
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Union of Quebec Municipalities (UQM) Agreement on Promoting Municipal Climate Change Action

The global scientific community, including the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have confirmed that climate change is occurring, with the earth's average temperature increasing resulting in changing weather patterns and more severe weather events. These changes affect our economic systems and competitiveness, environment and human health and safety.

To protect against these risks, governments are trying to limit greenhouse gas causing emissions, adapt to changes in climate, increase energy efficiency, lower energy demand and supply clean energy to businesses, residents and governments facilities. In this context, the Quebec government has partnered with the California cap and trade system for greenhouse gas emissions and Ontario has announced it will join with these jurisdictions.

Municipal governments are leaders in climate action. Investments in local infrastructure systems and facilities are contributing to improved environmental outcomes, and reduced energy demand. In Quebec and Ontario, municipal governments have been contributing to greenhouse gas reductions through:

- investments in local transit and active transportation systems;
- green standards to reduce energy demand through land use planning of more integrated, intensive communities;
- investments in water conservation, sewer and storm sewer separation and stormwater capture and treatment;
- upgrading community facilities for better energy efficiency and lower energy demand;
- Installing LED streetlights for greater energy efficiency and lower energy use;
- greening of municipal vehicle fleets;
- creating extreme hot and cold weather plans to help protect their communities; and
- Preserving natural environment, fauna and flora as natural carbon sequestors.

Municipal governments know there is more to be done in their own systems and municipal governments have influence over the choices individuals and businesses make.

With this in mind, AMO and UQM are committing to work together to meet the challenge of climate action. The Associations agree to:

- work together with their members to continue to champion the importance of local climate action;

- persuade provincial and federal governments to provide the tools that allow municipal governments greater influence over the land use, transportation and energy demand planning systems in their municipalities, including funding;
- pursue policy frameworks that allow innovative environmental technologies and environmental management;
- share programs and best practices in developing services to help municipalities achieve these goals; and
- Continue to represent and inform our members on climate action developments.

Our Associations and our member governments recognize that this cooperation is fundamental to municipal climate action in central Canada. To build and enhance community and economic resilience, AMO and UQM call on the Governments of Ontario, Quebec and Canada to enter into a formal partnership with us to enhance the work of municipal governments, assist us in the transference of best practices and to provide funding and other supports that aid municipal governments in climate change action.

Signed:



Gary McNamara
President



Suzanne Roy
President