Sustainable Cities

Developing and implementing sustainability strategies for cities

Cities and other local and state governments are increasingly recognizing the opportunity and obligation to develop and implement strategies to ensure their cities are livable, prosperous, equitable and resilient to the potential effects of climate change. Effective sustainability planning provides cities with the information and tools needed to reduce their environmental impact and remain economically viable.

WSP USA has deep, broad strategic and technical expertise across sectors, enabling us to combine our knowledge of high performance buildings, transportation, energy, air quality, environmental justice and climate resilience to offer integrated and innovative solutions to urban challenges.

Our services

- **Sustainability strategy and planning:** Developing stakeholder-led, inclusive city sustainability plans to guide cities' efforts to reduce their environmental impacts and improve their economies.

- **Climate action planning:** Offering comprehensive, integrated climate mitigation and resiliency plans to decrease cities' contribution to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and their risk from projected climate change effects.

- **GHG emissions inventories:** Developing all phases of community-wide and government operations GHG inventories to provide cities with detailed knowledge needed to inform development of climate action plans.

- **Goal and target setting:** Determining and communicating ambitious and achievable sustainability goals, driving the implementation of cities' sustainability strategies.

- **GHG mitigation plans:** Creating strategies to achieve identified GHG mitigation goals, which reduces cities' contributions to global GHG emissions levels.

- **Climate vulnerability assessments:** Identifying city assets and systems vulnerable to the effects of climate change to lower cities' climate risk.

- **Sustainability strategy evaluations:** Providing expert assessment of, and recommendations for, existing or proposed sustainability strategies.

These services are delivered as stand-alone offerings or can be coupled with our broader approach to sustainability advisory, transportation planning, certification support and placemaking.
From planning and strategy development to integration, implementation and reporting, WSP helps address the complex challenges cities face by uniting internal efforts and strategies with their sustainability goals and priorities.

Our experience

**COMPLETED GHG EMISSIONS INVENTORIES FOR SEVERAL U.S. CITIES**
WSP's support included measuring and reporting GHG emissions from all community-wide and government operations activities in accordance with Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC).

**CREATED CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TOOL FOR CITIES**
We worked with four pilot cities to identify both positive and negative interactions between existing and proposed climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, including synergies, trade-offs, mal-investment potential and piggybacking opportunities.

**DEVELOPED SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND GHG MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BOULDER COUNTY**
Our team completed a comprehensive, county-wide GHG inventory, inventory management plan, and technical and financial analyses to assess GHG reduction strategies, and led a stakeholder engagement process to inform the plan's development.

**PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SEVERAL LARGE NORTH AMERICAN CITIES**
WSP supported several cities to meet their Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy commitments to complete community-scale GHG emissions inventories compliant with the GPC.

**SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT OF A GHG MITIGATION PLAN FOR A LARGE U.S. CITY**
Our work involved providing technical assistance and analysis to aid mitigation strategy development in the buildings, energy, transportation and waste sectors.

Our sustainable cities services are complemented by technical capability in product sustainability and life cycle assessment; energy strategy; water stewardship; green power procurement; public reporting and disclosure; climate resiliency and adaptation planning; and strategy, materiality and program design. We are well positioned to address issues across the evolving sustainability landscape.

**About WSP USA**
WSP USA is the U.S. operating company of WSP, one of the world’s leading engineering and professional services firms. Dedicated to serving local communities, we are engineers, planners, technical experts, strategic advisors and construction management professionals. WSP USA designs lasting solutions in the buildings, transportation, energy, water and environment markets. With more than 9,500 employees in 150 offices across the U.S., we partner with our clients to help communities prosper.

Our multidisciplinary sustainability, energy and climate change team has been providing related services for two decades. We support clients across sectors by providing strategy and planning, as well as operational and technical expertise. We are passionate about contributing to our clients’ successes through our depth of expertise, collaborative approach and unique perspective on the market.

For more information on sustainable cities, or our sustainability, energy and climate change services, please contact:

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