

Montreal households the greenest in Canada, study finds

July 27 2016

Montreal homes are the most sustainable in the country, and Edmonton's the least, according to a new University of British Columbia study that compares average household greenhouse gas emissions in major cities across Canada.

Using census data over a 12-year span, researchers ranked cities on how much carbon dioxide the average Canadian family (two to three people) with an annual income of \$81,000 in each city produced in a year from the combined use of electricity, gasoline and [natural gas](#).

The average Montreal household produces five tonnes of GHG per family per year, while the average Edmonton household emits 20 tonnes per family per year.

"Montrealers do well because of their supply of affordable hydropower, and their use of electric heating," said study co-author Sumeet Gulati, an environmental economist and UBC professor in the faculty of land and food systems. "Edmonton does poorly due to its extreme weather, low density and reliance on coal."

Average household CO₂ emissions (based on electricity, gasoline and natural gas use)

- Montreal, 5.4 tonnes per year
- Vancouver, 7.2 tonnes per year

- Winnipeg, 8.1 tonnes per year
- Toronto, 9.6 tonnes per year
- Regina, 16.3 tonnes per year
- Calgary, 18.2 tonnes per year
- Edmonton, 20.7 tonnes per year

Gulati said he was surprised Montreal ranked first ahead of Vancouver, where despite a milder climate, the average household emits seven tonnes of GHG per year. He said the reason is [natural gas prices](#) in Quebec are the highest in Canada, while the cost of natural gas in B.C. is lower, and therefore more widely used in home heating.

The [study](#), forthcoming in *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, also found an overall decline in average household GHG emissions across Canada from 11.5 tonnes per year in 1997 to 9.7 tonnes in 2009.

"We are using cleaner energy, and people are moving to cleaner compact cities," said Gulati.

Provided by University of British Columbia

Citation: Montreal households the greenest in Canada, study finds (2016, July 27) retrieved 20 March 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-07-montreal-households-greenest-canada.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--