

STAFF REPORT: Clerk/Administration



REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: May 25, 2009
REPORT NO.: CAO.09.02
SUBJECT: International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
PREPARED BY: Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste and Environmental Initiatives

A. Recommendations

THAT Council authorize the Town to join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability) as a full member and that the first year's membership fee will be a total of \$600.00 (USD).

B. Background

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is an international association of local governments including national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. ICLEI was founded in 1990 as the 'International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives'. The Council was established when more than 200 local governments from 43 countries convened at their inaugural conference, the World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future, at the United Nations in New York.

The organization is now officially called 'ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability'. In 2003, ICLEI's Members voted to revise the organization's mission, charter and name to better reflect the current challenges local governments are facing. The 'International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' became 'ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability' with a broader mandate to address sustainability issues.

Over 1077 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs.

ICLEI provides technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government in the implementation

of sustainable development at the local level. Our basic premise is that locally designed initiatives can provide an effective and cost-efficient way to achieve local, national, and global sustainability objectives.

Connection to Federation of Canadian Municipalities

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a network of Canadian municipal governments who have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change. The Town became a member of PCP in 2006. PCP is the Canadian component of ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) network that comprises more than 800 communities worldwide making the same efforts.

PCP is a partnership between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. PCP receives financial support from the Green Municipal Fund as part of the Capacity Building Program. Town staff member Jeffery Fletcher also sits on a PCP steering committee made of various members of municipal, provincial and federal governments involved with PCP.

Town staff have an established relationship with staff at ICLEI. Also ICLEI have a long history of promoting communities that show leadership in sustainability and greenhouse gas reductions. Joining ICLEI will be a benefit to the Town. Through ICLEI we can learn about other local governments that are successful in implementing sustainability programs and share our own sustainability efforts.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

This move to join ICLEI will assist in working towards the goal of "providing a strong, well managed municipal government" and assisting in "developing and encouraging innovation and use of best practices" related to sustainability.

D. Environmental Impacts

Joining this membership will assist the Town in staying connected with the latest environmental and sustainable programs being implemented at the local level throughout the world and in all types and sizes of municipalities.

E. Budget Impact

The budget impact will involve an annual fee of \$600.00 (USD) to be allocated from the CAO/Clerk membership account.

F. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Graham,
CAO

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