

PARTNERS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM



2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT



PARTNERS FOR **CLIMATE** PROTECTION



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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 and ICLEI Canada. In 2021, the PCP network reached over **518 members** representing over **70% of the Canadian population**. Since inception, PCP has helped **68 municipalities achieve 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) and the **Global Covenant of Mayors** (both GHG reduction and adaptation commitments).

There are currently over **557 registered and active users of the PCP tool**, an online platform that helps municipalities create detailed emissions inventories and guides them through each of the five milestones. The tool complements the PCP Hub, a virtual networking space, which will continue to support members to connect directly to one another to share ideas, best practices and resources. Currently, there are over **771 users registered on the PCP hub**.

Data

In the 2021–2022 fiscal year, PCP membership grew to 518 (with the addition of 24 new municipalities), 125 new milestones were achieved, and 5 PCP members reached Milestone 5.

Figures 1 and 2 below show the number of new PCP members per year and the number of milestones achieved per year, respectively. The graphs demonstrate a notable increase in annual members and milestone submissions from 2017 onwards, which was 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 continue their support services under their own mandates.

PCP members are directly supported through services offered by the PCP Secretariat. This free support, offered in both English and French, is in the form of:

- Peer learning and networking activities
- Opportunities to expand municipal networks
- Supporting to access to opportunities to fund climate change work
- Assistance in understanding the milestone completion and reporting requirements
- Skills and knowledge development through webinars and support resources
- Monthly drop-in meetings for members to converse with PCP Secretariat staff
- Recognition for milestone achievements

Figure 1. Annual PCP membership

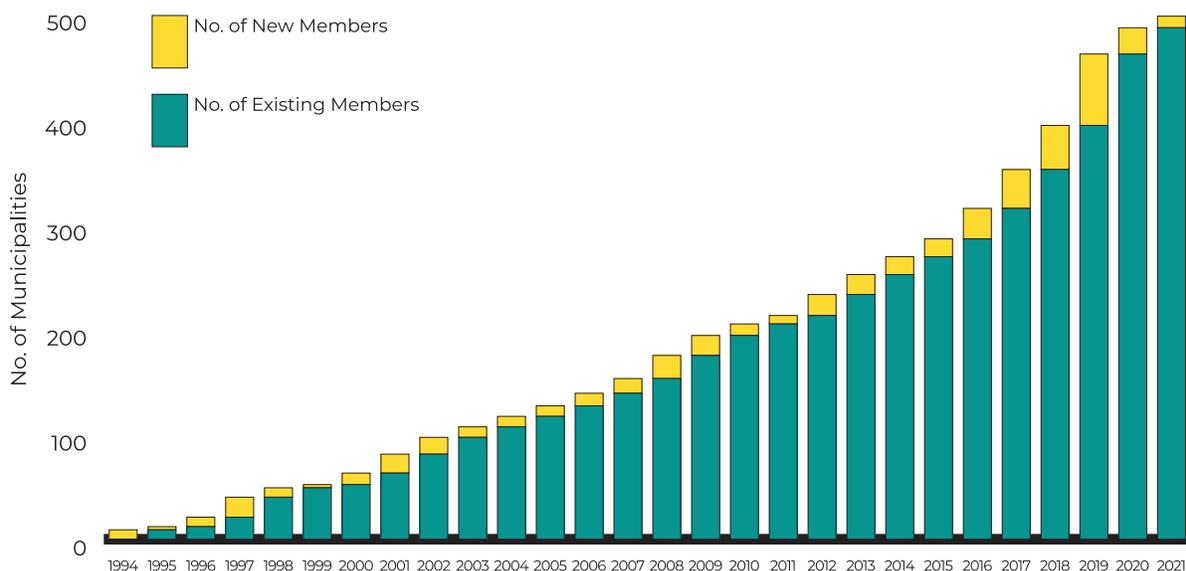
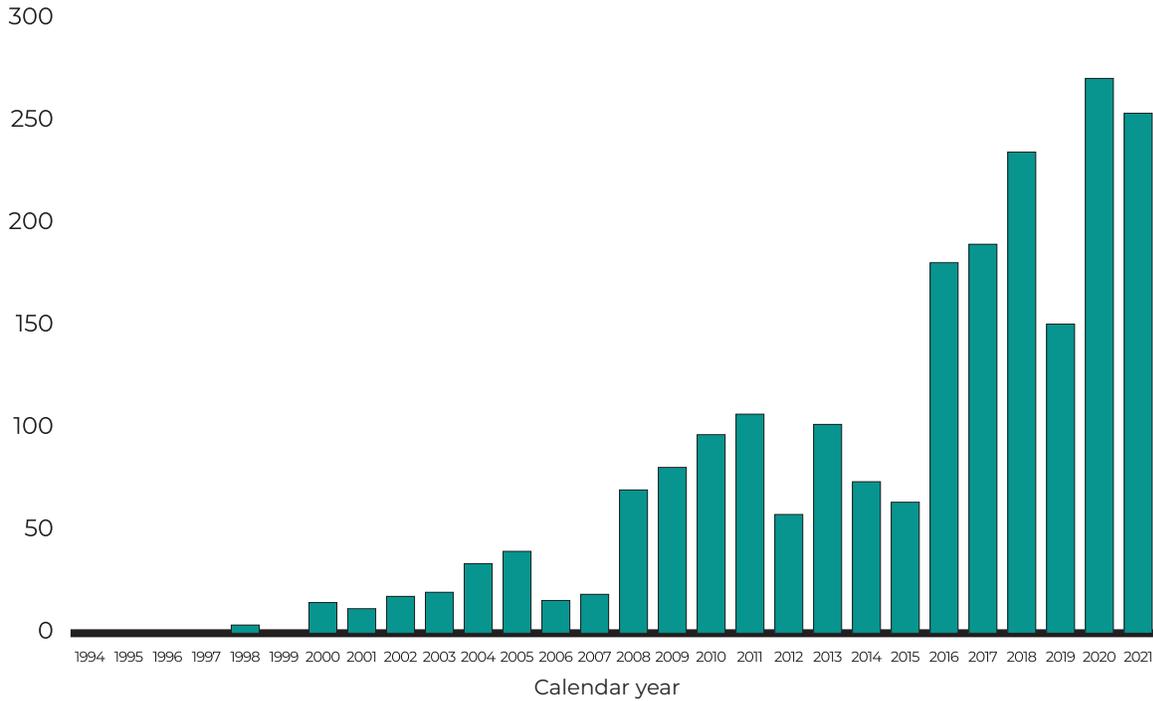


Figure 2. Total no. of milestones completed per calendar year



PCP members can achieve milestones on both a community and corporate level. A community GHG inventory estimates the GHG emissions from the whole community. A corporate or municipal GHG inventory focuses exclusively on the GHG emissions generated by a local government’s operations and services. For example, members 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. Since it takes longer for existing members to move through the Milestone Framework than for new members to join the program, PCP notes that we have a substantial number of our members who have yet to achieve a milestone. This past fiscal year we have focused our efforts on providing technical assistance and support to existing members and recruitment of new members, 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 2.11 in 2020–2021, to 2.39 in 2020–2021 and community average increased from 2.05 in 2020–2021 to 2.36 in 2021–2022.

TABLE 1: MEMBERS AT EACH MILESTONE BY PERCENTAGE

Milestone	Corporate	Community
No Milestones Achieved Yet	33%	35%
1	12%	10.2%
2	5%	5.2%
3	29%	29.2%
4	8%	10.2%
5	13%	10.2%

TABLE 2: AVERAGE AND MEDIAN MILESTONE ACHIEVED

Milestone	Corporate	Community
Average	2.39	2.36
Median	2	2



Overview of PCP activities, support resources and results

In 2021–2022, the PCP program hired two equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) fellows to research and prepare an EDI resource, the program facilitated 9 awareness raising events, 12 networking activities and 8 technical trainings events, conferences and provided individual support to members. 75 new individuals joined the PCP hub, bringing the total number of PCP hub accounts up to 771. 33 new municipalities accessed the PCP tool, bringing the total number of municipalities using the tool up to 375.

The PCP program hosted several webinars. In September 2021, the program hosted a webinar titled “**Let’s Discuss Climate Targets and Ambition**,” in which PCP staff and members discussed the program’s possible new target recommendations and how to increase their ambition and what steps municipalities were taking to make more ambitious targets. Following this webinar, the PCP released a milestone instruction **manual for Milestone 2**: that detailed the new PCP target recommendation of 45% by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

November 2021’s webinar, “**Bringing your community climate action plan to life**,” discussed various funding options and monetary strategies for advancing municipal climate action. This webinar touched on green bonds and funding offers available through the Green Municipal Fund and other programs.

In February 2022, the program hosted a webinar titled “**How building retrofits can help you meet your climate goals**.” This webinar featured municipal practitioners, experts from non-profit and an Advisor at the Green Municipal Fund. They discussed how they actioned and designed retrofit programs in their communities.

Finally, in addition to the standard milestone training workshops centering on Milestone 1, Milestones 2 & 3, and Milestones 4 & 5, the PCP program presented a new technical workshop titled “**Taking your local GHG inventories to the next level**.” This workshop covered advanced methodologies and calculations and explored concepts found in the **Global Protocol for Community-Scale GHG Inventories** resource. Recordings of the webinars are available by request at pcp@fcm.ca.

The PCP program hosted monthly drop-in calls where members could connect and convene with peers and ask questions related to GHG reductions in a “Hackathon” format. This format encouraged members to use the time between calls to find solutions to specific scenarios and share them at the next drop-in.

The program’s EDI resource, “**Integrating equity, diversity and inclusion into municipal climate action**,” was published this summer. This introductory resource is designed to help your municipality take the first step on its EDI journey. The resource will demystify key concepts, share case studies and lessons learned, and will provide a basic framework for making EDI a core part of your municipality’s everyday climate planning.

The PCP program also followed the happenings in the international climate change space at the Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow and the various reports released by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The PCP program wrote a series of **six summary articles** that outlined the key take-aways from COP26 and the IPCC reports and highlighted how these take-aways relate to the Canadian context.



Support resources produced in 2021–2022

- Nine PCP blog Posts
- Five articles in the “**A focus on COP26 and the IPCC**” series
- Research and development of “**Integrating equity, diversity and inclusion into municipal climate action**”
- Instruction manuals for all five of the **PCP milestones**
- PCP Digital Recognition Toolkit
- Member **contact update form**
- Updated PCP GHG reduction target outlined in the **Milestone 2 instruction manual**
- A list of sample **PCP compliant climate action plans by province**



Featured highlights

Due to ongoing restrictions on in-person meetings and events during the 2021–2022 fiscal year, the PCP program continued to provide its support exclusively online. The program incorporated best practices and lessons learned from the 2020–2021 fiscal year to enhance the level of service of the events for PCP’s membership. Drop-in calls and Hackathons were held on the first Thursday of every month to convene municipal and elected officials working on climate change mitigation efforts.

The PCP program was also approached by various municipalities that were not already members of the program looking to learn more about the program. Some of these municipalities requested that a delegation be sent to their council meetings to allow the councillors to learn more about the program and to ask any questions they may have to the PCP secretariat. Over the 2021–2022 fiscal year, six of these council presentations were delivered, resulting in four new municipalities joining the program.

In total, PCP hosted six virtual workshops across Canada in 2021–2022, 12 drop-in calls and five webinars on topics such as climate targets and increasing ambition, financing a climate action plan and building retrofits.

The PCP program continued efforts to align with the international **Global Covenant of Mayors** (GCOM) initiative. Nearly all the 59 GCOM signatories in Canada are PCP member municipalities. 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.

In quarter 4 of the 2021–2022 fiscal year, the PCP program hired an assistant to launch an engagement campaign with members. The purpose of the campaign was to connect with members to inform them of new PCP resources, to update member contact information and to provide an opportunity for members to provide the program with a status update of their progress. PCP’s assistant was able to connect with 105 municipalities, 20% of our membership over email, and 30 municipalities on the phone in a six-week period. The best way to stay connected with the PCP program is to update your municipality’s contact information with PCP’s **[contact update form](#)**.

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 PCP’s activities in fiscal year 2021–2022.

TABLE 3: CAPACITY BUILDING PERFORMANCE METRICS

Indicators	Target	Results
% of targeted municipalities that have reported an increased awareness of the need to reduce GHG emissions	90% of the targeted municipalities	98% of respondents (n=41) 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	90% of participants	87% of respondents (n=94) reported an increase in skills related to GHG reduction



Annual membership survey results

The PCP program streamlined its performance measurement framework to more effectively track progress and ensure that all activities aligned with the objective of reducing GHG emissions by program members. In order to measure the key indicators below, a membership survey was administered. To avoid double counting numbers, the survey was sent only to a single contact at each municipality. 32 responses were received. Respondents were asked 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)	47% of respondents (n= 15) reported receiving one on one support from the PCP Secretariat and 100% of these respondents reported being satisfied with the support provided.
Number and percentage of members (respondents) who reported attending an event or accessing PCP support resources	75% of respondents (n=24) 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	69% of respondents (n=22) 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	31% of respondents (n= 10) reported having connected with another member for support through PCP networks in the last fiscal year

Looking ahead

The PCP program has numerous plans to improve support for members. The program will be transitioning our virtual workshops to an online format, enabling PCP members to access the learnings and training in real time as while working through the Milestone Framework. The program will also be updating each of the five milestones to remain consistent with the most up-to-date information and recommendations for the municipal climate sector. Members can also expect to begin receiving digital recognition awards that recognize their achievements within the Milestone Framework. Members can share these awards online via their websites or social media platforms to promote their climate achievements to community members and other relevant stakeholders.

The PCP program also looks forward to supporting members as they make the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion core to their municipal climate planning and everyday operations. The introductory resource, **Integrating Equity, Diversity and Inclusion into Municipal Climate Action**, will launch in the summer of 2022, followed by a webinar in September exploring the resource.