

The Sheltair Group

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The Sheltair Group awarded important contract from International Gas Union to develop energy plans for “*Bridging to the Future*” for cities around the world.

IGU Sustainability Initiative moves forward from cities^{PLUS} to “Bridging to the Future”

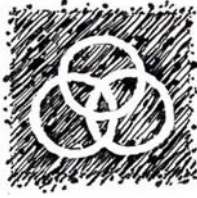
The International Gas Union (IGU) has initiated the next phase of their groundbreaking **Sustainable Urban Systems Design (SUSD)** initiative by awarding a contract to The Sheltair Group to begin a project called “***Bridging to the Future.***”

Bridging to the Future will develop long-term plans called ***pathways*** for five urban areas around the globe. The pathway for each city will integrate urban and energy planning in the context of different scenarios for energy costs. A desirable pathway will use natural gas and other fossil fuels as a bridge to renewable energy and sustainable urban systems. Pathways define the steps and directions to achieve a resilient energy infrastructure. They provide a route to safer, healthier urban systems over the next 40 years.

In the first stage of the project, The Sheltair Group is adapting their tools for modeling and visualizing energy plans to make use of emerging energy technologies and to produce indicators and benchmarks to be used internationally. Sheltair is leading this first phase and will engage a range of participants from the Greater Vancouver Regional District, Canadian energy utilities, and the IGU. Subsequent stages of the project will be collaborative engagements with international teams from diverse locations. The final result will be a suite of rigorously comparable case studies that demonstrate collaborative development by metropolitan regions to develop energy pathways leading to long-term urban sustainability.



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The **IGU Sustainability Initiative** started with the SUSD competition in 2002 and 2003. Teams from 9 urban areas created 100-year visions for achieving sustainability. The Canadian team, under the name **cities^{PLUS}**, submitted a plan for Greater Vancouver and was awarded the *Grand Prix* in Tokyo on June 2003 at the 22nd triennial IGU conference. The Sheltair Group led the **cities^{PLUS}** project, drawing upon the experience of hundreds of professionals and stakeholders in 30 cities to define long-term goals and to describe the path to a sustainable urban future.

Bridging to the Future is the second phase in the IGU initiative on SUSD. The competitive format of the SUSD competition spurred innovation and challenged each team to move beyond traditional thinking. *“In the process, the teams developed a network between each other and learned that they benefit more from collaboration than competition”* said Sebastian Moffat, President of The Sheltair Group and national leader of the **cities^{PLUS}** team. **“Bridging to the Future will be designed as a collaborative venture rather than competitive, in order to build on the international networks created from the SUSD competition. The project and the continuing partnerships constitute a key legacy for both the IGU and the cities^{PLUS} team.”**

The Sheltair Group is an interdisciplinary team of planners, engineers, and sustainability professionals. Our job is to build practical solutions for our clients through effective stakeholder engagement processes and collaborative approaches. We offer to help you plan and manage healthy buildings, resilient infrastructure, and livable communities. Our “whole systems” approach to integrated management minimizes ecological impacts and resource use while optimizing costs and sustainability. We deliver management plans for energy, air quality, solid and liquid waste, land-use and housing.

Please contact The Sheltair Group directly at 604-732-9106 ext 323 or by sending an email to the project manager, Lourette Swanepoel lswanepoel@sheltair.com. Find out more by visiting Sheltair at www.sheltair.com.

