

Aspen, June 30, 2011

San Francisco Leads the U.S. in Environmental Sustainability

U.S. and Canada Green City Index analyzes the environmental sustainability of 27 major metropolitan areas in both countries.

San Francisco grabbed the mantle of “greenest” major city in the US and Canada Green City Index, with New York, Seattle, Denver and Boston rounding out the top five U.S. cities. The unique study conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and commissioned by Siemens assesses and compares 27 major U.S. and Canadian cities on environmental performance and policies across nine categories – CO₂ emissions, energy, land use, buildings, transport, water, waste, air quality and environmental governance.

San Francisco ranked first overall in the Index due to an impressive performance across the board, with a top five ranking in six of its nine categories. The city’s strongest area is waste, where it led the pack with efforts such as being the first U.S. city to mandate composting and recycling for residents, food establishments and events in 2009. The city also claimed second place in buildings, transport and air, bolstered by one of the best energy efficient building standards, the second longest public transport network, and low levels of all pollutants measured in the Index.

“It’s certainly an honor for San Francisco to be named the ‘greenest’ city in the North America, especially by an international leader in sustainable development like Siemens,” said Mayor Edwin Lee. “And it’s great to get recognition for the good work San Franciscans have done. San Francisco is committed to working toward a greener, healthier future for its residents and visitors, and I think there’s nowhere else on earth where you will find more environmentally involved residents and businesses than in San Francisco.”

"The Green Cities Index demonstrates that America's cities are the driving force behind the nation's sustainability efforts," said Eric Spiegel, president and CEO, Siemens Corp. "Despite the fact that we do not have a federal climate policy in the United States—and no federal carbon standard—21 of the 27 cities in the index have already set their own carbon reduction targets. Cities are creating comprehensive sustainability plans, utilizing current technology and proving everyday that we don't have to wait to create a more sustainable future."

The study of U.S. and Canadian cities provided some important key findings. Notably, cities that performed best in the rankings are the ones that have comprehensive sustainability plans that encompass every aspect of creating a greener future including transportation, land use, energy use, carbon dioxide emissions, and water. And while there is a correlation between wealth and environmental performance, it is weaker in the U.S. and Canada than in Europe and Asia.

“City budgets are as tight as they have ever been, but mayors are leading the charge around making their cities more sustainable because they know they can’t afford to push these decisions off until tomorrow,” said Alison Taylor, Chief Sustainability Officer for the Americas, Siemens Corp. “Our goal with the Green City Index is to identify best practices, advance good ideas and provide a baseline for cities to help them set targets for themselves so that they can serve as role models for others with their innovative policies. “

The scope of the U.S. and Canada Green City Index is unique. The nine categories are based on 31 individual indicators — 16 of which are quantitative (e.g. consumption of water and electricity per capita, recycling rate, and use of public transportation) and 15 qualitative (e.g. CO₂ reduction targets, efficiency standards and incentives for buildings, and environmental governance). A key element of the study is the comparability of the results from each city — within the individual categories and in the overall evaluation. The study also includes in-depth city portraits that reveal the strengths and weaknesses of each urban center, while also highlighting initiatives and projects from which other cities can learn.

“Generally speaking, American cities fared well as compared to other global regions in the areas of air and waste policies as well as recycling and water infrastructure,” said Tony Nash of the Economist Intelligence Unit. “While public transportation was well-supported and incentivized in a number of cities, it was clear that take up is limited outside of the most densely populated cities. CO₂ emissions and electricity use are also notably higher in the U.S., but the evolving policy environment at local, state and national levels are opening up significant areas for improvement.”

The ranking results of the U.S. and Canada Green City Index:

Overall		CO ₂		Energy		Land use		Buildings		Transport	
City	Score	City	Score	City	Score	City	Score	City	Score	City	Score
1 San Francisco	83.8	1 Vancouver	91.4	1 Denver	86.0	1 New York City	93.0	1 Seattle	98.2	1 New York City	76.6
2 Vancouver	81.3	2 Miami	90.1	2 Boston	82.4	2 Minneapolis	80.1	2 San Francisco	85.6	2 San Francisco	67.0
3 New York City	79.2	3 New York City	89.4	3 San Francisco	81.1	3 Ottawa	75.0	3 Washington DC	79.3	3 Vancouver	66.6
4 Seattle	79.1	4 Los Angeles	86.5	4 Vancouver	80.1	4 Boston	74.9	4 Pittsburgh	78.5	4 Montreal	65.3
5 Denver	73.5	5 Ottawa	86.0	= 5 Los Angeles	77.8	5 Vancouver	74.1	5 Vancouver	77.2	5 Ottawa	65.1
6 Boston	72.6	6 Seattle	84.7	= 5 Toronto	77.8	6 Washington DC	69.9	6 Denver	68.8	6 Chicago	64.7
7 Los Angeles	72.5	7 Toronto	81.6	7 Minneapolis	76.5	7 Philadelphia	67.7	7 New York City	68.7	7 Minneapolis	63.9
8 Washington DC	71.4	8 San Francisco	81.1	8 Chicago	75.9	8 San Francisco	66.6	8 Atlanta	66.7	8 Denver	60.7
9 Toronto	68.4	9 Washington DC	80.8	9 Phoenix	72.9	9 Charlotte	64.6	9 Houston	66.4	9 Seattle	59.8
10 Minneapolis	67.7	10 Montreal	80.1	10 Philadelphia	72.5	10 Miami	59.2	10 Boston	62.1	10 Sacramento	56.0
11 Chicago	66.9										
12 Ottawa	66.8										
13 Philadelphia	66.7										
14 Calgary	64.8										
15 Sacramento	63.7										
16 Houston	62.6										
17 Dallas	62.3										
18 Orlando	61.1										
19 Montreal	59.8										
20 Charlotte	59.0										
21 Atlanta	57.8										
22 Miami	57.3										
23 Pittsburgh	56.6										
24 Phoenix	55.4										
25 Cleveland	39.7										
26 St Louis	35.1										
27 Detroit	28.4										

Water		Waste		Air		Environmental governance	
City	Score	City	Score	City	Score	City	Score
1 Calgary	94.1	1 San Francisco	100.0	1 Vancouver	95.1	= 1 Denver	100.0
2 Boston	91.8	2 Seattle	83.1	2 San Francisco	91.9	= 1 New York City	100.0
3 New York City	88.8	3 Los Angeles	81.9	3 New York City	89.2	= 1 Washington DC	100.0
4 Minneapolis	88.2	4 Toronto	78.6	4 Sacramento	89.1	4 Seattle	96.7
5 San Francisco	87.4	5 Minneapolis	72.6	5 Los Angeles	88.7	= 5 Houston	94.4
6 Vancouver	86.6	6 Sacramento	72.2	6 Philadelphia	82.9	= 5 Los Angeles	94.4
7 Denver	85.6	7 Vancouver	69.0	7 Seattle	80.5	= 5 Philadelphia	94.4
8 Ottawa	84.9	8 Ottawa	66.2	8 Montreal	79.5	= 8 Minneapolis	93.3
9 Charlotte	84.8	9 Montreal	63.7	9 Toronto	79.2	= 8 San Francisco	93.3
10 Toronto	83.5	10 Houston	59.5	10 Denver	79.0	10 Vancouver	91.1

A panel of global experts in urban environmental sustainability advised the Economist Intelligence Unit in developing the methodology for the study. The 27 cities selected were chosen to represent a number of the most populous metropolitan areas in the United States and Canada. The list includes the top 20 U.S. combined statistical areas, and the top 5 Canadian census metropolitan areas. Expert panelists suggested the addition of Miami and Phoenix due to population and growth rates. Portland did not make the list based on the ranking criteria, but is highlighted in the report.

Announced at the 2011 Aspen Ideas Festival, the U.S. and Canada Green City Index is the fifth study in the Green City Index series. Other indices in the series cover Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Germany.

More information on the U.S. and Canada Green City Index: www.siemens.com/press/greencityindex

#

Siemens Corporation is a U.S. subsidiary of Siemens AG (NYSE: SI), a global powerhouse in electronics and electrical engineering, operating in the industry, energy and healthcare sectors. For more than 160 years, Siemens has built a reputation for leading-edge innovation and the quality of its products, services and solutions. With 405,000 employees in 190 countries, Siemens reported worldwide revenue of \$102.9 billion in fiscal 2010. Siemens in the USA reported revenue of \$19.9 billion and employs approximately 62,000 people throughout all 50 states and Puerto Rico. For more information on Siemens in the United States, visit www.usa.siemens.com.