Municipal Collaboration for Carbon Foot-printing: Syracuse, New York case study
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Abstract:
Purpose
The City of Syracuse, New York, has undertaken energy conservation measures over the past decade. In 2011, the city completed a GHG inventory that serves as the basis for current sustainability planning processes, and the process to complete this analysis was uniquely collaborative and is offered as a case study.

Approach
This inventory was the product of collaboration between the City, the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board, through the Climate Change Innovation Program. Following guidance from ICLEI’s LGOP and utilizing CACP software, the baseline year for the inventory was 2002, and the municipal analysis covered five sectors: buildings and facilities, vehicle fleet, aviation, water delivery, and streetlights and traffic lights. The city’s community analysis assessed residential, commercial and industrial energy use, transportation and waste sectors.

Findings
The City of Syracuse has achieved energy and GHG reductions over the inventory time frame. While savings have been accomplished, significant challenges to future energy and GHG reductions remain.

Bio:
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Richard Smardon is Professor of Environmental Studies at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse NY. He teaches, publishes and does research on community sustainable planning process, carbon foot printing, urban ecosystems and green infrastructure development.