

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 11 – 2007M

GLOBAL THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus, as established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that the continued build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere threatens the stability of the global climate;

WHEREAS, there are significant long-term risks to the economy and the environment of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region from the temperature increases and climatic disruptions that are projected to result from increased greenhouse gas concentrations;

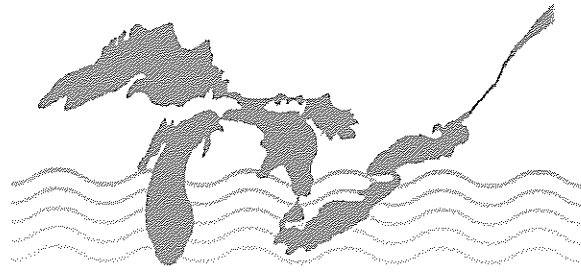
WHEREAS, the impacts of global climate change are expected to result in significant disruptions in the natural hydrological cycle in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region, including extreme and more frequent wet weather events resulting in increased flooding and sewer overflows; accelerated evaporation of surface waters resulting in lowered lake and river levels; and increased water temperatures resulting in altered aquatic ecosystem conditions;

WHEREAS, the occurrence of any of these hydrological changes will have significant impacts on water quality and supply, will likely gradually increase municipal water demand, and will impact how water resources are managed by local water resources managers, including water and wastewater treatment providers;

WHEREAS, the regional impacts of global climate change are expected to negatively affect major industries including agriculture, commercial and recreational fisheries, and shipping;

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions are generated in urban centres, through municipal operations such as water and wastewater services, as well as through industrial, commercial and residential urban sources;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region is one of the largest regional economies in the world and a significant greenhouse gas emitter;



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

WHEREAS, other industrialized regions are undertaking measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which make these economies more efficient and provides them with a competitive advantage;

WHEREAS, the municipalities of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities basin have the responsibility and the capability to show leadership in significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges its members and other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities and municipalities to assess their contribution to climate change and take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their control; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continue to share and promote best practices in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and cooling the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region through comprehensive energy and water conservation and efficiency, the generation and consumption of low-carbon and renewable energy, the expansion of public transit, the promotion of sustainable land use practices, and the adoption of innovative green infrastructure and building practices, such as green roofs and LEED certified building standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes a responsibility to foster greater community understanding of the local actions that can and are being taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to urge individual action amongst residents and businesses to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Governments of the United States and Canada and state and provincial governments to move forward on programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stimulate further development and adoption of renewal energy technologies, provide incentives for municipal greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives, and to undertake further modelling and research on the anticipated impact of climate change on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin and possible adaptation strategies.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative