

FCM celebrates 20 years of Local Action as Five Municipalities Become GHG Reduction Champions

February 13, 2014

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program on February 12 by recognizing five more communities that have excelled in meeting the initiative's goal of raising awareness of climate change and taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The five communities are: Bathurst, NB; Guelph, ON; London, ON; Waterloo Region, ON; and Metro Vancouver, BC.

"The municipalities we are recognizing today (February 12) are champions in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and they serve as an inspiration to other communities concerned about climate change," said FCM president Claude Dauphin. "As a result of their efforts, they now have the capacity to monitor their respective community's emissions and report results, which are vital elements of climate protection."

FCM held a recognition ceremony on February 12, honouring the 5 communities, as part of FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference in Charlottetown, PE, under the theme 'Sink or Swim: New Approaches to Adaptation and Resilience.'

Municipalities have direct or indirect control over approximately 44 per cent of Canada's GHG and, since 1994, have been at the forefront of efforts to reduce GHGs through programming like PCP. The PCP program is a voluntary, results-oriented network of Canadian municipal governments. Member municipalities progress through a series of steps designed to build their capacity to reduce GHGs locally by creating a GHG emissions inventory; setting reduction targets; developing a local action plan; implementing the plan; and finally, monitoring progress and reporting results. The municipalities being recognized today (February 12) join an elite, but growing list of communities who have worked through the PCP's five-milestone framework.

Since 2008, PCP member municipalities have voluntarily reported on over 800 projects to reduce GHG emissions. These projects represent more than \$2.3 billion in local investments and over 1.8 million tonnes in annual GHG reductions. Results are tracked and reported annually in the PCP National Measures Report. PCP is the Canadian component of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection network, which involves more than 1,100 communities worldwide. The program receives financial support from FCM's Green Municipal Fund. PCP's more than 250 members represent over 80 per cent of the Canadian population.

"Climate change is a long-term problem that requires constant attention," added Mr. Dauphin. "For two decades, local governments have been leaders in addressing this challenge and we are committed to doing the same for the next two decades and beyond."

For more information :

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