



Council report

Meeting date:	April 6, 2021
Title:	Partners for Climate Protection Program Feasibility Report
Prepared by:	Lindsey Glazier, Legislative Coordinator
Reviewed by:	Laura Johnston, CAO

Recommendation

That council hereby receives the report Partners for Climate Protection Program Feasibility Report;

That council adopts and supports the Partners for Climate Action Program;

That council directs the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to oversee implementation of the PCP milestones and that the CAO, or designate, be the point of contact for the PCP program for the municipality; and

That council appoints _____ to act as a champion at the council level for the PCP program for the municipality.

Executive summary

On August 6, 2019 the Municipality of West Grey declared a climate crisis. On July 29, 2020 council directed staff to report on the feasibility of the Municipality of West Grey joining the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP). The PCP has been established by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada). This program supports member municipalities by providing resources, tools, and financial support during climate action plan or policy development relating to the environment.

Background and discussion

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Local Governments for Sustainability , Canada (ICLEI Canada) have established the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program to provide a forum for municipal governments to share their knowledge and experience with other municipal governments on how to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. The PCP program began in 1994 with the goal of empowering municipalities to come together to act against climate change. More information about the PCP Program can be found on the [FCM, Partners for Climate Protection website](#).

The FCM through the PCP programs also offers grants for local government environmental



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projects. Loans are also available to local governments at competitive rates, and recipients may receive an additional grant of up to 15 percent of their loan amount.

Council has identified the creation of a Climate Action Plan a priority in the Strategic Vision Plan. Participating in the PCP program will offer the municipality resources and support in the development of our Climate Action Plan. Being actively engaged in the PCP program gives the municipality the opportunity to have a systematic and organized approach to climate change by participating in a framework used throughout more than 450 participating municipalities across Canada. Listed below are some of the benefits of joining this program:

- Support and guidance, through the PCP Milestone Framework, to help members reduce GHG emissions.
- Access via the PCP Hub to a network of over 350 local governments across Canada that are acting on climate change and can help your community succeed by offering their experience and examples.
- Technical support tools, including the PCP Milestone Tool and PCP Protocol.
- Information and access to funding opportunities, such as those offered by FCM's Green Municipal Fund.
- Capacity-building resources, including workshops, case studies and training opportunities.
- Awards and recognition for milestone achievements and for reported measures.

The Partners for Climate Protection Program will guide the municipality through a five-step Milestone Framework to help achieve climate change targets by reducing emissions in the municipality. The Milestone Framework are as follows:

Milestone 1: Create a Baseline Emissions Inventory and Forecast;

Milestone 2: Set Emissions Reduction Targets;

Milestone 3: Develop a Local Action Plan;

Milestone 4: Implement the Local Action Plan; and

Milestone 5: Monitor Progress and Report Results.

The objective of moving through the framework is to assist the municipality in saving money, improving air quality, creating jobs, and improving local residents' health. The PCP will provide support to the municipality throughout all stages of the framework.

Membership in the program is free and the guidelines are as follows:

- Move through the Milestone Framework within 10 years of joining;
- Report on progress at least once every two years, with PCP's support;
- Advise PCP if contact information changes; and
- Actively participate in program activities and share your experience with other network members.



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Legal and legislated requirements

Municipal Act, 2001, as amended

Financial and resource implications

There are no financial considerations as this time. Membership to the Partners for Climate Protection Program is free. Associated operating cost implications required for milestones or initiatives will go through the municipal annual budget review process.

Staffing implications

Staff resources, as necessary, for initiatives

Consultation

Partners for Climate Protection Program
Grey County Planning Department

Alignment to strategic vision plan

Pillar: Build a better future
Goal: Stewards of the environment
Strategy: Support and encourage environmental sustainability projects

Attachments

None.

Next steps

If council chooses to join as a member of the PCP program, staff will communicate to the FCM and ICLEI Canada regarding West Grey's participation. Staff will utilize PCP program resources and develop strategies towards achieving the initiatives set out under Milestone One.

The municipality is able to leave the program at any time with no consequence and is able to rejoin at a later time if West Grey is unable to meet the PCP program requirements.

Respectfully submitted:

Lindsey Glazier, Legislative Coordinator