

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Drayton Valley develops plan to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets

Drayton Valley, Alberta April 2021 — The Town of Drayton Valley has completed Milestone 3 of the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program by developing a plan to achieve its corporate and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets. PCP is a network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing GHG emissions and protecting our climate. The Local Energy Stewardship Plan outlines measures the municipality will follow to lower energy costs, reduce GHG emissions and achieve its climate change goals.

The COVID crisis has given us the opportunity to see where improvements can be made to our existing systems and infrastructure and will help us meet our climate change goals. Our recovery process has to center on solutions that improve public health, contributes to a sustainable economy, and builds resiliency,” says Town Councillor Fayrell Wheeler. “Drayton Valley’s Local Energy Stewardship Plan is part of that process, mobilizing our resources to achieve an energy future that is secure, equitable, clean and realistic.”

The municipality consulted with residents, businesses, and other community stakeholders to develop the Local Energy Stewardship Plan. The plan details concrete steps and strategies the municipality will take to reduce corporate and community GHG emissions. The actions the plan outlines are based on the municipality’s inventory of current GHG emissions and forecast of future emissions (Milestone 1 of the PCP program), as well as its emissions reduction targets (Milestone 2).

Drayton Valley has been blessed so far with minimal exposure to the impacts of climate change. Nevertheless, the municipality recognizes that there are multiple co-benefits from climate action which makes it logical for Drayton Valley to make this commitment. Since joining the PCP Program, the municipality has already seen improvements in reduced energy consumption, leading to energy costs savings and lower emissions. Examples of initiatives introduced within the municipality was the 2020 Power Challenge, energy bill review, and LED retrofits at the Total Works Fitness Centre. For the community, the Town partnered up with the municipal library to develop the Energy Conservation Tools Kit (E-CENT Kit). Other exciting projects are being planned for future implementation including the energy-efficient Aquatic Facility and the Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP).

As a member of the PCP program, the Town of Drayton Valley is among over 400 municipal governments across Canada taking a leadership role and making a significant contribution to reducing Canada’s overall GHG emissions. In 2018, PCP member municipalities voluntarily reported over 160 projects to reduce GHG emissions. These projects represent over 720,000 tonnes in annual GHG reductions — equivalent to recycling over 35,000 garbage trucks of waste. Along with reducing the impacts of climate change, municipalities saw other community benefits and savings, including \$2.88 million in annual cost savings generated by reducing emissions from streetlights and municipally owned vehicles and buildings.

About the PCP program

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is managed and delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada).

Since 1994, PCP has provided municipalities of all sizes with the tools, resources and guidance they need to progress through a five-milestone process to lower GHG emissions and reduce the impacts of climate change. The five milestones are:

- Milestone 1 — Create a baseline emissions inventory and forecast
- Milestone 2 — Set emissions reduction targets
- Milestone 3 — Develop a local action plan
- Milestone 4 — Implement the local action plan
- Milestone 5 — Monitor progress and report results

There are PCP members in all provinces and territories, and member municipalities represent more than 65 per cent of the Canadian population. PCP receives financial support from the Government of Canada and ICLEI Canada.

For more information

Partners for Climate Protection: <https://fcm.ca/home/programs/partners-for-climate-protection.htm>

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: <https://fcm.ca>

ICLEI Canada: <http://www.icleicanada.org/>

Town of Drayton Valley: <https://www.draytonvalley.ca/drayton-valley-energy/>

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