

CBEC SUSTAINABILITY RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

Climate Change and Carbon Management

The 2026 OPWG must have a comprehensive plan to manage climate-related impacts and showcase innovative solutions and best practices relative to carbon management. This is especially true for Calgary and Alberta given the region's economic dependence on energy production, particularly oil and gas and the oil sands of northern Alberta. The 2026 OPWG could put a spotlight on the greenhouse gas emissions profile for the province along with progressive efforts by industry and governments to reduce emissions.

The Alberta government has already initiated a tax on carbon emissions designed to provide a financial incentive for families, businesses and communities to lower their carbon emissions. A price on carbon drives innovation and changes behaviour by encouraging individuals and businesses to become more energy efficient and shift away from higher emission fuels.

The Calgary Downtown District Energy Centre currently provides efficient district heating for buildings in and around the East Village, including the City of Calgary Municipal Building. New and refurbished buildings in the area as part of the 2026 OPWG plans could be serviced by this and similar systems, cutting energy costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

CBEC RECOMMENDATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON MANAGEMENT:

A Calgary 2026 OPWG must include a comprehensive carbon management strategy outlining a "know, reduce, offset, engage" approach to profiling innovative solutions to the global climate change challenge. The strategy must be established early in the organizing period and be integrated into all functions and phases of the Games, including: planning, construction, organizing, delivering and decommissioning.

Waste Management

Minimizing waste in planning and delivering the Games has been a primary focus of environmental programs within Organizing Committees for decades. It is important to reduce waste over the entire seven-year period, across all aspects and partners of an Organizing Committee. A "zero waste" approach – refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle – should provide the foundation for decision-making regarding what products are needed and their use at the end of the Games.

Residents of Calgary, Alberta and Canada, as well as the IOC, will endorse an approach that minimizes waste and emphasizes resource efficiency through wise and efficient use of materials, energy, food and water. The City of Calgary already has initiatives in place to lead the community towards zero waste through innovative recycling, composting and diversion programs with a target of 70 per cent waste diversion by 2025 averaged across all four sectors – single and multi-family residential, business and organizations, construction and demolition. In addition, in 2018 all paper and cardboard will be banned from landfills, as will food and yard waste in 2019.

CBEC RECOMMENDATION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT:

In pursuit of a zero waste vision for the Games, a Calgary 2026 OPWG must incorporate a waste management strategy that sets a target of diverting 90 per cent of waste from landfills. The strategy should be deployed early in the organizing period, guide product and material procurement decisions across all functions and be a key component of sponsor negotiations.

Transportation

Transportation is one of the most complex aspects of planning and delivering a successful Olympic Games. Our concepts for transportation are described more fully in Section 4.3.3. Moving huge volumes of people and goods through the organizing phase, the Games themselves and the post-Games period have significant environmental impacts related to greenhouse gases and air quality. A smart, efficient, low-carbon transportation plan is imperative given the important connection to reducing greenhouse gas emissions embedded in the carbon management strategy. In 2011, the City of Calgary endorsed the recommendation of converting its transit bus fleet from diesel to clean burning compressed natural gas (CNG). With capacity for 424 buses and a fueling facility, the Stoney CNG Bus Storage and Transit Facility is currently under construction. The City will begin to acquire new CNG transit buses in 2017. This facility will have an all-CNG bus fleet in place prior to the 2026 OPWG. In addition, the addition of the Green line to the existing LRT system will facilitate moving large numbers of people to and from the games venues in an efficient, low-carbon manner.

CBEC RECOMMENDATION ON TRANSPORTATION:

A Calgary 2026 OPWG must integrate principles for smart, low-carbon transportation solutions that align with the carbon management strategy and guide the development of Games mobility plans for people and goods.