



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

RESOLUTION 3 – 2016M

CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, climate change presents one of the most significant challenges faced by the world at this time, and with cities containing over 50% of the population of the planet and being responsible for over 70% of the net greenhouse gas emissions, urban areas are experiencing some of the most serious consequences of climate change and bear a major responsibility for helping solve the problem; and

WHEREAS, the increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of the earth in 2015 was the greatest ever recorded or estimated since the last ice age, 2015 was the hottest year ever recorded replacing 2014, and January and February of 2016 were the hottest ever recorded for those two months; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are one of the largest surface freshwater resources in the world, containing about 20% of the supply, providing drinking water for over 40 million people, and serving as an economic resource and a defining part of the culture for millions of Canadians and Americans who live in the basin; and

WHEREAS, the over 17 million people in the cities of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) are aware of the problems presented by climate change, and have experienced many of them directly in their own cities already; and

WHEREAS, the Cities Initiative has moved forward with efforts to adapt to challenges presented by extreme heat and cold, intense precipitation events and periods of drought, fluctuating lake levels, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the strains on infrastructure for drinking water, waste water, transportation, and other elements that are vital to the daily operations of a city have grown even more serious because of the impact of climate change; and

WHEREAS, a critically important part of dealing with climate change is to address the fundamental cause, which is the continuing increase of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere; and



WHEREAS, many members of the Cities Initiative have moved forward with implementation of sustainability plans to adapt to climate change, make their infrastructure more resilient, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, an effective, global response to climate change presents great economic challenges and opportunities for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence industrial, transportation, and innovation core, the engines of the Canada/US-economy; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities together possess a critical mass of knowledge, expertise and entrepreneurship to meet the challenge of the transition to a sustainable economy; and

WHEREAS, the Maritime Transportation System of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is the longest deep-draft inland navigation system in the world, representing a unique sustainability asset to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region possesses tremendous wind, water, and solar resources to serve as a foundation for much more renewable energy generation; and

WHEREAS, the Compact of Mayors is a group of almost 500 cities from across the world, including 20 Cities Initiative members, who have committed to adaptation and mitigation measures, establishing inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, setting targets and timelines for reductions, and planning for and achieving adaptation measures and emission reductions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Cities Initiative commit their cities to be actively engaged on many fronts to become more resilient, more adapted, and more committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, all designed to become more sustainable cities and to contribute to a more livable planet for current and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative as an organization and its individual members will be leaders in mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to changes, and resilience of infrastructure and encourage and help other cities to adopt a similar agenda to reduce the impacts of climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative and its members will be leaders in seeking a variety of ways to finance climate change oriented investments through local, state, provincial, and federal sources, public/private partnerships, and other means of funding; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cities Initiative members will encourage investments in their own communities and regions to help the development of innovative technology to advance adaptation, resilience, and reductions of greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative will expand its best practices network through webinars, conferences, websites, social media, and other means to expand the knowledge of how to be more sustainable communities to help ensure a better future for all; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative will work toward having 50% of its members committed to the Compact of Mayors by the end of 2017, 75% by the end of 2018, and 100 % by the end of 2019.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss