

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	August 8 th , 2019
Subject / Report No:	PDR-CW-37-19
Title:	Endorse Enrollment in the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP)
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Reviewed by:	Randy Scherzer
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All Municipalities in Grey County
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CW-37-19 be received for information;
2. That Council adopts and supports the Partners for Climate Protection Program; and
3. That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to endorse the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Council Resolution for Partners for Climate Protection Program.

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) and requests Council's support to enroll in the program. PCP has been established by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada). This program provides local governments access to resources, tools, and financial support as they work to develop a climate action plan or other policies related to the environment. As County staff work to develop a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), the PCP program will support the County as we move through the Milestone Framework and provide resources that otherwise would not be available without the PCP program.

Background

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 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 here - [FCM - Partners for Climate Protection Website](#).

Currently, there are over 350 participating municipalities across Canada, several of which are Counties including Oxford County, Dufferin County, County of Simcoe, and the County of Peterborough. Participation in the program is dependent on the completion of a five (5) milestone framework, which is intended to guide the municipality towards the development of a Climate Action Plan. The five (5) milestones include:

- Creating a baseline emissions inventory and forecast;
- Setting emissions reduction targets;
- Developing a local action plan;
- Implementing the local action plan, and;
- Monitoring progress and reporting results.

Discussion

County staff are in the process of developing a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for the corporation and for the region. Staff are currently in the process of developing an RFP and hope to hire a qualified consultant to gather data and information to help staff understand the effects of climate change in Grey County. The RFP and the CCAP will be based on the principles of the five (5) milestones framework.

Participating in the PCP program will offer the County a wide range of resources and support through the development of our CCAP. Being actively engaged in the PCP program gives the County the opportunity to have a systematic and organized approach to climate change by utilising the tested framework that has been developed. Listed below are the 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 County will gain access to tools and resources, including case studies, funding opportunities, information sharing, and computer software that will assist in the development of a GHG inventory. Gathering data sources and developing a GHG inventory will be an important component of the CCAP, and the FCM resources can help the County reduce time and financial resources required to access these resources. The FCM through the PCP programs also offers

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

The PCP program is free for the County to join and it is not legally binding, meaning that there will be no consequences if the County does not meet the commitments set out in the program.

The County has the option to cancel their membership at anytime.

Voluntarily joining the program would give the County access to several resources that would be beneficial in advancing the County's environmental strategic goals and action items, particularly as it pertains to preparing for climate change. It would also be valuable for the County to take advantage of this opportunity now, as the five (5) milestone framework will be used to complete the work of the County's Climate Change Action Plan. Further, these resources can also be utilised for other corporate initiatives such as the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan.

Next Steps

If County Council chooses to join as a member to the PCP program, members of the PCP program have the following responsibilities:

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

The County would need to appoint an elected official and a corporate staff person to oversee the implementation of the PCP milestones and be the points of contact for the PCP program within the County. It is recommended that this be the Warden and the Director of Planning and Development.

If the County is not able to meet the PCP program requirements, we can leave the program and rejoin later.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

There are no legal or legislative considerations at this time.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial considerations at this time.

Relevant Consultation

Internal: Planning, Transportation Services, Housing, Long Term Care, Information Technology, Paramedic Services, Tourism, Grey Roots, Finance, Corporate Services, and Economic Development staff were consulted as part of this study. These same County departments will be consulted as part of the County's eventual Climate Change Action Plan.

External: Municipal and public consultation will be required as part of the County's eventual Climate Change Action Plan. Other external partners to consult on this project may include; the Conservation Authorities within Grey, the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Province, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, industry sectors, and conservation groups.

Appendices and Attachments