

PARTNERS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION



2024-2025 ANNUAL
INSIGHTS REPORT

PARTNERS FOR **CLIMATE** PROTECTION



Land acknowledgement

As we move forward with our commitment to reconciliation, PCP acknowledges that our head offices are located on the unceded, unsurrendered territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial. We recognize and honour the historic and ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples across the country.



In 2024-2025, this project was carried out with assistance from the Green Municipal Fund, a Fund financed by the Government of Canada, and administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. Notwithstanding this support, the views expressed in this report are the personal views of the authors, and ICLEI Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Government of Canada accept no responsibility for them.

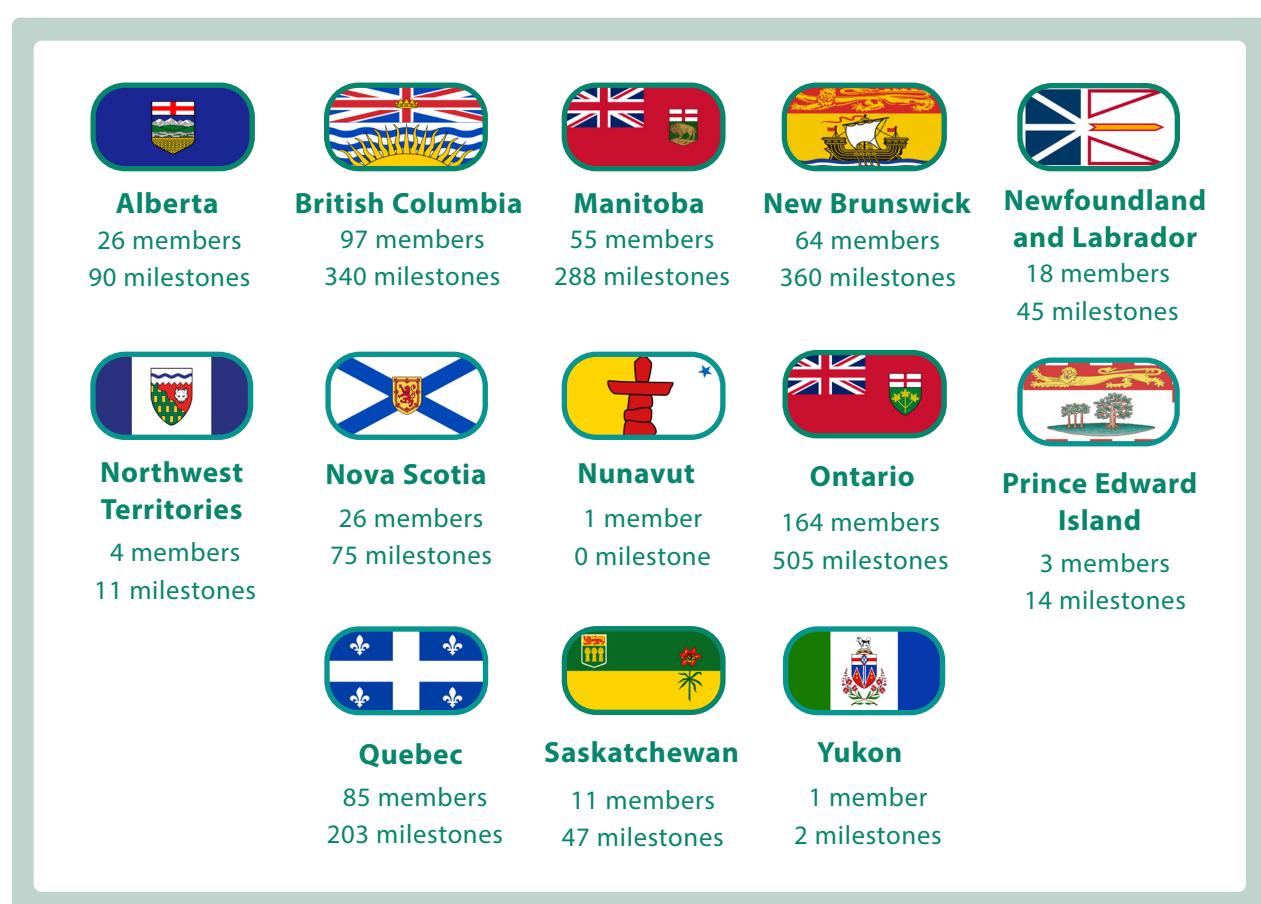
Introduction

For more than 30 years, the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program has helped Canadian municipalities of all sizes take meaningful action against climate change. Delivered through a partnership between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability Canada, PCP supports local governments in developing and implementing strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve energy efficiency and strengthen local infrastructure.

What began as a small coalition of climate-conscious municipalities has grown into a national network of more than 555 members. Together, they use PCP's proven five-step Milestone Framework and are supported by expert coaching, tools and technical guidance to reduce emissions and support more sustainable communities.

Participation within the PCP program is approved locally by municipal councils and participation is voluntary, transparent and grounded in Canadian municipal decision-making. PCP priorities reflect the needs of Canadian communities, and local governments apply its resources and supports to benefit their local contexts.

PCP members by province & territory



The PCP Secretariat, resources and tools

In 2025, municipalities across Canada continued to make meaningful progress toward their climate goals. Guided by the PCP Milestone Framework, expert coaching and practical resources, members developed GHG inventories, set and met emissions reduction targets and implemented strategies that cut emissions while improving quality of life for residents.

The PCP Secretariat plays a key role in this progress, offering one-on-one coaching and technical assistance. PCP also develops [data-driven tools, guides and case studies](#) that showcase real-world solutions from across Canada. These supports help municipalities overcome challenges and accelerate local climate action.

Through monthly [Community of Practice meetings](#), PCP strengthens collaboration among members nationwide. These sessions bring local leaders together to share insights, exchange experiences and work collectively toward a more sustainable, climate-ready Canada.

Among PCP's many free tools, the [Milestone Tool](#) stands out as an intuitive platform that helps municipalities quantify, monitor, and manage GHG emissions, enabling measurable progress at every stage of their climate journey.

Measuring the impact of PCP resources and tools

The PCP Annual Survey, completed by 44 respondents in 2024-25, provides valuable insight into members' perspectives when engaging with the PCP Secretariat's tools and resources. The findings demonstrate strong satisfaction and clear evidence that PCP support continues to help participants build knowledge, apply learnings within their organizations, and strengthen professional networks that advance local climate action.

The following results highlight key outcomes from this year's survey:

90% said PCP has helped advance knowledge and skills in climate action.

89% applied learnings from PCP activities in their work or organization.

89 % plan to continue using PCP knowledge and resources over time.

71% said PCP helped expand their professional network in the sustainability sector.

91% were very satisfied with PCP learning opportunities over the past year.

77% said PCP increased likelihood of applying for GMF funding.

The PCP Milestone Framework

The five-step Milestone Framework is a clear, structured pathway that allows municipalities to advance their climate action plans at their own pace. The program is designed so that all necessary resources to complete the Milestone Framework are provided at no cost. There is no requirement for additional external support, unless a municipality chooses to bring in further assistance.

Each milestone builds on the last, using standardized measurement tools and protocols to ensure transparent tracking, consistent reporting, and data-driven decision-making.



Municipalities can submit their milestone achievements through the PCP Milestone Tool or by emailing the PCP Secretariat at pcp@fcm.ca. Once submitted, each municipality receives official recognition from the PCP program for reaching a milestone.

PCP milestone recognitions highlight a community's progress and demonstrate leadership in local climate action to residents, stakeholders, and potential funding partners.

The [PCP Program webpage](#) hosts milestone-specific materials, including:

- Step-by-step instruction guidebooks for each milestone
- Standardized protocols and templates
- Case studies from participating municipalities
- Additional guidebooks to support plan development and implementation

These resources equip municipalities with the knowledge needed to advance through the Milestone Framework.

Milestone 1 - [Creating a baseline emissions inventory](#)

Milestone 2 - [Setting emissions reductions targets](#)

Milestone 3 - [Developing a local climate action plan](#)

Milestone 4 - [Implementation a local action plan](#)

Milestone 5 - [Monitoring and reporting results](#)

How PCP members are putting knowledge into action

PCP helps municipalities achieve their climate action goals on their own terms. Discover the different ways members have used their PCP learnings this year.

Town of Penetanguishene (Ontario) collaborated with municipal staff to inform their Affordable and Sustainable Community Improvement Plan. The goal was to ensure that local incentives align with available funding programs from all levels of government.

Town of Caledon (Ontario) utilized the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) tool to monitor and track corporate emissions. The results have served as a valuable communication tool when engaging with other municipal divisions. Caledon also participates in PCP's Community of Practice meetings and continues to use available learning resources to build internal knowledge and capacity.

City of Saint-Quentin (Quebec) has effectively used PCP tools and resources to develop key strategic documents, including the Climate Change Action Plan (2016), the Climate Change Transition Plan, and the Climate Mitigation Plan (2023).

City of Cornwall (Ontario) applied the PCP tool to complete their corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory.

County of Huron (Ontario) used the PCP tool to conduct its first community GHG emissions inventory.

Town of Heron Bay (Ontario) has drawn on PCP resources for ideas to reduce local emissions. Initiatives under consideration include anti-idling policies, improved heating solutions, and the adoption of heat pumps.

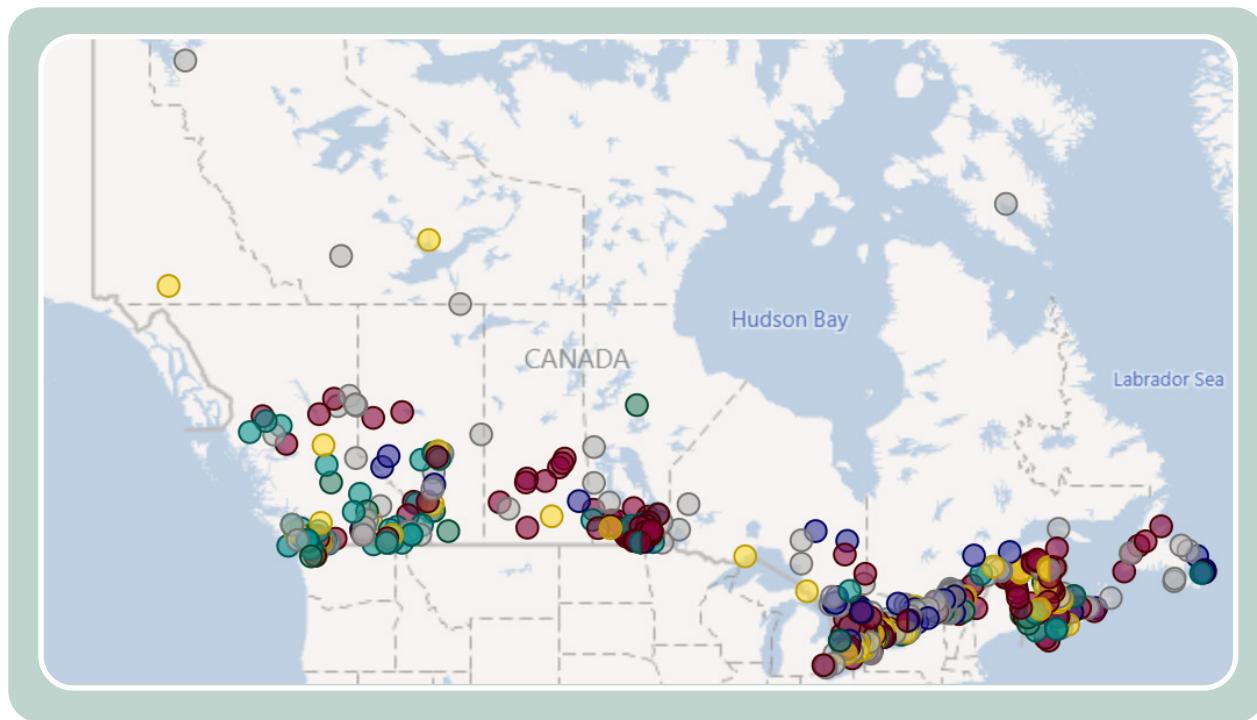


Proven impact across Canada

The PCP program continues to demonstrate tangible progress through local initiatives and clearly defined, measurable milestones. Since its inception, PCP member municipalities have:

- Set over 460 GHG reduction targets.
- Developed and implemented more than 160 local climate action plans.
- Achieved a total of 1,981 milestones through the Milestone Framework, with 128 communities reaching milestone 5, focused on monitoring and evaluating progress.

These achievements have delivered meaningful benefits for communities across Canada. Through their local climate actions, PCP members have lowered energy and operating costs, extended the life of municipal infrastructure, improved air quality and public health, and enhanced residents' overall quality of life. Many initiatives have also created local jobs and generated lasting economic and environmental gains for municipalities.



Many municipalities have continued to deepen their climate commitments by joining complementary initiatives, such as:

- ICLEI Canada's Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) program, focused on climate adaptation.
- The Global Covenant of Mayors, supporting integrated approaches to GHG reduction and climate adaptation.

2024-25 program highlights

As of 2025, the PCP network includes more than 555 member municipalities, representing over 70% of the Canadian population. Across both the corporate and community streams, PCP members have reached Milestone 5 a total of 128 times.

Milestones achieved through the PCP program

Community

Milestone	Total achieved	Percentage of total
1	294	30%
2	252	25%
3	263	27%
4	116	12%
5	57	6%
Total	982	100%

Corporate

Milestone	Total achieved	Percentage of total
1	306	30%
2	246	25%
3	258	26%
4	118	12%
5	71	7%
Total	999	100%

Over the past year, PCP members achieved 62 milestones: 33 in the community stream and 29 in the corporate stream both highlighting sustained progress in local climate action efforts. The program also welcomed five new municipalities from across Canada, further expanding the reach and impact of the PCP network. The Regional Municipality of Halton's achieved Milestone 5 in the corporate stream.

Milestones achievements 2024-2025

Community

Milestone	Total achieved	Percentage of total
1	10	30%
2	8	24%
3	8	24%
4	7	22%
5	0	0%
Total	33	100%

Corporate

Milestone	Total achieved	Percentage of total
1	9	31%
2	7	24%
3	6	21%
4	6	21%
5	1	3%
Total	29	100%

Milestone streams

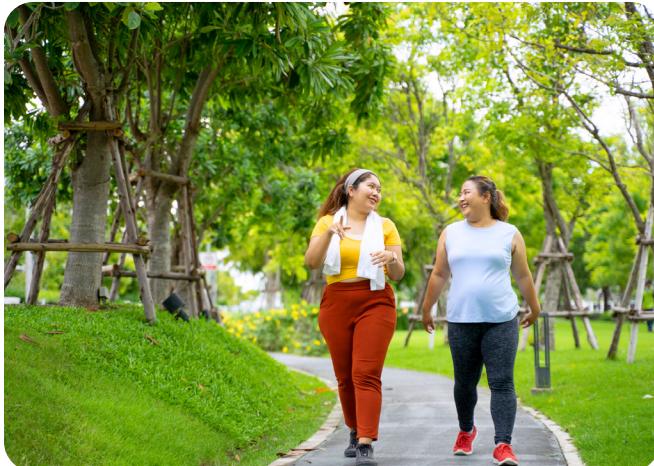
The PCP program supports municipalities through two milestones streams, enabling a comprehensive approach to climate mitigation

Community

Targets greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced from key sectors and activities within the community, including:

- Residential, commercial, and institutional buildings
- Transportation systems
- Community waste and water management

By advancing in both streams, municipalities can take action at multiple levels and lead by example through corporate action, while also engaging residents, businesses, and institutions in broader community-wide change.



Corporate

Focuses on emissions associated with a local government's operations and services, such as:

- Municipal buildings and facilities
- Vehicle fleets
- Street lighting
- Water and wastewater infrastructure
- Solid waste operations managed by the municipality



Combatting misinformation

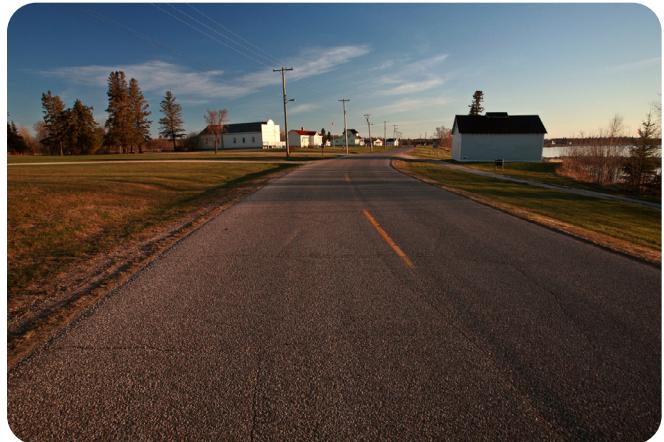
Throughout changing political, policy and regulatory landscapes, municipalities continue to be the forefront of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance local climate solutions. As public discussions around climate change grow increasingly complex, it's essential that communities have access to clear, credible information to guide decision-making and maintain public trust.

To support members in navigating and responding to misinformation, ICLEI Canada, PCP's national delivery partner, has developed a [Responding to Climate Misinformation web page](#). This resource provides practical guidance, key messaging strategies and evidence-based materials to help local governments share accurate information and engage residents in constructive, informed dialogue about climate action.

Commitment to net-zero

Municipalities continue to set ambitious net-zero climate targets that align with scientific consensus and work with their communities to develop and implement locally relevant and supported climate action plans.

According to data from the Municipal Net-Zero Action Research Partnership (N-ZAP), as of 2022, 25% of municipalities surveyed have set community net-zero targets, while 27% have set corporate net-zero targets. PCP continues to encourage adoption of net-zero targets and supports municipalities in combatting climate misinformation through the provision of communications and engagement trainings, and access to resources and guidance on how to counter false narratives, engage in dialogue with community members to find common ground shared values to work from.



Reconciliation and anti-racism, equity and inclusion in climate action planning

The PCP program recognizes that the people and communities who have contributed least to climate change—both in Canada and around the world—are often those most affected by its impacts. In Canada, climate change disproportionately affects people experiencing homelessness, low-income residents, northern communities, racialized groups and other marginalized populations.

In response, PCP encourages all members to [integrate reconciliation, equity, diversity and inclusion \(EDI\)](#) into their climate strategies and actions. By tracking measures that reflect these principles, municipalities can better identify local vulnerabilities, collaborate with underrepresented community members and design more inclusive and equitable climate solutions.

Embedding EDI considerations within the PCP Milestone Framework helps communities strengthen participation, share benefits more fairly and ensure that climate action supports everyone, especially those most at risk.

Nature-based solutions

The field of nature-based solutions continues to develop and be a priority area of interest for municipalities and are increasingly being recognized by municipalities for their multitude of social, environmental and economic benefits including climate adaptation and resilience and for the key role they will play in reaching net-zero targets through their ability to reduce emissions.

Many PCP members are undertaking natural asset management plans and integrating them with traditional asset management plans, as well as characterizing and inventorying the community's natural assets, and developing policies and management strategies to enhance and protect natural assets.

These natural asset initiatives can include estimating the emissions reduction potential of a community's natural assets. However, due to the complexity of the natural systems involved and many local variables that can impact carbon sequestration, there is still a lack of a consistent methodology that can be applied across Canada and a need for readily available and easy to use tools and resources to conduct carbon sequestration estimates. Another key aspect of nature-based solutions and natural asset management is ecosystem valuation.

Municipalities are beginning to conduct financial valuation of the many ecosystem services provided by their natural assets such as flood mitigation, stormwater management, clean drinking water, aquifer recharge and many more. This helps to make the financial case for climate action and protection of natural assets by demonstrating cost savings from avoided costs of engineered infrastructure that would be required to deliver the same service.



Climate budgeting to mirror financial budgeting

Municipalities have expressed high interest in developing climate budgeting frameworks within their organizations. Climate budgeting is becoming an important way to institutionalize climate action in municipalities by integrating it with the financial budgeting process. Climate budgeting requires strong inter-departmental collaboration between sustainability and financial teams as well as all other departments and therefore requires strong internal leadership to implement and build a business case for. To date, 6 municipalities have begun implementing climate budgeting and with the launch of the [N-ZAP Climate Budgeting Guide in 2025](#) along with the [N-ZAP Learning Cohorts and Pilot Communities](#) we expect to see many more municipalities beginning this journey.



Funding opportunities through the Green Municipal Fund

While PCP does not provide direct project funding, we recognize that financial support is essential for municipalities advancing their local climate goals. That's why we work closely with members to connect them with opportunities available through [FCM's Green Municipal Fund](#).

GMF offers grants and low-interest loans across a broad range of project areas, from energy efficiency and low-carbon transportation to waste management and natural infrastructure. Its programs support municipalities at every stage, from planning and feasibility studies to pilot projects and full capital implementation.



Join the PCP network

Municipalities of all sizes can join PCP at no cost. Whether just starting out or building on existing initiatives, PCP provides members with free access to planning tools, technical guidance, coaching, and peer learning opportunities. Helping them take action that fits their unique context and capacity.

In addition to offering technical support, training and resources to help reduce GHG emissions, PCP has built a strong, connected network of municipalities across Canada. Through events, Community of Practice meetings, and the PCP Hub, members exchange knowledge, share experiences and learn from one another's successes.

This growing network, made up of communities both large and small, continues to demonstrate leadership and commitment to building a more sustainable, climate-resilient Canada.

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Local Governments
for Sustainability
Les gouvernements locaux
pour le développement durable
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