2022 NATIONAL CLIMATE LEAGUE STANDINGS

CITY PROFILE SERIES

LONDON

Our annual, volunteer-led data project tracks the performance of 57 municipalities based on 26 climate, sustainability, and social justice indicators. Here's a closer look at how London performed in this year's Standings.
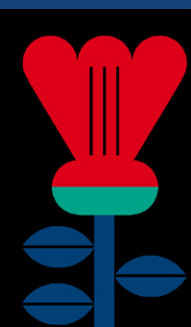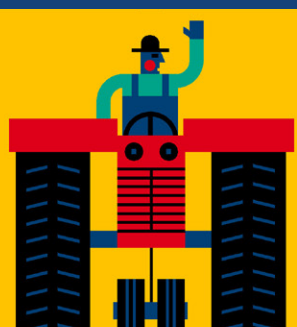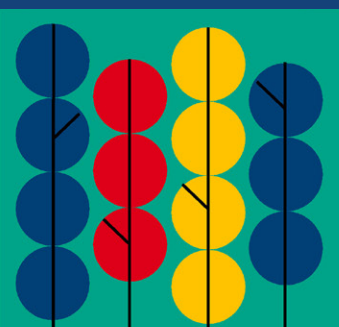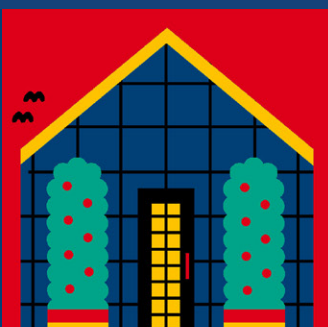
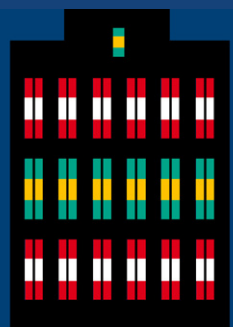**The Climate Reality Project**
CANADA

Profile by Mary Ann Hodge
Access all the City Profiles and the 2022
NCL Standings at climatereality.ca/ncl

About Us

We are the Canadian branch of The Climate Reality Project, a global network founded by Nobel Laureate and former US Vice President Al Gore. We are mobilizing to decarbonize the Canadian economy while building a more just and equitable society through grassroots peer-to-peer education, and public policy and climate solutions literacy. To put it simply, think of us as the DIY supercentre for climate advocacy.

Illustrations by Raymond Biesinger

LONDON

How did London perform?

Overall, London ranked higher than most in its progress in the Partners for Climate Protection network, but ranked poorly in democratic representation, urban agriculture and walkability.

Local perspectives

"London has a great Climate Plan – it shows how everyone has a role to play in reducing climate change. Because the plan is so big, it can be difficult to figure out where to begin to make changes. Participating in these National Standings allow us to see how London compares to other cities across Canada, to identify best practices and areas for improvement, ultimately leading to more impactful and sustainable solutions."

–MARY ANN HODGE,
Climate Action London

Where did London perform well?

AIR QUALITY

The municipality did particularly well in air quality. Air pollution includes fine particulate matter, ground-level ozone, and nitrogen dioxide. It comes from human-driven sources like fossil-fuel burning vehicles, burning natural gas, certain industries, or natural events like wildfires. Poor air quality increases the risk of allergies, respiratory disease, and cardiovascular disease.

One of the main sources of air pollution in urban areas comes from vehicles. Policies that encourage active transportation over driving, switching to electric vehicles, and reducing vehicle speeds can all result in improved air quality, as well as protecting natural vegetation in green spaces which can clean the air.
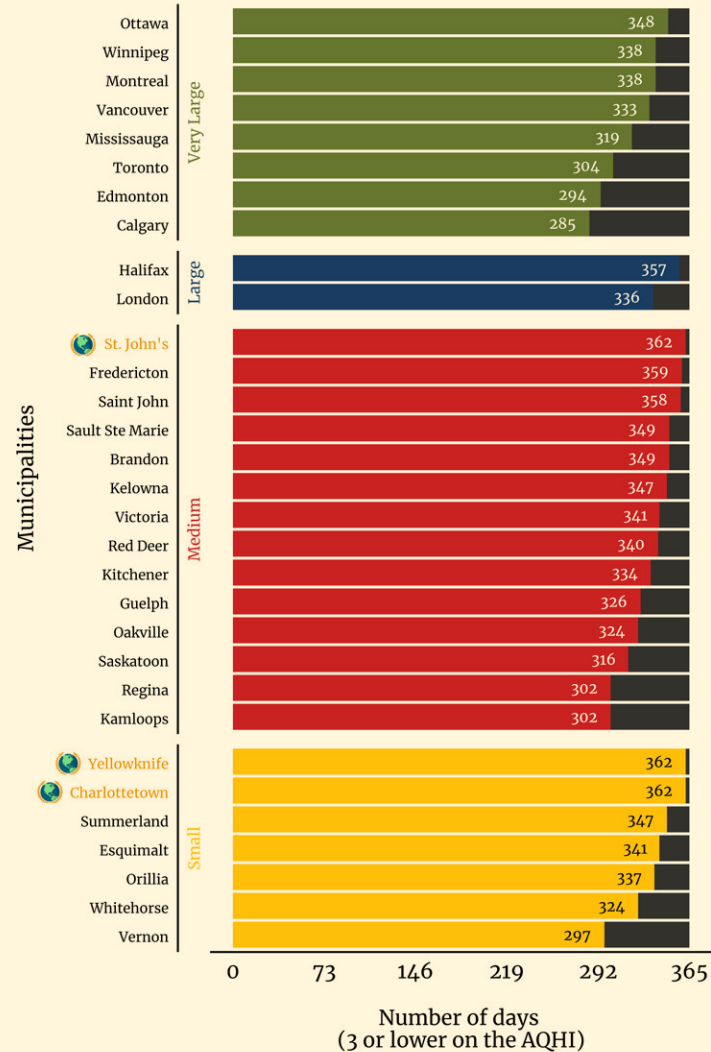
Where is there room for improvement?

London's poor results in the walkability score put them in the "car dependent" category. London also had the lowest score of any city in shared vehicles. However, the spirit of the National Climate League is that of collaboration and communication. There are comparable Canadian cities like Kitchener and Guelph that London can look to for inspiration.

London's car share program is run by Communauto. With 6 cars scattered across the downtown, it provides a convenient and affordable way for households to reduce the number of vehicles they own. The city should work with Communauto to promote the company's services—for example, by offering free parking for shared vehicles. This would help increase uptake from residents, encouraging the company to expand its fleet in turn.

The City of London has been making strides to encourage Londoners to get more active by increasing its cycling infrastructure, although its 2022 score barely passes the "minimal biking infrastructure" threshold, unlike Winnipeg which has an even harsher climate than London. London scored better last year when the ranking focused on measuring the total kilometres of bike lanes. This year, the score tracks the Bikescore of the municipality, which incorporates total kilometres as well as connectivity, types of infrastructure and other factors.

DAYS WITH CLEAN AIR

Very Large
Ottawa	348
Winnipeg	338
Montreal	338
Vancouver	333
Mississauga	319
Toronto	304
Edmonton	294
Calgary	285

Large
| Halifax | 357 |
| London | 336 |

Medium
St. John's	362
Fredericton	359
Saint John	358
Sault Ste Marie	349
Brandon	349
Kelowna	347
Victoria	341
Red Deer	340
Kitchener	334
Guelph	326
Oakville	324
Saskatoon	316
Regina	302
Kamloops	302

Small
Yellowknife	362
Charlottetown	362
Summerland	347
Esquimalt	341
Orillia	337
Whitehorse	324
Vernon	297

Municipalities (y-axis)

Number of days (3 or lower on the AQHI)
0   73   146   219   292   365

The number of days with clean air, days with a daily score of 3 or below on the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)

Note(s): Data are from 2021. Sources include city data portals, transit reports, and city staff.

2022 NATIONAL CLIMATE LEAGUE STANDINGS

To quantify positive impacts and **#MeasureWhatMatters**, volunteers across Canada track progress on 26 indicators for Canadian municipalities. We have developed indicators which are representative of living a better and more sustainable life, centred around themes such as transport, food, waste, and health.

In Canada, there are significant barriers to accessing municipal data due to the way it is collected, shared, and communicated. Data tracking depends greatly on the tools and capabilities a municipality possesses. The NCL endorses a culture of transparency and accessibility to information for all cities. As such, we encourage citizens to become empowered demanding change from their municipalities. The National Climate League was amongst the 2022 Clean50 Top Projects honourees.

Find out more and download the Standings at climatereality.ca/ncl

The Climate Reality Project
CANADA

Why municipal action matters

Cities produce over 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions; tackling the problem at a local urban scale could therefore be the key to unlocking a greener, climate-safe future. Climate action and policies should trickle up and not just trickle down, because cities are much better positioned to develop solutions that work for their environmental, economic, cultural, and social context. The National Climate League presents a key opportunity for a more participatory democracy, resulting in the creation of public policy that is not only informed by the public, but citizen-led.

How can residents bring about change?

Residents and municipal staff submit data on the indicators to an open database available to all. This process gives people an opportunity to learn about climate and sustainability and how it is tracked, how their municipality manages it, and how it might improve. It also provides an opportunity to get to know staff and elected officials, and allows them to hold them accountable when it comes to their climate commitments. Individuals can use the National Climate League Standings, and the data in our open database, to advocate for policies that help improve the lives of people in their community.

PRIMARY INDICATORS

- SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- AIR QUALITY
- URBAN GREEN SPACE
- ENERGY MIX
- URBAN AGRICULTURE
- LANDFILL WASTE
- WATER CONSUMPTION
- WALKABILITY
- BIKEABILITY
- PUBLIC TRANSIT
- VEHICLE SHARING
- EV CHARGING STATIONS
- DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION
- TRANSITION EMPLOYEES
- EMISSIONS TARGETS
- CLIMATE MITIGATION

For methodology, see next page.

2022 NATIONAL CLIMATE LEAGUE
PRIMARY & COMPLIMENTARY INDICATORS

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS: the number of certified LEED Platinum and certified Passive buildings (2022).

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: the hourly wage needed to afford to rent an average 2-bedroom unit (2021).

AIR QUALITY: The number of days during 2021 measuring 3 (of 10) or below on the Air Quality Health Index scale (2021).

URBAN GREEN SPACE: the total area of park managed by the municipality (2022).

ENERGY MIX: Percentage of renewables in energy mix (2021).

URBAN AGRICULTURE: The number of publicly accessible, food-growing spaces such as community gardens, urban farms and orchards (2022).

LANDFILL WASTE: residential solid waste disposed per household per year (2021).

WATER CONSUMPTION: the average amount of water consumed in litres per capita per day (2021).

BIKEABILITY: the municipality's bike score as calculated by WalkScore.com (2022).

WALKABILITY: the municipality's Walk Score as calculated by WalkScore.com (2022).

SHARED VEHICLES: the number of shared vehicles available within municipal boundaries. ie. Zipcar, Communauto, etc... (2022).

EV CHARGING STATIONS: the number of Level 2 and Level 3 EV charging stations (2022).

PUBLIC TRANSIT: total annual trips based on the ridership statistics reported by transit authorities (2021).

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES: the number of (fulltime) employees that work in the city's climate or environment department (2022).

DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION: the proportion of women and non-binary people sitting on city council (2022).

EMISSIONS TARGETS: the municipality's community-wide GHG emission reduction target for 2030 and 2050.

CLIMATE MITIGATION: the municipality's membership status and progress in the "Partners for Climate Protection" network.

COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

CLIMATE PLAN: a current, fully funded climate plan to reduce GHG emissions.

ADAPTATION PLAN: a current, fully funded adaptation plan to prepare for impacts of extreme weather.

GHG INVENTORY FREQUENCY: an annual emissions inventory is conducted.

GHG INVENTORY METHODOLOGY: the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC).

CLIMATE TEST/LENS: a full-lifecycle GHG impact test is systematically applied to major projects and expenditures.

CARBON BUDGET: a carbon budget has been adopted and applied.

BUILDING CODE: new and renovated buildings meet higher efficiency standards than the provincial building code.

DIVESTMENT: a plan to divest pension and other funds from fossil fuels.

FOOD COUNCIL: a citizen advisory committee on food sustainability, affordability, and nutrition.