

PARTNERS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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Reflecting on the past year: A special thanks to our members

As the nation grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020-2021 marked a turbulent time for municipal governments, who represent the front lines of local decision making. While facing unexpected financial stresses, our members had to make difficult choices to prioritize community health and wellbeing while continuing essential service delivery. We recognize the vital and significant role that municipal governments have played in this pandemic, and we want to thank them for their sustained efforts in keeping our communities going.

Whilst the pandemic has challenged us in new and difficult ways, it has also deepened our relationship with nature. Outdoor recreation has become essential to our wellbeing and the value of public parks, conservation areas, active transportation routes and other outdoor amenities are being widely seen and communicated by municipalities and their constituents. The pandemic has also demonstrated how global issues can have significant impacts at the local level, and for many it has provided a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to the climate crisis. The link between climate change and other catastrophes such as flooding, fires, biodiversity loss, and health crises has become evident to our members who have continued to demonstrate exceptional climate leadership. As outlined in this report, notwithstanding a pandemic, municipalities continued to join the program, make commitments and act on climate change. We want to express gratitude to our members for these outstanding accomplishments because their climate work benefits us all.



Summary

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a network of Canadian municipalities that have committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and acting on climate change. Delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the PCP program provides tools and resources to support municipalities in achieving their emissions reduction targets. PCP members commit to moving through the framework, which aligns with the [FCM Maturity Scale for Municipal GHG Emissions Reduction](#), and consists of five milestones:

- Milestone 1: creating a GHG emissions inventory and forecast
- Milestone 2: setting a GHG emissions reduction target
- Milestone 3: developing a local action plan
- Milestone 4: implementing the local action plan
- Milestone 5: monitoring progress and reporting results

The program received financial support from FCM's Green Municipal Fund, FCM's Municipal Climate Innovation Program, both programs undertaken with the financial support from the Government of Canada, and ICLEI Canada. In 2020 the PCP network has reached over **490 members** representing over **70% of the Canadian population**. Since inception, PCP has aided in the completion of **2009 program milestones. Sixty-three municipalities** have achieved **Milestone 5** and many of PCP's member municipalities have gone on to further their commitment to climate action by joining ICLEI's Building Adaptive and Resilience Communities (BARC) program (climate adaptation), FCM's Transition 2050 program initiative under the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (deep carbon emissions reduction), and the Global Covenant of Mayors (both mitigation and adaptation commitments) (**82 , 82 and 52 municipalities respectively**). In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, 58 PCP member municipalities submitted 84 successful funding applications for projects to FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF), a key supporter of the PCP program.

There are currently over **539 registered and active users on the PCP tool**, an online platform that helps municipalities to create detailed emissions inventories and guides them through each of the five milestones. The tool complements the virtual networking space, the PCP Hub, which will continue to support members to connect directly to one another to share ideas, best practices, and resources. Currently, there are over 695 users registered on the PCP hub.

Other notable accomplishments include the launch of a new [website](#), and the successful completion of an independent third-party evaluation which is being used to inform future program design.

Data

In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, PCP membership grew to 490 (with the addition of 40 new municipalities), 310 new milestones were achieved, and 11 PCP members reached Milestone 5. Over the past 25 years, the program has seen the completion of 2009 program milestones which equates to:

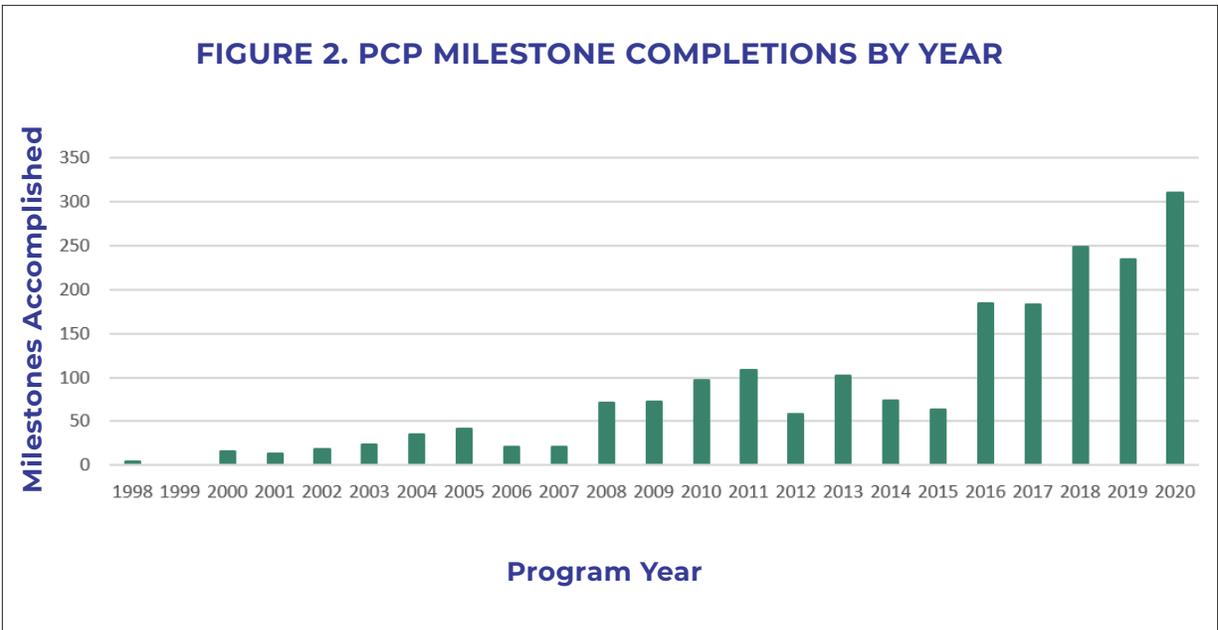
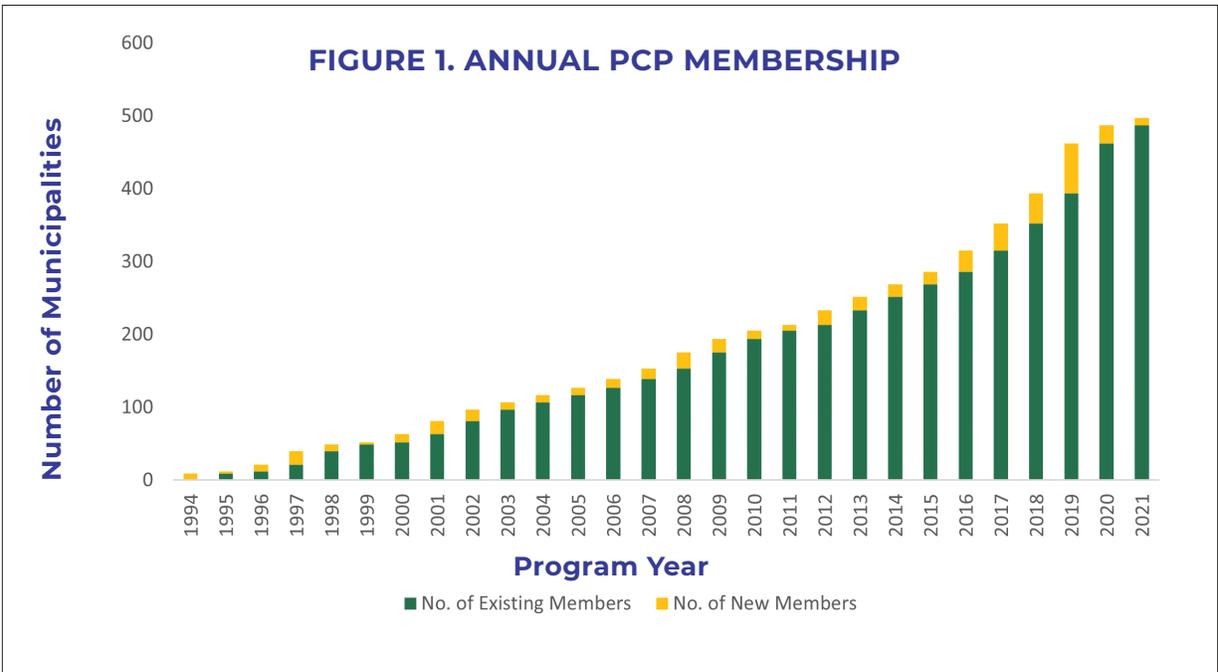
- o 660 baseline GHG emission inventories and business-as-usual projections completed;
- o 549 emissions community and corporate reduction targets set;
- o 507 local action plans developed;
- o 190 local action plans implemented and;
- o The progress of 103 local climate action plans monitored and measured.

Figures 1 and 2 below show the number of new PCP members per year, and the number of milestones achieved per year. The graphs demonstrate a notable increase in annual members and milestone submissions from 2017 onwards, which is in large part a result of the introduction of the program's Regional Climate Advisors (RCAs). The RCAs were funded through FCM's Municipal Climate Innovation Program (MCIP) and provided a variety of regionally specific supports to PCP members during their 4-year intervention.

The four-year mandate of the RCA program came to an end on April 1, 2021. The organizations that acted as RCAs will continue their support services under their own mandates.

Moving forward, PCP members will continue to be supported through services offered by the PCP Secretariat. This free support, offered in both English and French, will be in the form of:

- o Workshops, webinars, and other types of training
- o Peer learning and networking activities
- o Opportunities to expand municipal networks,
- o Support access to opportunities to fund climate change work
- o In-depth technical information about the PCP program to help further municipalities in completing milestones and developing competencies.
- o Assistance understanding the milestone completion and reporting requirements
- o Monthly drop-in meetings for members to converse with PCP Secretariat staff



PCP program members can achieve milestones on both a community and corporate level. A community GHG inventory estimates the GHG emissions from the whole community. Whereas a corporate or municipal GHG inventory focuses exclusively on the GHG emissions generated by a local government’s operations and services. For example, they may submit a GHG inventory for corporate emissions, and another one for community emissions, achieving Milestone 1 twice.

The figure below shows the percentage of PCP members at each corporate and community level milestone. Last year, the table below indicated a high percentage of members that had not yet received a program milestone, but this was largely due to the speed at which the program has been growing - new members were joining the program faster than existing members have been moving through the milestone framework. This past fiscal year we have focused our efforts on providing technical assistance and support to existing members rather than recruitment, which has led in an increase in the number of members who have reached Milestones 3 and above. For example, the corporate average milestones achieved increased from 1.85 in 2019-2020, to 2.11 in 2020-2021 (with a median change of 1 to 3) and community average increased from 1.78 in 2019-2020 to 2.05 in 2020-2021 (with a median change of 1 to 3).

TABLE 1: MEMBERS AT EACH MILESTONE BY PERCENTAGE

| Milestone | Corporate | Community |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| No Milestones Achieved yet | 31% | 34% |
| 1 | 12% | 10% |
| 2 | 5% | 5% |
| 3 | 31% | 31% |
| 4 | 8% | 11% |
| 5 | 12% | 9% |

TABLE 2: AVERAGE AND MEDIAN MILESTONE ACHIEVED

| | Corporate | Community |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Average | 2.11 | 2.05 |
| Median | 3 | 3 |

Emissions Analysis

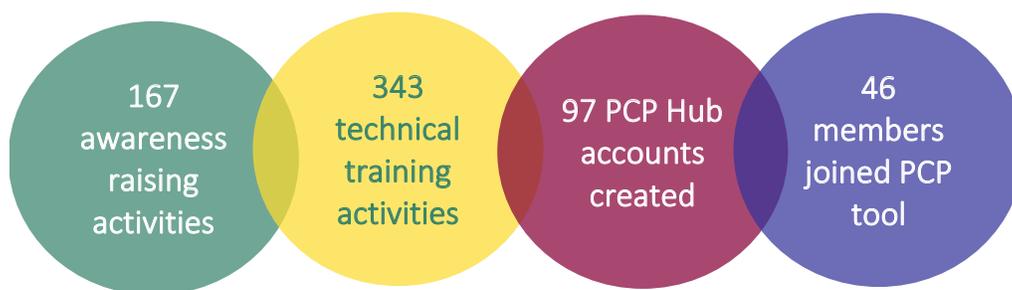
Under Milestone 2, PCP members have passed Council resolutions committing to emission reduction targets. Applying each members' target to their baseline inventory provides a total tonnes GHG emissions that each member is committing to reduce annually by their specified target year. As of January 2021, the total emissions that members have committed to reducing is **160 million tonnes (Mt) CO₂e** by 2050. To provide perspective on the amount of GHG emissions that 160 Mt represent, it is equivalent to 22 percent of Canada's total emissions in 2019 (730 Mt CO₂e) or analogous to removing virtually all the emissions from the oil and gas sector.

Members have selected targets as small as 0.05 percent and as large as 100 percent relative to their reported baseline emissions, as well as 'net-zero' targets which have been considered the equivalent of a 100 percent reduction for the purpose of this analysis. Target years also vary between members, the earliest target years set have passed, and the latest target year set by a member is 2080. When aggregated across the entire PCP program the total amount represents a commitment to reduce emissions by 77 percent from the reported baseline inventories associated with Milestone 2.



Overview of PCP Activities, Support Resources, and Results

In 2020-2021 the PCP program wrote the [Small and Rural Communities Climate Action Guidebook](#), underwent an extensive program evaluation, and prepared the new PCP website which launched April 2021. With the help of the RCAs, the program facilitated 167 awareness raising events and 343 technical training activities, which included hosting workshops, conferences and providing individual support to members. In the 2020-2021 fiscal year alone, 97 new individuals joined the PCP hub, bringing the total number of PCP hub accounts up to 695. Additionally, 46 municipalities joined the PCP tool, bringing the total number of municipalities using the tool up to 342.



Below is a summary of the performance metrics tracked by the program. This analysis was based on data from participant evaluations conducted and collected after RCA activities.

TABLE 3: CAPACITY BUILDING PERFORMANCE METRICS

| Indicators | Targets | Results |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| % of targeted municipalities that have reported an increased awareness of the need to reduce GHG emissions | 75% of the targeted municipalities | 82% of respondents (n=37) in targeted municipalities reported an increase in awareness of the need to reduce GHGs |
| % of responding municipal participants in technical assistance activities that have indicated an increase in skills related to GHG reduction | 75% of participants | 93% of respondents (n=81) reported an increase in skills related to GHG reduction |

Annual Membership Survey Results

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the PCP program developed its own performance measurement framework to track progress. In order to measure the key indicators below, a membership survey was administered. The survey was sent only to a single primary contact for each municipality, to avoid double counting members, and it received 148 responses total. It is our intention to repeat this practice annually, so we can track our progress in these areas over time. In each question we asked respondents to limit their responses to the last fiscal year only.

TABLE 4: MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

| Indicators | Results |
|--|---|
| Number and percentage of members (respondents) who reported receiving one on one support (either from the PCP Secretariat or an RCA) | 65% of respondents (n=96) reported receiving one on one support from an RCA or the PCP Secretariat and 82% of these respondents reported being satisfied with the support provided. |
| % of responding municipal participants in technical assistance activities that have indicated an increase in skills related to GHG reduction | 93% of respondents (n=138) reported attending a virtual event or accessing PCP support resources (such as publications, the website or PCP hub/ tool) |
| Number and percentage of members (respondents) reporting that they have applied the knowledge gained in PCP capacity building programs | 57% of respondents (n=79) reported that they have applied the knowledge gained in PCP capacity building programs in the last fiscal year |
| % of members (respondents) who report connecting with another member for support | 32% of respondents (n=48) reported having connected with another member for support through PCP networks in the last fiscal year |

Support Resources Produced in 2020-2021



Featured Highlights

As a reaction to the pandemic, in the 2020-2021 fiscal year the PCP program pivoted its support to be provided exclusively online. As a result, our milestone workshops were re-designed to adapt to an online environment while continuing to provide members with opportunities to connect. Community of practice meetings were scheduled across the country and held over virtual platforms such as Teams and Zoom, instead of the boardrooms.

In total PCP hosted 10 virtual workshops across Canada in 2020-2021, and 31 webinar on topics such as energy poverty, measuring GHG reductions at the project level, and climate action in small and rural communities. Out of that total the RCAs hosted 7 virtual workshops and 28 webinars, and the PCP Secretariat hosted 3 Milestone workshops and 3 thematic webinars.

The PCP program continued efforts to align with the international [Global Covenant of Mayors](#) (GCOM) initiative. A shared help desk for signatory cities offered core support alongside in-depth support provided to a cohort of 25 municipalities in the Showcase Cities Program. Nearly all the 52 GCOM signatories in Canada are PCP member municipalities. A [Companion Guide](#) was released providing guidance on how the methodologies and requirements between PCP and GCOM align, and any step-change needed when further adopting a GCOM commitment. Work has also progressed on enabling one-window data reporting from the PCP milestone tool to the global reporting system for municipalities participating on both programs. GCOM Canada is a collaboration between FCM, ICLEI Canada, the International Urban Cooperation Project of the European Union, and the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat.

Hear from our Members

As part of our 2020-2021 membership survey, respondents were given the opportunity to provide a testimonial on their experience with the program. Here is what some of our members had to say:

"This approach has helped Saint-Luc-de-Vincennes residents and elected officials better understand the extent of climate change and the key role municipalities can play in addressing climate change. Launching a public consultation on a realistic, achievable action plan that leverages the human, financial and material resources available to our organization. Identifying the main sources of municipal GHG emissions and setting reduction targets."

- Francis Dubreuil, Director General of the Municipality of Saint-Luc-de-Vincennes

"The PCP program has given our municipality great confidence in moving the dial on climate change. By working closely with our regional climate advisor, Port Moody was able to advance to Milestone 4 for both community and corporate emissions achievements in just over 1 year. The PCP program has provided us with valuable resources and additional expertise and capacity through the regional climate advisor that we would not otherwise have. Looking forward to achieving Milestone 5!"

-Laura Sampliner, City of Port Moody

"Through participation in the PCP Program, the District of Muskoka has been able to identify and tackle comprehensive climate objectives and actions that drive energy and emission efficiencies. This program has helped us to cultivate climate-resiliency across our watershed, and beyond!"

- Christy Doyle, Director of Environmental & Watershed Programs, District of Muskoka

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next fiscal year, PCP has some exciting initiatives in store. As the world races to decarbonize, PCP has begun to reevaluate target setting recommendations for our members with the goal of increasing ambition. Although it may be a race, PCP wants to ensure that no one is left behind. PCP will be working on the development of an equity and inclusion in climate action guide that lays out key strategies and recommendations municipalities can incorporate into their climate agenda placing an equity lens on their efforts. The program will also be moving ahead technologically as PCP adopts innovative technologies to improve the efficacy of PCP's internal member database and to turn data and numbers into visuals that will tell our members climate action stories. PCP has also added new features and improvements to the PCP Hub and PCP Tool to make them more user-friendly. All these improvements will enable further transparency of PCP's data, facilitating communication between our members and creating a community of practice.

