

10 THINGS WE LOVE

ABOUT ECO-FRIENDLY VANCOUVER

It's easy to see how we're on track to be the world's greenest city by 2020 **BY SHERI RADFORD**



1 BICYCLES

Mild West Coast weather forms the backdrop for cycling on the seawall or coasting along in dedicated bike lanes, resulting in Vancouverites' year-round love affair with two-wheeled transportation.

PHOTO BY KKLAW



2 CAR CHARGING STATIONS

The city has an ever-increasing number of public charging stations. Our favourites are the three along the picture-perfect waterfront of Beach Avenue, at the foot of Cardero, Broughton and Bute streets, which offer unparalleled views of English Bay while you wait for your electric vehicle to reach full power. Check www.plugshare.com for more locations.



4 BEES

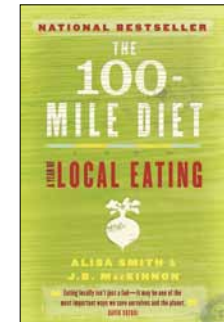
Have you heard the latest buzz about bees? Globally, their numbers are in steep decline—bad news for humans, considering we rely on them to pollinate one-third of all the food we consume—but locals are rallying to the cause. VanDusen Botanical Garden (page 59) and the Vancouver Convention Centre each house several honeybee hives, while the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel has a hotel for solitary pollinator bees (pictured). Plus, more and more locals are becoming urban beekeepers, setting up backyard hives for the petite pollinators.

PHOTO OF CAR-CHARGING STATION BY KKLAW



3 VANCOUVER FARMERS' MARKETS

A little rain can't keep hardy Vancouverites away from farm-fresh fare. Winter markets (page 20) at Nat Bailey Stadium and Hastings Park are the places to find local fruits, veggies, meat and seafood, as well as artisan cheese, baked goods and one-of-a-kind handicrafts. Hot drinks, live music and food trucks contribute to the festive atmosphere.



5 100-MILE DIET

Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon had no idea what they were in for. The local couple decided to reduce their ecological footprint through a year-long experiment, eating only food grown within 100 miles of their Kitsilano home. The end result, documented in their 2007 best-selling memoir, *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating*, helped to spark a worldwide locavore movement. The trend has become especially popular here, thanks to the abundance of West Coast produce, seafood and meat.



6 DAVID SUZUKI

On Mar. 24, Vancouver's world-renowned environmentalist, geneticist, author and broadcaster is turning 80. But mere age can't slow down the man *Reader's Digest* named Canada's Most-Trusted Influencer of 2015. Through radio, television and books, Suzuki is still fighting to save the planet—sounding the alarm about climate change and imploring people to exercise more, buy less and get out into nature more often.



7 NOSE-TO-TAIL EATING

Waste not, want not: restaurants such as Forage (page 73), Fable (page 72), Wildebeest (page 73), Mission (page 73) and Campagnolo Roma (page 69) excel at nose-to-tail meals, which minimize waste by using every part of the animal. Going a step further, Royal Dinette (page 73) hosts an Ugly Duckling Dinner Series (Mar. 22, Apr. 26; pictured) that serves offcuts and wastes nothing, not even stalks, stems, leaves, rinds or coffee grounds.



8 TAP WATER

Feeling parched? Metro Vancouver boasts some of the world's cleanest, tastiest drinking water, tested more than 30,000 times per year to ensure its safety. When it's time to refill your water bottle, download the TapMap app to find the nearest water fountain.

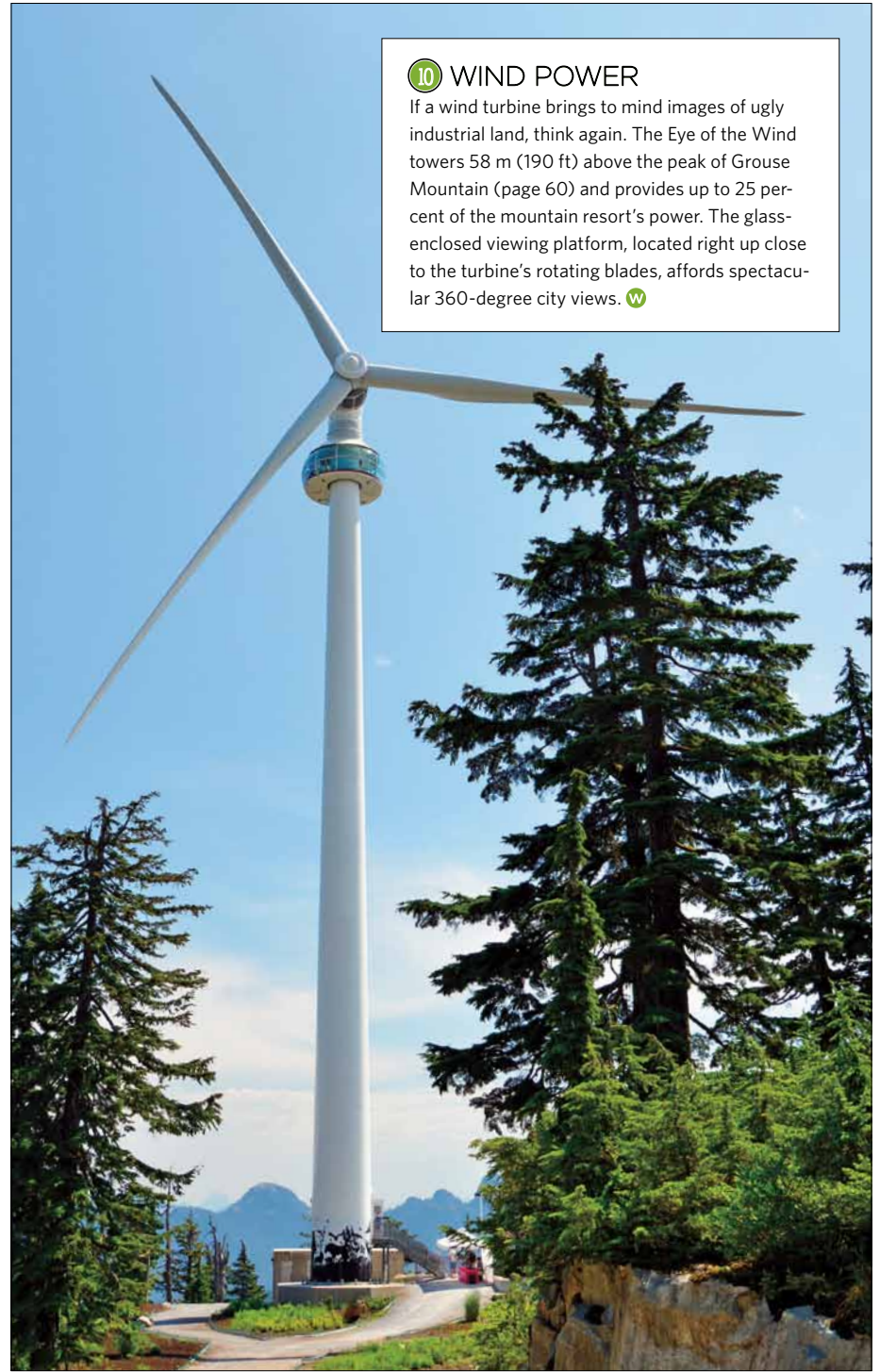


9 PARKS

Stanley Park (page 59), the city's first official green space, opened in 1888, covering 400 hectares (1,000 acres)—larger than New York's Central Park. Now Vancouver is home to more than 240 public parks, and 92 percent of residents live within a five-minute walk of a green space. Sometimes it's easy being green.

PHOTOS: DAVID SUZUKI BY BRENDON PURDY; STANLEY PARK BY ALBERT NORMANDIN COURTESY DESTINATION BC

PHOTO ©EFAAHO/DREAMTIME.COM



10 WIND POWER

If a wind turbine brings to mind images of ugly industrial land, think again. The Eye of the Wind towers 58 m (190 ft) above the peak of Grouse Mountain (page 60) and provides up to 25 percent of the mountain resort's power. The glass-enclosed viewing platform, located right up close to the turbine's rotating blades, affords spectacular 360-degree city views. **W**