

# Our impact in 2020

## A successful year for the Urban Delivery Solutions Initiative

2020 has been a year unlike others, and those in the transportation and urban freight sectors have faced particular challenges as a result.

As the year comes to a close, we would like to highlight the valuable work our coalition has done in 2020 — a bright spot in difficult times. And more important, we'd like to thank you. To our courier and grocer partners specifically — thank you for your tireless work on this coalition during a pandemic, and more broadly for your efforts to deliver essential goods and groceries safely to Canadians in their time of need. To our technical and research partners — thank you for your continued work to drive a cleaner, healthier, and more efficient transportation system.



The Pembina Institute's Urban Delivery Solutions Initiative with representatives of founding partners Canada Post, Fresh City Farms, UPS Canada and Purolator.

We have accomplished so much in just one short year. This all started with roundtable conversations in fall 2019, with the Pembina Institute and the Initiative's founding partners discussing opportunities for greater sustainability in delivering goods to Canadians. We reimagined how we — businesses and civil society — could take steps toward solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also make good business sense. We outlined strategic opportunities and determined that a focus on electrification and curbside management were top priorities.

### Freight forum and launch

The official launch of the Urban Delivery Solutions Initiative was announced at the [Cities Taking Freight Action](#) forum in March. The full-day event hosted by the Pembina Institute convened more than 100 leading city-builders and planning and policy practitioners from across Canada. Major themes that emerged at the forum included the need for accessible data, more support for demonstration pilots, more flexible and adaptive policies and regulations, and strengthened collaboration across various organizations, regions and sectors.

### Growth

While the excitement from the Freight Forum was palpable, weeks later Canada went into lockdown as a result of COVID-19, causing a ripple effect throughout the economy and adding new pressures on the urban freight sector. Still, in the midst of a pandemic, a common vision to reduce the environmental impact of goods movement in our communities remained, and the coalition expanded to include a new tier of technical and research partners. Our expanded network allows us to deepen subject matter expertise and leverage thought leadership on our top priorities in sustainable freight practices. We are pleased that [CALSTART](#), the [International Council on Clean Transportation](#) and the [Smart Freight Centre](#) are among the first to join this new tier. The work and insights of these partners will be critical to identifying and advancing science-based solutions.

We are also thrilled to announce our newest coalition partners, [FedEx Canada](#) and [Hydro-Québec](#), whose experience and networks add enormous value to our growing initiative. We look forward to growing and diversifying our coalition further in the new year.

## Research and policy

Our first year of collaboration has been fruitful, particularly in examining the roadblocks to testing and scaling up the deployment of zero-emission commercial vehicles. Through our assessment of the current landscape of zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) policies and programs in Canada's largest cities, and via stakeholder interviews, we have identified gaps and opportunities to strengthen Canada's ZEV goods movement sector. This work culminated in a new report, [Building a zero-emission goods movement system: Opportunities to strengthen Canada's ZEV freight sector](#). This report highlights the need for significant investment in zero-emission vehicles, infrastructure, and skills training, and calls for a strong and co-ordinated national policy framework.



We look forward to using the foundational research as a jumping-off point to build capacity and drive action in building out a new zero-emission vehicle system through policy innovation, investment, and infrastructure at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

In addition to this research, we have been collaborative in our input on municipal freight planning initiatives, such as the City of Toronto's Freight and Goods Movement Strategy.

## Thank you!

We are incredibly thankful to our founding partners, and our technical and research partners, for your continued support to help decarbonize the transportation sector in Canada. As a result of your incredible contributions and strategic direction, feedback, and advice, we are making great strides toward reducing carbon pollution from goods movement. We value your partnership and look forward to continuing this important work to advance a prosperous, clean energy future for Canadians.

## Events

In addition to the national urban freight forum, in June the Pembina Institute hosted a joint webinar with the National Association of City Transportation Officials, *Thinking Outside the Box: Urban Freight & Delivery During Covid-19*. Panelists discussed the increase in freight and deliveries during the pandemic and ways cities and companies have adjusted their approach to freight and curbside management.

In July, the Pembina Institute hosted an information session on the proposed Clean Fuel Standard (liquids) regulation for coalition partners.

## Looking ahead to 2021

We plan to convene our expanded coalition in January 2021 for a discussion on priorities and our collective agenda. We believe there will be even greater opportunities for sharing best practices and peer-to-peer learning, and engaging with policymakers, industry and civil society, to strengthen the ZEV ecosystem. We will also examine more specific municipal policy levers such as curbside management tactics to accelerate near-zero and zero-emission vehicles and efficient urban delivery practices. We're excited for this next chapter.

[pembina.org/UDSI](http://pembina.org/UDSI)

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