

## Theme: Climate Change



City of Peterborough firefighters during the 2004 flood.

### Where Are We Now?

The global community is facing tremendous challenges as our planet warms and climate patterns begin to shift. This rings true for the local community as well, where already people have begun to notice change in the weather we experience. There is a large consensus that there is still room for action on climate change, though the window of time in which to act is becoming increasingly narrow. To date, there has been little direct action taken in the community to address the possible challenges that may be encountered locally in the face of a continued warming trend. Fortunately, the Greater Peterborough Area has positioned itself well for action through the creation of its Sustainability Plan, within which actions across all eleven themes will help the community with mitigation and adaptation measures.

## Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

**Our Goal:** We will reduce our contributions to climate change while increasing our ability to adapt to climate change conditions.

## How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Prepare to respond and adapt to changing conditions associated with climate change.
- Develop broad public acceptance of efforts to mitigate climate change.
- Reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions produced within our community.

### Priority Actions

- Become active members in the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) to establish a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions with a corresponding plan for achieving a set target in emissions reductions.

*Note:* Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

## Toolbox Resources

- **Develop Greenhouse Gas Inventory/Strategy** – How to create an inventory of current greenhouse gas emissions and a formal strategy to reduce them.
- **Understand Climate Change Risks** – Educate your employees and your community about the risks of climate change and develop mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- **Climate Change Awareness for K to 12 Schools** – Schools can implement hands-on practical programs which educate students (grades K through 12) about climate change and its impacts.
- **Earthwise Thunder Bay Net Zero Business Guide** – Use the Net Zero Business Guide to help you significantly reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

## Sustainability in Action

- Trent University Professor, Dr. Chris Furgal, a leading climate change researcher, was a lead author on the chapter 'Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' in the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 Report.
- Peterborough Green-Up's Air Quality and Transportation initiatives do much to raise climate change awareness in the Greater Peterborough Area by actively encouraging community members to look at alternatives to using their car as a means of getting around. One great example is "Active & Safe Routes to School" which promotes active and efficient transportation choices for children's trips to school.
- The City of Peterborough has developed a Flood Reduction Master Plan that outlines short and long terms actions to reduce the risk of flooding.

## THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE

### Goal

We will reduce our contributions to climate change while increasing our ability to adapt to climate change conditions.

### Strategic Direction Supported

Reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions produced within our community.

### Priority Action

Become active members in the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) to establish a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions with a corresponding plan for achieving a set target in emissions reductions.

### Description

There is large consensus among those in the science community that our worldwide climate is warming – largely as a result of human-generated greenhouse gas emissions. This warming will result in, for example, an increase in global sea levels, increases in extremes such as drought and flooding, and the possibility of widespread losses in biodiversity. If we are to cap this trend at what is an acceptable level, we must significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Organized by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the PCP program is a network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change. Undertaking this action will allow us to reduce our community's contributions to climate change. The PCP program includes five milestones that focus on identifying greenhouse gas emissions and strategies to reduce them.

Results from this action will support *Strategic Directions* under the following additional *Themes*:

- Energy
- Natural Assets

### Activities

- Pass a resolution of Council to join Partners for Climate Protection
- Appoint a staff member and elected official to be the key contacts with the PCP secretariat
- Apply for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund for financial support to complete PCP milestones
- Ask Greater Peterborough Area businesses and institutions to participate in a greenhouse gas reduction strategy and develop and implement a greenhouse gas reduction plan
- Program Milestones:
  1. Create a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast
  2. Set an emissions reductions target
  3. Develop a local action plan
  4. Implement the local action plan or a set of activities
  5. Monitor progress and report results

## Toolbox Resources:

- **Joining Partners For Climate Protection Program** – Five milestone frameworks used to guide members in reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- **Develop Greenhouse Gas Inventory/Strategy** – How to create an inventory of current greenhouse gas emissions and a formal strategy to reduce them
- **Understand Climate Change Risks**– Educate your employees and your community about the risks of climate change and develop mitigation and adaptation strategies
- **Climate Change Awareness for K to 12 Schools**– Schools can implement hands-on practical programs which educate students (grades K through 12) about climate change and its impacts

## Potential Lead and Coordination

- City of Peterborough (City jurisdiction)
- County of Peterborough (County jurisdiction)

## Potential Partners

- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
- Local business
- MUSH sector
- Peterborough County-City Health Unit
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Peterborough Utilities Inc.
- Townships
- Transition Town Peterborough

## Measures of Success

- Membership status in the PCP program
- Funding received
- Milestones achieved
- Progress towards greenhouse gas reduction targets
- Number of businesses and institutions with greenhouse gas reduction plans