



## NEWS RELEASE

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### City of Penticton recognized for climate action efforts

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**PENTICTON** – The City of Penticton has received national recognition for its cost-effective, community-based climate change initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities and ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability honoured the achievements of municipalities taking part in the Partners for Climate Protection program during its Sustainable Communities Conference and Tradeshow. Penticton was recognized as having achieved Milestones 1, 2 and 3 of the program.

“This achievement is due to the commitment of the previous council and a group of hard-working volunteers who serve on the Climate Action Advisory Committee. Staff allocation and a budget are required for success, but the payback is enormous. By participating in these actions, we save money on energy costs, reduce pollution and keep our valley clean and healthy. We also enhance our chances of qualifying for grant money administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities,” said Penticton Coun. Garry Litke, who represents Council on the committee.

“There is more to do, however. We are in the process of implementing our corporate action plan and will soon qualify for Milestones 4 and 5 in the FCM program. We will then be among the leading municipalities in the country.”

The PCP program is a results-oriented network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing GHGs and acting on climate change. Members progress through a series of five milestones that help them build capacity to reduce GHGs: creating a GHG emissions inventory and forecast; setting emissions reductions target; developing local action plans; implementing the local action plan or a set of activities; and monitoring progress and report results.

The City of Penticton has established its B.C. Climate Action Charter goals to include reducing its operational GHG emissions 15% from 2009 levels by 2015, and 20% from 2009 levels by 2020.

The Climate Action Advisory Committee embarked on several initiatives to reduce the City’s carbon footprint. More than 300 lights were replaced with high-efficient fluorescent lights throughout all City facilities. Secondly, the Electrical Department analyzed various street lights to determine energy and financial savings, and the resulting LED street light pilot program received universally positive comments from the public in affected areas. The Penticton Community Centre also received LEED Silver certification, and the facility’s high energy efficiency plays an integral part of reducing GHG emissions.

Looking to the future, City building retrofits worth \$400,000 to improve energy efficiency were included in 2012 budget, and fleet rating initiatives will help pinpoint which vehicles require emissions optimization.

“If it weren’t for the milestones, then we wouldn’t have our implementation plan so soon,” said Carolyn Stewart, Penticton’s Environmental Co-ordinator. “The City is on target to reach our 2012 goals by collaborating with community stakeholders. We’re all in this together.”

Berry Vrbanovic, president of FCM and councillor for the City of Kitchener, Ont., hosted the ceremony that highlighted how municipalities directly influence over 44 per cent of Canada's GHG emissions.

“The accomplishments of these municipalities are proof positive that our Canadian communities – large and small, urban and rural – are leading the charge against climate change,” said Vrbanovic.

PCP members invested over \$1 billion in mitigation activities, implementing more than 700 green projects or measures and reducing GHGs by 1.7 million tonnes. These results are tracked and reported annually in the PCP National Measures Report.

- 30 -

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