



Reducing the environmental footprint: a tale of perseverance and continuous improvement

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Vancity

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Introduction

To advise how Vancity has and continues to reduce its environmental footprint through the incorporation of the principles of environmental sustainability in all aspects of its operations.

A History of Being Socially & Environmentally Responsible

- Chose to build housing for low income families as part of two owned branch structures
- Largest organization in Canada to adopt the Living Wage policy
- First master planned development (Dockside Green) to target LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification
- Vancity achieves carbon neutrality; a first for a North American-based financial institution.
- Vancity is the first to offer a loan and a preferred rate for the purchase of a low CO₂ emission vehicle – Clean Air Auto Loan.
- Bright Ideas Home Financing was introduced for energy efficient home renovations – the first in Canada.
- Vancity launches the first Lower Mainland bike sharing initiative.

Vancity approach to building design and operation



- Vancity advocates socially and environmentally responsible practices
- Creates policies to involve staff, members and our surrounding communities
- Strives to effect strong neighbourhood ties utilizing a high degree of eco-effectiveness

Statement of Values & Commitments

- This means we will model and advocate socially and environmentally responsible practices as they relate to:
 - resource consumption
 - waste management & recycling
 - construction
 - alternative transportation
 - energy management

Present and Future Improvements



- For all products used by the operation, the environmental aspects of the options available are factored into (in a material and quantitative manner) our purchasing decisions
- In 1995, the head office building for Vancity (Vancity Centre) had built in paper, glass, metal, plastic recycling bins on every floor at the coffee stations; this approach has been incorporated into all of our branches for glass, metal, paper and plastic.
- We have introduced composting at 80% of the branches and 14 of our branches are now zero waste with a plan to add 10 more in 2015
- All wood used on construction projects is FSC certified
- Carpet tile flooring uses natural fibres and a portion of recycled content and/or is completely recyclable

Present and Future Improvements continued



- Engineered hardwood (rather than laminate) is used for flooring and reclaimed wood furniture is also used
- Natural light, excellent indoor air quality (measured proactively on a regular basis) and ergonomic stations are provided for all employees
- Commuting now represents the largest percentage of Vancity's GHG emissions - there are incremental programs in development to reduce GHG from this source
- Continuous Energy Management Program since 1991
- Vancity have been measuring GHG emissions since 1991 – this was originally done for energy use only through the Voluntary Climate Registry. Today we leverage the GRI system (the international standard) to measure GHG – and our results are audited annually.