



**City of Kingston  
Information Report to Council  
Report Number 19-289**

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<b>To:</b>	<b>Mayor and Members of Council</b>
<b>From:</b>	<b>Peter Huigenbos, Acting Commissioner, Community Services</b>
<b>Resource Staff:</b>	<b>Julie Salter-Keane, Community Projects Manager</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>November 5, 2019</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Global Covenant of Mayors Canada Showcase Cities Pilot</b>

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**Executive Summary:**

City Council approved the commitment to join the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) for Climate & Energy in February 2019. The GCoM is an international alliance of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of promoting and supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and move to a low emission, resilient society. Over 9,000 cities, representing more than 800 million people worldwide and over 10% of the total global population have committed to the GCoM.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) recently put a call out to municipalities accepting applications for the GCoM Showcase Cities pilot project. FCM was recruiting Canadian municipalities committed to advancing the transition to a low emission and climate-resilient economy and were selecting cities demonstrating leadership in climate action. The City of Kingston submitted an application for participation in the program.

GCoM Canada is a collaboration between the FCM, ICLEI Canada, C40 Cities, the GCoM Secretariat and the International Urban Cooperation Project, supported by funding from the European Union.

On October 3, 2019, FCM confirmed that the City of Kingston was one of 25 municipalities selected to participate in the FCM GCoM Showcase Cities pilot project due to its demonstrated commitment as a leader in climate action. As a Showcase City, staff will receive hands-on support to advance through the GCoM process. As a participant, the City of Kingston will be a part of this 'best practice' climate change community, gaining knowledge and internal capacity while developing ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives.

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Benefits of being selected as a showcase city include:

- Tailored workshops for municipal staff on themes including GHG inventories, risk and vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation and mitigation planning;
- One-on-one support for municipal staff working through local climate planning processes;
- Assistance with reporting to the GCoM, Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program and Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) program;
- Access to exclusive networking opportunities and showcasing of municipal actions nationally and internationally; and
- Free of cost for Canadian municipalities.

**Recommendation:**

This report is for information purposes only.

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**Authorizing Signatures:**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Peter Huigenbos, Acting  
Commissioner, Community  
Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Interim Chief  
Administrative Officer**

**Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:**

Brad Joyce, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required
Sheila Kidd, Commissioner, Transportation & Public Works	Not required

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**Options/Discussion:**

This report provides information to Council with respect to FCM GCoM Canada Showcase Cities Pilot Project and that the City of Kingston has been selected as one of 25 municipalities across Canada to participate in the program.

The GCoM Canada is a collaboration between the FCM, ICLEI Canada, the GCoM Secretariat and the International Urban Cooperation Project, supported by funding from the European Union.

The initiative combines two leading domestic climate programs, the PCP program and the BARC program, with the leading global climate program. The program will assist in further advancing Canadian local climate action by adding value, opportunities and streamlined support for members.

The FCM GCoM Canada Showcase Cities Pilot Project highlights the importance of networking with other municipalities to increase the awareness of trends, ensuring we continue to move forward through the climate action planning and learning from best practices.

Networking opportunities include:

- Facilitated networking with peers in FCM GCoM Canada;
- Opportunity to share our experience and lessons learned in Kingston with a national and international audience;
- International visibility and recognition of efforts; and
- Invitation-only networking opportunities at select events.

As a showcase City, the municipality must commit to join the GCoM for Climate and Energy. As noted above, City Council approved this commitment to join the GCoM for Climate & Energy in February 2019.

The formal commitment to the GCoM requires the City of Kingston to undertake measures to (i) reduce/avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (ii) prepare for the impacts of climate change, (iii) increase access to sustainable energy, and (iv) track progress toward these objectives.

As a FCM GCoM Canada Showcase City participant, Kingston will receive technical and capacity-building support to ensure that the City progresses through the GCoM Framework and badge levels. Kingston will also receive exclusive access to certain tools, data and training over the course of the pilot which runs until October 2020.

The following table outlines the pilot timeline.

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## Pilot Timeline



Joining the GCoM is a commitment to take action on climate change, including the development of a comprehensive community climate change action plan within three years. The City will reach compliance with the GCoM within the next three years.

### Existing Policy/By-Law:

Not applicable

### Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

### Accessibility Considerations:

Not applicable

### Financial Considerations:

Not applicable

### Contacts:

Julie Salter-Keane, Community Projects Manager 613-546-4291 extension 1163

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**Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:**

Not applicable

**Exhibits Attached:**

Not applicable