

## Sustainable Peterborough

210 Wolfe St., Peterborough ON K9J 2K9

705-743-0777

[info@sustainablepeterborough.ca](mailto:info@sustainablepeterborough.ca)

[sustainablepeterborough.ca](http://sustainablepeterborough.ca)



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Kathy Hering , Senior Policy Analyst  
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
Climate Change and Environmental Policy Division  
Air Policy and Climate Change Branch  
77 Wellesley Street West, Floor 10  
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

To Ms. Hering,

### **Re: Sustainable Peterborough's position on Ontario's Climate Change discussion paper 2015**

The Greater Peterborough Area has undertaken an exciting journey towards sustainability through the development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, known as ***Sustainable Peterborough***. Sustainable Peterborough is a non-regional collective of local municipalities and First Nations, working collaboratively to lead the way towards our common sustainable future.

Working through Peterborough Economic Development, Sustainable Peterborough recently secured \$400,000 funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Green Municipal Fund to develop a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for the City of Peterborough, the County of Peterborough, Selwyn Township, Municipality of Trent Lakes, Township of North Kawartha, Township of Douro-Dummer, Asphodel-Norwood Township, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Township, Township of Otonabee South Monaghan, Cavan Monaghan Township, as well as Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation. The goal of the CCAP is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare our community for present and future changes.

As members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Partners of Climate Protection (PCP) Program, we will follow the well-established 5-milestone framework to create a baseline GHG inventory for each of the twelve partners. Following analysis, we will set individual Corporate and Community based GHG reduction targets, create local action plans, the implement these actions. Our overarching goal is to reduce our GHG emissions, reduce the use of fossil fuels, lower our energy consumption, and adapt to our changing climate.

Having launched CCAP in October 2014, we have only just begun. We plan to complete the 4 of 5 milestones by August 2017 for all 12 Corporate and Community Partners. Implementation of a collaborative regional approach for a non-regional group of municipalities and First Nation communities has been unheard of, to date. We recognize the need for a united, but distinctly individual, triple bottom line approach to addressing climate change at the local level. That is why the Sustainable Peterborough

Coordinating Committee was pleased with the launch and timing of *Ontario's Climate Change discussion paper*, as well to recognize climate change as the critical issue of our time.

### **Traditional Knowledge**

The Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan, adopted in April 2012, and our CCAP which was initiated October 2014, have both included all local levels of government, including Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nations. Inclusiveness and recognition of traditional knowledge creates a solid foundation and a local partnership, working towards common issues and concerns. This partnership is fundamental in addressing our regional approach to climate change, by respecting and recognizing culture, history, and our common future. The CCAP is adapting the PCP framework to recognize storytelling and community planning as a recognized baseline inventory for the First Nation communities. Sustainable Peterborough will be sending a formal request to FCM to include First Nation communities in the PCP program framework.

### **Actions in Key Sectors**

Land use planning plays a key role in addressing climate change at the local level. Municipalities must ensure that adaptation, mitigation, greenhouse gas reduction measures, water and energy conservation targets are incorporated into local Official Plans and all future planning and development policies. This includes aligning and embedding sustainability and climate change action within all municipal plans.

### **Communities & Built Form**

Through the development of a baseline GHG inventory for each of our partner municipalities, it is evident that transportation and buildings are the largest generators of GHG emissions. Working with our consulting team, LURA and ICLEI Canada, we aim to establish local GHG reduction targets and action plans based on ICLEI Canada's database of local action and best practices from across Canada. Creating a tailor made, local approach should garnish the best fit and gain the most traction for local success on reducing GHG. This approach, in partnership with strong provincial direction on build form, building densities, complete streets, energy efficiency, supported through a progress building code would be a great starting point.

We would like to conclude by acknowledging that a 45 day comment period is simply too short a review period to address the depth of this discussion within a municipal government setting. In this regard, we would encourage the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to host a regional town hall meeting in the City of Peterborough in the next step of local stakeholder engagement.

Sincerely,

Ken Doherty, Chair  
Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee