



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

RESOLUTION 01 – 2015B

CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, climate change presents one of the greatest threats to the future of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, the cities on the shores, agriculture, industry and the planet as a whole; and

WHEREAS, over 50% of the population of the world is currently in cities and cities are responsible for over 70% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; and

WHEREAS, cities are responsible as first responders to climate events that hit them, and for coming up with adaptation and resiliency strategies and many of the solutions for GHG reductions; and

WHEREAS, cities are essential partners with all orders of government in coming up with and implementing solutions to deal with the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are often felt by poorer countries who usually are not responsible for the large majority of the GHG emissions that are causing the problems; and

WHEREAS, it will require many hundreds of billions of dollars over the years to invest in technology to reduce GHG emissions and measures to adapt to and become more resilient to the changes already occurring; and

WHEREAS, many of the countries who will be most affected by climate change are least able financially to deal with its impacts; and

WHEREAS, many groups of cities have been moving forward with commitments to GHG reductions and are tracking their progress; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2015, 640 cities, including 446 mayors, representing 115 countries gathered at Paris City Hall for the Climate Summit for Local Leaders to confirm their commitment to GHG reductions and exchange best practices on how to accomplish the desired results; and

WHEREAS, five Cities Initiative members participated actively in the Climate Summit in Paris on December 4, and in many events being held in conjunction with the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties 21 (COP21); and



WHEREAS, over 400 cities across the globe and 17 members of the Cities Initiative have joined the Compact of Mayors, whereby these cities commit to the Compact by establishing emission inventories, setting GHG emission reduction targets, implementing actions to achieve those reductions, and tracking progress; and

WHEREAS, 195 nations are currently engaged in negotiations in Paris to come up with goals, targets, and strategies to reduce GHG emissions, adapt and become more resilient to changes already occurring and continuing, and deal with financing to accomplish the desired results.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 195 countries engaged in negotiations in Paris must reach agreement to reduce GHG emissions dramatically in the future, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the goal should be to stop global temperature rise to no more than 2 degrees Celsius, striving toward 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all cities, states, provinces, and nations should set a goal of stopping increases and starting reductions in GHG emissions in their jurisdictions by no later than 2025, and have 100% non GHG-emitting sources of energy by 2050, with a maximum amount of renewable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that cities of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative set a goal of reducing at least 30 million tonnes of CO₂ by 2020 from their jurisdictions, the equivalent of taking over 6.3 million automobiles off the road for a year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative will recruit all its members to join the Compact of Mayors and seek further reductions in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative will recruit non-member cities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region to join the Compact of Mayors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all orders of government must work together in solidarity on comprehensive strategies and action plans with full implementation of measures to reduce GHG emissions and implement adaptation and resiliency measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that central governments must include cities in their planning and implementation, recognizing that over 50% of the global population lives in cities which are responsible for generating over 70% of the emissions and that cities are where the impacts are felt most, and where the solutions will be found ;



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the countries bound by the COP21 agreement establish a Climate Change Fund that will provide at least \$100 billion annually to help those countries less able to implement GHG reduction, resilience, and adaptation strategies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this fund be managed and disbursed in a manner true to the principle of climate justice and respect for human rights for all citizens of the planet.

Signed this 11th day of December, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mitch Twolan', written over a horizontal line.

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative