



## Local Climate Change Planning Gaining Ground in Southern Georgian Bay

(Midland, ON – February 28, 2018) Sustainable Severn Sound (SSS) is completing a Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) in collaboration with 7 local municipalities, including the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, and the Townships of Georgian Bay, Severn, Oro-Medonte, Tiny and Tay. Municipal staff and Council members representing these 7 municipalities work together with local community partner organizations – including the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the North Simcoe Community Futures Development Corporation, and the Severn Sound Environmental Association as the region’s Sustainability Committee. These municipalities, which provide annual financial and in-kind support to SSS, are mostly rural and range from 2,499 to 20,160 residents, and each experience a significant seasonal growth in population as a popular cottage and tourism destination.

The LCCAP involves the development of a community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, the setting of corporate and community GHG reduction targets, and the creation of a Local Action Plan to reduce GHG reductions, aligning with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. The PCP program is a joint initiative between the FCM and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. The PCP program rests on a 5-Milestone framework for reducing GHGs: (1) develop a community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, (2) set a GHG reduction target, (3) develop an action plan, (4) implement said action plan, (5) and report on progress. The model is flexible, in that milestones can be completed in many different ways. SSS is proud to be recognized as the Associate Member to this program for the Township of Tiny and the Town of Penetanguishene, as these municipalities have recently supported a joining resolution, confirming membership in the PCP program.

The LCCAP will take into account existing municipal plans and strategies of their partner municipalities to help realize the larger objectives of each of the partners and streamline GHG reduction planning; recognizing new provincial policy direction (The Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement), integrating recommendations and action items from municipal energy conservation and demand management plans, and providing important energy consumption and GHG emission data for use in both public and private sector projects.



# Local Climate Change Action Plan



Part of any successful action plan is meaningful community and stakeholder engagement, and with that success comes a significant complement to municipalities in their planning efforts. This initiative by SSS will enhance climate literacy for municipal leadership and staff, and further enhance the community and stakeholder relations that are key to taking action in response to climate change, and achieving the multiple benefits of the transition to low-carbon communities. SSS is creating of a series of promotional and educational climate change videos featuring information and actions from local organizations and businesses, as well as from our community and municipal partners. These videos will follow the first in the series, being the promotional video introducing SSS's Local Climate Change Action Plan, a call to action to their local communities and municipalities to get involved in the LCCAP project, and how that can be done. That video is available on You Tube, Facebook, Twitter, and on SSS's homepage at <https://www.sustainablesevernsound.ca/>

On February 22, SSS hosted a public event in partnership with the Ontario Climate Consortium and the FCM, welcoming Ian McVey, Secretariat for the OCC and Regional Climate Advisor for the FCM's PCP program. This was an opportunity for municipalities and the community to learn more about climate change initiatives, both provincially and locally. The Member of Parliament for Simcoe North, Mr. Bruce Stanton, opened the event stating the importance of local action in response to climate change, and the clear direction of provincial policy in supporting GHG reduction efforts by municipalities. The event keynote was Dr. Dianne Saxe, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, who provided a brief overview of the science behind climate change, and answered the question, 'How is Ontario doing in response to climate change?'. Dr. Saxe went over a few of the municipal powers for reducing GHGs, including policy and projects, and finished by encouraging attendees to take personal action through a 5% GHG reduction challenge. Victoria Ervick, SSS's Local Climate Change Action Plan Coordinator, shared the great work being undertaken by SSS as part of the LCCAP, and commended the region's local municipalities for taking action in response to climate change.

Beyond this, SSS is consulting with municipal and community representatives through in-person meetings and workshops, on-line surveys, and via social media. This process will support SSS and the members of the Sustainability Committee in identifying, evaluating and prioritizing potential projects that will meet the GHG reduction targets. The LCCAP will become the foundation for future climate change initiatives in the region, and is an example of a successful collective impact model in action.



## About Sustainable Severn Sound (SSS)

*Sustainable Severn Sound (SSS) is a regional sustainability program supported by seven of the municipalities in the Severn Sound area, including the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, and the Townships of Georgian Bay, Severn, Oro-Medonte, Tiny and Tay. This project also receives in-kind support and Sustainability Committee representation from the North Simcoe Community Futures Development Corporation / Société d'aide au développement des collectivités Simcoe Nord (NSCFDC), the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA), and the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU). SSS works to (1) educate municipalities on best practices and connect them to resources, (2) encourage the adoption of practices/policies within their municipal operations to support sustainable communities, and (3) advocate for sustainable environmental practices within our service area.*



## About OTF

*An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada's largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities.*

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tracy Roxborough, Sustainability Coordinator, Sustainable Severn Sound  
105 Fourth Street, P.O. Box 8  
Midland, ON, L4R 4K6  
T: 705-526-1371 x.112  
C: 705-821-2215  
E: [tracy@sustainablesevernsound.ca](mailto:tracy@sustainablesevernsound.ca)  
W: [www.sustainablesevernsound.ca](http://www.sustainablesevernsound.ca)  
V: [Check out the LCCAP video!](#)

