



## **Town of New Glasgow making strides in national climate protection program**

**New Glasgow, NS...March 10, 2008.** Officials of the Town of New Glasgow recently presented the Town's climate protection achievements at a national conference in Ottawa. Held in February, the FCM Sustainable Communities Conference hosted hundreds of delegates from municipalities across Canada. Entitled, "Moving Innovation into Practice" the conference focus was on building municipal capacity in the areas of social, economic, and environmental sustainability. New Glasgow is one of approximately 150 communities that have signed onto the program, and one of twenty of the participating municipalities to reach this milestone; placing New Glasgow in the top 15 per cent of municipal units.

Participating in the Partners for Climate Protection session, New Glasgow Mayor Ann MacLean and CAO Lisa M. MacDonald presented the Town's achievements to the conference's many delegates. New Glasgow has recently completed the first three milestones of the Partners for Climate Protection program and has entered the 4th stage of this five stage program. The program's five milestones are: 1) creating a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast; 2) setting an emissions reductions target; 3) developing a local action plan; 4) implementing the local action plan or a set of activities; and 5) monitoring progress and reporting results.

Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) is an initiative of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), designed to encourage and support municipalities achieve greenhouse gas reductions and implement sustainable community development plans.

The PCP program is a network of 155 Canadian municipal governments who have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change. PCP is the Canadian component of ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) network that comprises more than 800 communities worldwide making the same efforts.

"As Past President of FCM and a firm believer in the vision that the Partners for Climate Protection establishes, I have been extremely proud of the leadership that New Glasgow Town Council has shown in committing to the program early and striving for success through partnership and innovation," says Mayor Ann MacLean. "This has served us well as we are now a step ahead in fulfilling the sustainability plan that is required under the program, but more importantly, is so vital to the future economic, environmental and social development of our community, not to mention to fulfilling our responsibilities as global citizens."

Underscoring the Town's achievements, New Glasgow was included in a feature brochure on the PCP program.

Up to half of Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are under the direct or indirect control of municipal governments. Municipal governments can cut GHG emissions from municipal operations and community-wide initiatives with investments in more sustainable infrastructure. Strategies for reducing GHG's include: land-use, energy and transportation planning; infrastructure design, green procurement, building retrofits, water conservation, solid waste diversion, and renewable energy.

The benefits of participating and investing in this initiative extend beyond reductions in emissions of the gases that contribute to global warming, municipalities also benefit directly from the cost savings accrued through energy efficient upgrades, and everyone benefits from improved air quality and job creation.

"New Glasgow was very pleased to be asked to share information on our best practices and successes with our national colleagues and we were honoured to join Whistler, BC as one of only two municipalities profiled by FCM in the Partners for Climate Protection brochure," says New Glasgow CAO Lisa M. MacDonald. "It was reinforcing and motivating to be viewed as a national leader among towns and cities of varying sizes from across the country. We hope that the role New Glasgow has played in Partners for Climate Protection will empower us to assist other municipalities right here at home in Pictou County. We are working with the Municipalities of the County of Pictou, Town of Pictou and Town of Westville on a long term Energy and Integrated Sustainability Plan and it is our hope that all Pictou County municipalities will join us in partnership *work with these partners* on this important project that we have already made important strides on to date."

The Town of New Glasgow's local action plan sets a firm goal of achieving a 10% GHG reduction in Town operations by 2013 and a further 6% GHG reduction at a community level, the latter goal was established by the community in a motion carried at an Energy Taskforce Breakfast Meeting held last summer. To achieve this, the Town of New Glasgow's plan is multifaceted. Greening initiatives consist of tree planting, the creation of green spaces and supporting community-wide greening/ gardening through the Communities in Bloom program. Energy initiatives include building retrofits

and equipment upgrades; for example, the Town recently completed a phased-in process of changing all traffic signals to energy-saving light emitting diodes (LEDs) and replacing streetlights with more efficient bulbs. Infrastructure and awareness initiatives include partnering in PRDC's Pictou County Bikeways project to provide safe, accessible bikeways throughout the region by investing in active transportation infrastructure, signed routes and awareness. Where possible, a buy-local procurement policy assigns preference to locally available goods and services, which supports and sustains the regional economy and has the potential to reduce hidden energy outputs buried in transportation.

Town Engineer Bob Funke, who also attended the conference, states that "Knowledge gained from the conference will be used to adapt best practices from across the country as New Glasgow enters the implementation phase of the plan. We will be exploring green roofs, creating more green space and undertaking a variety of energy reduction initiatives to reduce the Town's carbon footprint." The Town currently has an application into the province's EcoTrust program to assist with funding for these initiatives.

To view a copy of New Glasgow's local action plan visit [www.newglasgow.ca](http://www.newglasgow.ca) and click on the Sustainable Energy link. More information is available by contacting New Glasgow's Energy Sustainability Coordinator, Steve Harder at (902) 755-8379 or by email at [sharder@newglasgow.ca](mailto:sharder@newglasgow.ca). More information on PCP is available at [www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca](http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca)

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