



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

RESOLUTION 6 – 2009M

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, despite their vast size make up a vulnerable and fragile ecological system that is the foundation for the region’s economy, industry and the livelihood of 104 million residents within the region; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus, as established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that the continued build-up of greenhouse gas pollution, from sources like cars , municipal operations, and industrial processes, in the atmosphere threatens the stability of the global climate; and

WHEREAS, there is agreement that climate change will dramatically affect the natural world in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region, as evidenced already by fluctuations in lake levels, diminished ice coverage, more frequent and intense wet weather events, and crop destruction, and will also affect the economic viability of the region and municipal and industrial operations; and

WHEREAS, cities recognize the municipal contribution to pollution from greenhouse gas emissions and many are working to find ways to mitigate and reduce their carbon footprint and develop ways to adapt operations to lessen the impact on the environment and to manage climatic changes; and

WHEREAS, climate change will affect communities of all sizes and while larger communities may have more resources available to focus on and plan for climate change, obstacles exist for smaller communities with respect to climate change planning, for example climate change mapping models don’t necessary downscale far enough to be useful to smaller communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will work to incorporate and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation best practices, including climate change action plans developed by members, in its efforts to share and disseminate best practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages its members to develop climate change action plans to help prepare their communities for the change we are and will experience as a result of climate change and to find ways to reduce the impact of municipal operations on the environment; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the U.S. and Canadian federal governments and the scientific community to continue to make climate change mitigation and adaptation and pollution reduction a priority and that they partner with municipalities to ensure that local government can adequately plan and prepare for the effects of climate change and find solutions to reduce the municipal carbon footprint and associated pollution.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Heartwell", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

George Heartwell, Chair
Mayor of Grand Rapids
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative