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## Just released: Greenest cities in North America

Source: Sustainability Dashboard Tools, LLC  
 Publication date: July 7, 2011

Bloomington, IN — July 7, 2011 - The U.S. and Canada Green City Index, part of a research project conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit, has just released its ranking of cities throughout North America regarding their environmental performance.

The survey, which was commissioned by the Siemens Corporation, evaluated 27 cities along 31 indicators, ranging from water and energy consumption and conservation to public use of land, public transportation quality and efficiency, and even how "walkable" the city is to determine the ranking.

Although some cities were expected to top the Green list, there were some surprises, according to the researchers. For instance, the five Greenest cities in North America were the following:

1. San Francisco
2. Vancouver
3. New York City
4. Seattle
5. Denver

Some people may be surprised that New York City is listed as one of the top five Greenest cities. But New York has excellent public transportation, is considered very walkable with new "pedestrian zones," has an efficient land-use program, and is economically strong compared to many other North American cities.

The five least Green cities in North America were:

1. Detroit
2. St. Louis
3. Cleveland
4. Phoenix
5. Pittsburgh , PA

Some of the least Green cities are former U.S. manufacturing centers that have been on the decline for years. In many cases, the recession has amplified their decline.

"It is interesting to note that while the United States does not have a federal climate policy and no federal carbon standards, most of the Greenest cities in the index have established carbon reduction targets," adds Stephen Ashkin, CEO of [Sustainability Dashboard Tools](#).

"It is possible [these cities' leaders] are more attune to what their constituents want and are working harder to address their environmental and sustainable needs."

**Overall Rankings, Greenest to Least Green:**

1. San Francisco
2. Vancouver
3. New York
4. Seattle
5. Denver
6. Boston
7. Los Angeles
8. Washington, DC
9. Toronto
10. Minneapolis
11. Chicago

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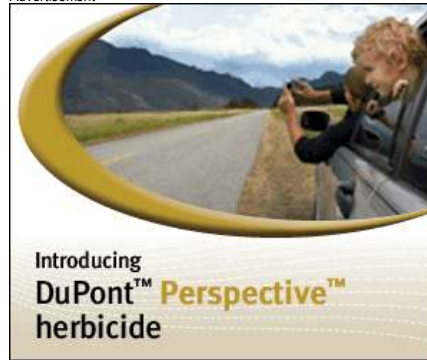
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12. Ottawa
13. Philadelphia
14. Calgary
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16. Houston
17. Dallas
18. Orlando
19. Montreal
20. Charlotte
21. Atlanta
22. Miami
23. Pittsburgh, PA
24. Phoenix
25. Cleveland
26. St. Louis
27. Detroit

\*Need-to-Know is an impartial news service produced by Sustainability Dashboard Tools to provide building and cleaning professionals with news on sustainable issues that might impact their industries.

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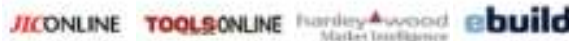
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