1m** metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e: Cleveland Energy efficiency / retrofit measures

Most popular sectors for emissions reductions activities by percentage of cities.

- 54%** Transport
- 46%** Building energy demand
- 37%** Waste

