



CNCA
CARBON NEUTRAL CITIES ALLIANCE

#CNCA

Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance 2019 Annual Report



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The **Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA)** is a global network of **21 vanguard cities** that are committed to being carbon neutral by 2050. Alliance cities represent **12 nations, five continents, 62 million citizens and over \$5.7 trillion GDP**. These cities are urgently undertaking a radical redesign of their core energy, building, transportation and waste systems to completely eliminate carbon emissions and improve quality of life for citizens, communities and businesses.

While many cities around the world have put climate action plans in place to reduce GHGs, most have not yet adopted the level of ambition necessary to completely decarbonize urban systems and infrastructure. CNCA remains the only global network of cities created by cities, for cities, collaborating on transformative change in urban systems to achieve carbon neutrality.

This report describes the work undertaken by CNCA in 2019.

NEW MEMBERS

CNCA added **3 new members**.

X City of
X Amsterdam
X



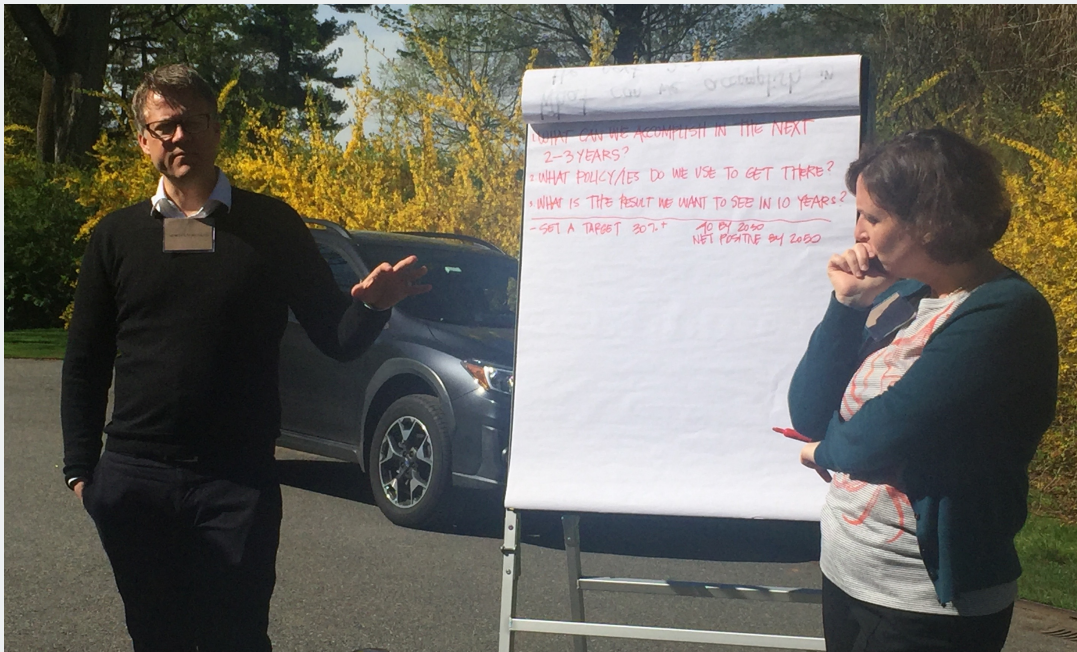
POLICY IMPACT

Working together, CNCA member cities advanced policies and initiatives that will accelerate deep decarbonization in their cities and create model policies for other cities to follow.

Two Examples:

Embodied Carbon Policy Framework

In a first-ever for cities, CNCA launched an initiative to regulate **embodied carbon in buildings and infrastructure**. This groundbreaking initiative helps 10 global cities develop and implement policies to cut embodied carbon.



Urban Drawdown Initiative

CNCA's work on natural sequestration helped launch the **Urban Drawdown Initiative**. The UDI offers cities opportunities and recommendations to increase their natural sequestration of carbon.



TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CNCA bolstered members' work as change makers.

Transformational Leadership Training in Helsinki

CNCA's Annual Meeting brought together 16 cities—and nearly 2 dozen climate leaders—for deep dives on systems change, innovative solutions, leadership development, and peer coaching.

Peer Coaching Sessions

Peer Coaching sessions—facilitated by the Academy for Systems Change—offered a solutions lab for CNCA members to present challenges, unlock alternatives, and receive peer support.

Systems Change Webinars

CNCA launched a webinar series to showcase and feature inspirational and practical examples of global systems change. Topics include "rethinking theories of change," "becoming a systems change leader" and more.



COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

CNCA facilitated 18 trainings with 1300 participants, helping cities and their leaders communicate about their work effectively and with impact.

Workshops Covered:

Campaign Creation
and Ideation

Community
Engagement

Storytelling
Skills

Behavior Change Communications

Writing for and Talking With Press



“CNCA’s workshop on how to work with international press was an eye-opener to the possibilities. It also provided us with practical tools and challenged traditional thinking on how to identify and approach stories that have international appeal, that make Oslo unique.”

MARIANNE ALFSEN
CITY OF OSLO



MEDIA THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

CNCA placed media stories highlighting member cities' bold climate leadership.

Stories Published:

apolitical

FAST COMPANY

HUFFPOST

Newsweek

 **REUTERS**

TIME

 **USA TODAY**

Fast Company Ran a 10-Part “Game Changers” Series Featuring CNCA Cities

Boulder’s Carbon Sequestration

Helsinki’s Award to Cut Coal

Melbourne’s Renewable Energy Procurement

New York City’s Buildings

Oslo’s Climate Budget

Portland’s People & Equity

San Francisco’s Composting

Seattle’s EV Infrastructure

Stockholm’s Low Emission Zones

Vancouver’s Zero Emissions Buildings

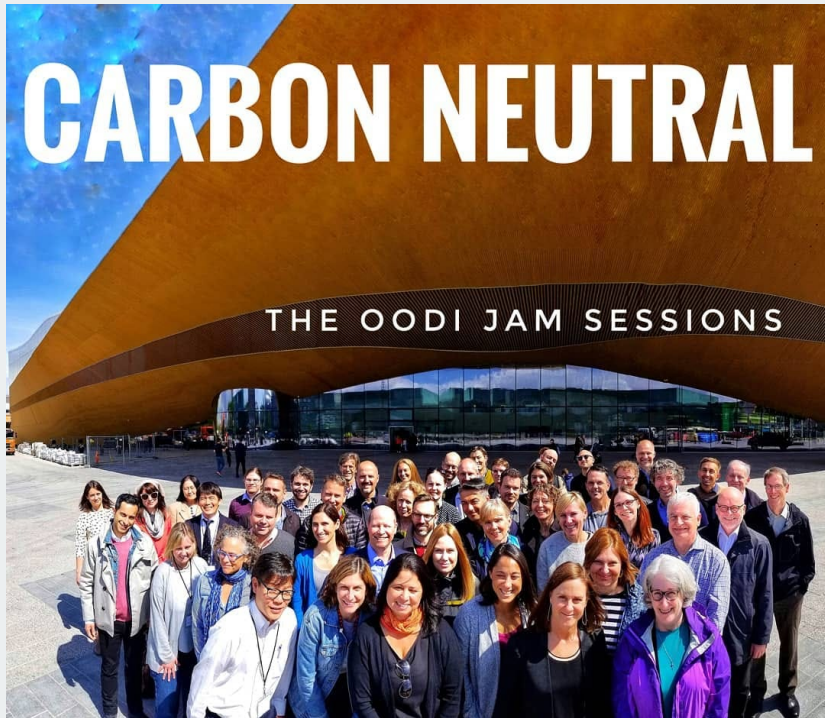


PEER LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

Annual Meeting

CNCA held its **6th Annual Meeting in Helsinki** to support and inspire members as they tackle current climate challenges and collaborate on future work together.

This annual meeting surveyed as the best yet. **94% of members said they were “extremely satisfied.”**



Working Groups

CNCA launched **6 working groups** on "Game Changers" to connect peers and collaborate on the transformation of urban systems.

Building Decarbonization **Natural Sequestration**
Climate Budgets **Renewable Energy**
Embodied Carbon **Transportation**



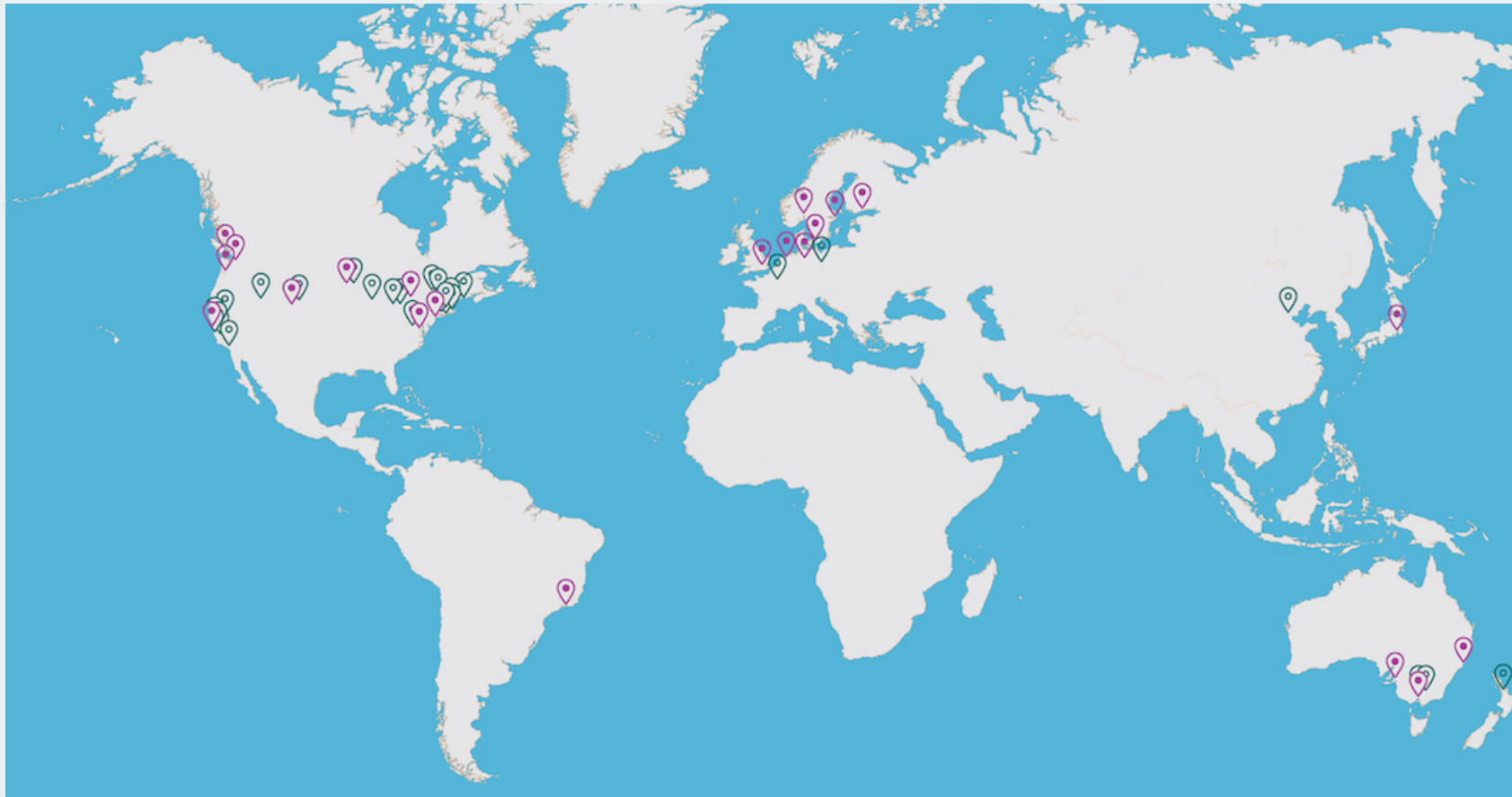
“The Annual Meeting was really inspiring! It is very helpful for Rio to have this overview of how cities are dealing with all the challenges of the climate agenda, and the progress they’re making. The program was incredible. We came back to Rio very enthusiastic about the possibilities!”

ALINE XAVIER
CITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO



INNOVATION AND GAME CHANGER FUNDS

CNCA invested in high-potential, city-led projects that are developing, testing, implementing, and amplifying deep decarbonization strategies and practices, proving the art of the possible. Funds have supported **21 CNCA members and another 26 non-member cities**.



 CNCA Members

 Non-Members

CNCA's Innovation Fund invested in **5 new innovations**, including tools for prioritizing interventions for biggest impact, energy benchmarking, gamification platforms, and mobility hubs.

Building on a strong track record of investment—with **\$3.3 million invested into 52 projects and another \$43 million leveraged**—CNCA has now supported all 21 CNCA members and another 26 non-member cities.

CNCA launched its first Game Changer Fund pilot project to take a people-centric approach for charting a path to zero emission buildings.



PLANNING FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS

2020 – 2022 Strategic Plan

CNCA launched a strategic planning process for its [2020 – 2022 Strategic Plan](#) to determine the next three years of game-changing carbon neutrality work in cities.

This process explores whether CNCA is going far and fast enough and how it can better harness the collective power of climate vanguard cities.

The plan will be available in spring 2020.



“This is my tribe. These are the people that are trying to do the things I’m trying to do.”

BRETT KENCAIRN
CITY OF BOULDER

