

# OUR COMMUNITIES OUR COUNTRY OUR WORLD

THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM) AND ITS MEMBERS, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS IN CANADA, ARE PLEASED TO BE PART OF COP21. WORKING WITH OUR COLLEAGUES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, WE CAN ACHIEVE THE CRITICAL REDUCTIONS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS NEEDED TO SECURE OUR FUTURE.

At FCM, our role is to drive positive change in communities across Canada and abroad, helping achieve federal-municipal goals. As the voice of municipal governments in Canada, we find effective solutions and work in partnership to strengthen our communities.

Our members consist of close to 2,000 municipal governments, ranging from large urban cities to small rural or remote communities. Some of our largest cities serve up to 2 million residents, while others support communities of less than 500 people. In all, FCM speaks for 90% of Canada's population.

FCM has unparalleled reach and the proven ability to collaborate and deliver meaningful change. As a result, we are well positioned to drive a collaborative effort with the Government of Canada and our international colleagues to scale up proven solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



## WHEN WE ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE, WE SAFEGUARD OUR COMMUNITIES

Municipal leadership is crucial to any sustainable environmental policy because we are on the front lines of preventing and managing the natural disasters brought on by climate change. Extreme weather events such as floods, forest fires and drought are becoming all too common in Canada. These events shut down major metropolitan centres and rural communities alike, jeopardize health services and essential infrastructure and strain our emergency responders. By addressing climate change, we will mitigate the number and severity of weather-related crises and curtail the billion-dollar cost of devastation associated with these extreme events.

## WHEN WE ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE, WE STIMULATE THE ECONOMY

Canadian municipalities are at the forefront of implementing new technologies like solar, wind, geothermal, net zero buildings and district energy systems. Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies create jobs, reduce costs and stimulate local economies while also contributing to more sustainable communities.

## MUNICIPAL LEADERS ARE POISED TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO DRIVE CHANGE

With the world's temperature increasing at an alarming rate, local communities around the world are interdependent for their safety, security and environmental protection. As municipal leaders, we must work together and with our national governments to drive change that benefits the environment and safeguards the quality of life of our citizens. We can do this by:

- Enhancing and expanding energy-efficient public transit networks, a cornerstone of low-carbon cities and communities.
- Retrofitting existing buildings. Projecting beyond 2050, the overwhelming majority of building sector GHGs would be from buildings standing today. Let's change that trend now!
- Intensifying the development of renewable energy for heat and electricity, a decisive step in reducing emissions.
- Increasing the number of flexible and resilient district energy systems, critical to powering our future low-emissions neighbourhoods.
- Building compact and mixed use communities that encourage walkability, a key to healthier, low carbon communities.

## FCM AND ITS MEMBERS ARE LEADERS IN INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

FCM is leading a movement to improve sustainability in Canadian cities and communities while also driving innovation. Municipal governments are developing and implementing a range of green practices and technologies, placing Canada's cities and communities on the front line of the fight against climate change.

Here are a few examples of green practices and programs which are driving change in Canadian cities and communities:

- FCM in partnership with the Government of Canada established the Green Municipal Fund. Through this fund, we develop innovative projects that protect the environment, improve energy-efficiency and reduce GHG emissions.
- Our Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program works with municipalities to set GHG reduction targets and then develop and implement action plans to achieve these targets. The PCP Program is a partnership with ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability, the official representative of local governments to the United Nations.
- Municipalities construct energy-efficient buildings and retrofit existing ones, divert waste from landfills and build better transportation infrastructure.
- Municipalities are creating renewable district and distributed energy, and leveraging electric vehicle infrastructure and electrified public transit. They are implementing near-zero GHG waste plans.

## LET'S WORK AND LEARN TOGETHER

The world's cities and communities hold the potential to be catalysts for national and international climate action. We are the drivers of the emerging clean technology industry. We innovate in local renewable energy, efficient transit, low emissions buildings, cutting-edge waste management and water and wastewater treatment.

We have much to learn from each other. Canada's municipal leaders are here at COP21 to work with you: local governments around the world, national representatives and international leaders in climate protection.

**THE FUTURE IS UP TO US.**