

Council Resolution to Join the FCM–ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) Partners for Climate Protection Program

WHEREAS the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes in its 2007 *Fourth Assessment Report* that “there is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities”;

WHEREAS the IPCC concludes that human influences on the climate have likely contributed to a rise in the sea level during the latter half of the 20th century, changed wind and temperature patterns, and likely increased the risk of heat waves, the area of land affected by drought since the 1970s, and the frequency of heavy precipitation;

WHEREAS the *IPCC Special Report on Emission Scenarios* (SRES, 2000) projects an increase in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 25 to 90 per cent between 2000 and 2030;

WHEREAS the IPCC observes that warming resulting from human influences could lead to some abrupt or irreversible impacts, depending on the rate and magnitude of climate change;

WHEREAS the IPCC anticipates the following impacts from climate change over the next century for North America:

- Decreased snow pack, more winter flooding, and reduced summer flows resulting from warming in western mountains, exacerbating competition for over-allocated water resources;
- Increased aggregate yields of rain-fed agriculture by five to 20 per cent, but with important variability among regions; and major challenges for crops that are grown close to their highest suitable temperature or that depend on highly used water resources;
- Increased number, intensity and duration of heat waves for cities that currently experience them, creating potential for adverse health impacts; and
- Increased stress on coastal communities and habitats as a result of the interaction of climate change impacts and development and pollution;

WHEREAS GHGs (e.g. carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide), released from burning coal, oil and natural gas and from cutting trees and clearing land for agriculture and development, are the primary cause of climate change;

WHEREAS the *World Mayors and Municipal Leaders Declaration on Climate Change 2005* asserts the need for joint authority and global action on climate change;

WHEREAS municipal investments in building retrofits, community energy systems, water conservation, renewable energy technologies, waste reduction, landfill gas capture, fleet management, public transit and other sustainable measures reduce operating costs, help maintain community services, protect public health and contribute to sustainable community development while cutting GHG emissions contributing to climate change;

Next steps

1. Send this resolution to pcp@fcm.ca to confirm your municipality's participation in the PCP program.
2. Contact a PCP program officer at [613-907-6370](tel:613-907-6370) or pcp@fcm.ca to discuss how you can get started, request an orientation package, and connect with communities that are already involved.
3. Consider applying to FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) to secure a 50 per cent grant toward the completion of milestones two and three.
4. Visit the FCM Centre for Sustainable Community Development website at www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca for more information on the PCP program, and on municipal sustainability.
5. Create a joint council–staff committee to facilitate the implementation of the PCP milestones and to build commitment within the municipal corporation and the community.
6. Identify existing municipal staff and fiscal resources, as well as potential community or business partnerships, that can be used to support the achievement of the PCP milestones.