



MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

REPORT NO. CAO-xxx-24

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Chief Administrative Officer

MEETING DATE: March 11, 2024

SUBJECT: PARTNERS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. CAO-002-24 be **RECEIVED** for information;

AND THAT Council **ADOPT** a Resolution to Join the FCM–ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection Program as follows:

WHEREAS The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI–Local Governments for Sustainability (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 GHG emissions;

WHEREAS over 350 municipal governments across Canada representing more than 65 per cent of the population have already committed to reducing corporate and community GHG emissions through the PCP program since its inception in 1994;

WHEREAS the PCP program is based on a five-milestone framework that involves completing a GHG inventory and forecast, setting a GHG reduction target, developing a local action plan, implementing the plan, and monitoring progress and reporting results;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Thames Centre review the guidelines on PCP Member Benefits and Responsibilities and then communicate to FCM and ICLEI Canada its participation in the PCP program and its commitment to achieving the milestones set out in the PCP five-milestone framework;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee and the CAO be appointed to oversee the implementation of the PCP milestones and be the points of contact for the PCP program within the Municipality.

AND THAT, one-time funding of \$25,000 from the Tax Stabilization Reserve be authorized for utilization toward this Program for Corporate Benchmarking, including, a retroactive analysis of Municipal energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Report is to provide Council additional information and options related to recommendations by its Environmental Advisory Committee around ways the Municipality may consider climate action.

BACKGROUND:

At its inaugural meeting December 4, 2023, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) passed the following recommendation to Council:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Thames Centre Council consider joining the Partners for Climate Protection Program and Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities Program.

Council approved the EAC minutes at its Dec. 11, 2023 meeting taking the EAC recommendation under advisement with no further direction.

COMMENTS:

Local Governments for Sustainability, founded in 1990 as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), is a leading network of local and regional governments committed to sustainable development. Local Governments for Sustainability Canada has several programs and resources to assist municipalities in their environmental, climate adaptation and sustainability goals. Two such programs have been identified and recommended by the EAC for Thames Centre Council consideration:

- 1) *Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP)*; this program is established by both ICLEI Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and,
- 2) *Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities Program (BARC)*.

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a national network of members committed to climate action through the reduction of local greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Members progress through a five-step Milestone Framework, which sees the creation of a baseline emissions inventory, sets reduction targets, develops and implement a local climate action plan, and report on results. This framework, when combined with the program's mix of hands-on technical assistance, networking opportunities, and practical guides and tools, allows members to contribute to broader efforts to reduce emissions.

Although there are no costs to join this program, there are costs and resources associated with implementing the Framework.

Milestone 1 establishes the greenhouse gas (GHG) baseline inventory and business-as-usual (BAU) forecast, providing the foundation on which municipalities will base all their subsequent milestones.

Milestone 2 is where local governments set an emissions reduction target. An emissions reduction target is the quantity of emissions a municipality wants to reduce by a certain future date.

Milestone 3 requires local action planning which is the process of creating a strategic document that specifically outlines how the municipality will achieve the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets set in Milestone 2. The resulting document is the third milestone and there are four key elements which are required for Milestone 3:

1. Description of activities that will be taken to achieve target reductions;
2. Stakeholder engagement;
3. Description of cost and/or funding sources; and
4. Description of where the overarching responsibilities for the plan are contained.

Milestone 4 requires municipalities to look at the local action plan developed in Milestone 3 and provide a detailed account of what greenhouse gas reduction measures are being implemented and how they have achieved reductions. Taking stock of the implementation of reduction measures helps to track of the community's progress and helps to ensure the success of the local action plan.

There are two key elements required for Milestone 4 which PCP members must demonstrate before recognition can be issued. These criteria include:

1. A description of the degree to which measures in the local action plan have been implemented; and,
2. An outline of the implementation schedule.

Milestone 5 provides municipalities with the opportunity to assess progress towards their set reduction goals (Milestone 2) and to reassess the strategic direction of their local action plan (Milestone 3). The process also provides an opportunity to highlight achievements, assess best practices and provide direction for greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation actions in the future.

There are three main criteria that PCP members must demonstrate before Milestone 5 recognition is issued:

1. Tracking the GHG reduction impact of individual measures;
2. Updating the inventory; and
3. Engaging stakeholders and decision makers.

Overall, the PCP program supports a data-driven approach to climate action. By developing a baseline emissions inventory, communities can make informed decisions about where to focus their efforts for the most significant emissions reductions.

In order to be part of the PCP Program, Council must pass a *joining resolution*, as referenced in the recommendation section of this report. Further, Council must be aware of PCP Member Benefits and Responsibilities as follows:

The PCP program offers you a proven approach to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and the support you need to achieve success. Being actively engaged in the PCP program gives your municipality the chance to become a leader by taking systematic and organized action on climate change. By participating in the PCP program, Canadian municipalities gain access to the following tools and resources:

- *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 taking action 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.*

Members of the PCP program have the following responsibilities:

- *Move through the Milestone Framework within 10 years of joining*
- *Report on progress at least once every two years, with our support*
- *Email us if your contact information changes*
- *Actively participate in program activities and share your experience with other network members*

If your municipality is not able to meet the PCP program requirements, you can always leave the program and rejoin it at a later date. You can also contact the PCP Secretariat anytime for help with submitting documentation to meet the requirements.

Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities Program (BARC) is a national program focused on resilience and adaptation. BARC offers a comprehensive way to respond to the impacts of climate change through development and implementation of an adaptation plan.

There is a \$20,000 annual cost to be part of this program whereby all members receive the following core services and benefits:

Public recognition
Research assistance
Expertise
Planning guidance
Implementation support
Community stakeholder outreach
Progress updates and regular check-ins

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

PCP Program

It is anticipated that the cost to get started on Milestone 1 of the PCP - establishing the greenhouse gas (GHG) baseline inventory - is approximated \$25,000 for associated software and analysis based on the following:

1. Corporate buildings and facilities - 31
2. Fleet Vehicles - 73
3. Water Management - 5
4. Waste Management - 6
5. Streetlights and Traffic Signals – 922

Staff have begun some of this work related to the Municipal Asset Management Plan and Building Condition Assessments. Therefore, the PCP would be a welcome enhancement of existing work and support continuous improvement.

BARC Program

The current known costs for joining the BARC Program is \$20,000, not counting adaptation planning and/or implementation costs; that is the cost for joining and maintaining membership annually.

Given limited resources and realistic ability to implement both programs at once, in conjunction with advancing Council's other Strategic initiatives, it is not feasible to proceed with both at this time. Therefore, upon further analysis of the two programs, it is recommended Council proceed with the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program while deferring further consideration of the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities Program (BARC) to a future time.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Pillar: *Sustainability*

Goal: 7B *The Municipality should prioritize green initiatives and work closely with the Thames Centre Environmental Advisory Committee.*

ATTACHMENTS:

- Partners for Climate Protection 2022-2023 Annual Insights Report
- 4th BARC Impact Report

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