Dear ICECAP members and community partners:

Below is a short update on ICECAP’s progress since last spring. Over the past six months our ICECAP partners have been working hard to engage with their communities, advance climate change adaptation, and celebrate new initiatives!

The requirements for the Partners for Climate Protection Milestone 1 of Creating a Baseline Emissions Inventory and Forecast were completed for most ICECAP members. This baseline emissions inventory is the foundation for achieving Milestone 2: setting GHG emission reduction targets and Milestone 3: developing Regional and Local Climate Action Plans, which ICECAP members are now working towards simultaneously.

Milestones 2 and 3 are being completed at the same time to allow the planning process to guide ICECAP members’ emission reduction target-setting. With an understanding of which actions communities are planning to take, they will be able to set more accurate and achievable targets.

Action Plans and GHG reduction targets are being created for both corporate and community emissions for each municipality. Remember that corporate emissions are those generated by municipal operations; community emissions are generated by the residents, businesses, and industries of the same region. Together, all ICECAP member emissions are captured.

COMMUNITY SURVEY
Take our community survey!

We’ve launched a public survey to gather input from local residents on climate action and climate change planning in the region.

The survey will be open for six weeks, January 18th to March 1st and every week those who have completed the survey will be entered into a draw to win one of several prizes donated by local businesses! Check out our social media for more information @GBayBiosphere. Winners will be announced weekly.

The survey can be found here: https://bit.ly/3FmaLnO and should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

Please share widely with your own networks.

Thank you for your support!
ICECAP staff and co-chairs have been busy working with neighbouring municipalities and inviting them to join the ICECAP Partnership. It is with great pleasure that we announce two new members to ICECAP: The Municipality of McDougall and the Municipality of Whitestone!

Both are now working towards completing Milestone 1: Create a Baseline Emissions Inventory and Forecast for their corporate emissions.

Welcome to ICECAP, Whitestone and McDougall!

The ICECAP partnership is open to all area municipalities and First Nations. All Councils are welcome to join us in working to achieve regional climate change goals!

Seguin Township is working with a company called FoodCycler to launch a pilot program that will divert food waste from our landfill. Participating residents will be able to dispose of food waste using countertop units that dehydrate and process organics efficiently, creating rich garden mulch. The units are convenient, compact, odorless and can be used indoors, year-round. The process will significantly reduce the weight and volume of waste produced in a household (by approximately 90%).

Each unit costs $200. The program will be capped at 100 households. Participating residents will be eligible for a $50 rebate after they have used the unit for 12 weeks and completed an online survey. For more information and/or to be added to the growing list of interested participants, please contact Seguin Township via email: publicworks@seguin.ca or by phone 705-732-4300.
After our summer recruitment campaign, the GBB had over 30 expert citizens volunteer to participate in one or more of our Climate Action Groups (CAGs) - Buildings, Transportation and Waste. Thank you to everyone who has joined us in this important process!

The CAGs’ first meeting was held at the beginning of September and they have continued to meet regularly. At meetings, these groups have brainstormed actions that the community can take to reduce emissions relating to their theme, set them into an action plan framework, and done research to determine who can help implement these actions, how success in these actions can be measured, and what resources are available to support the implementation process. More than 250 actions have been brainstormed in total!

The CAGs also helped to develop a community survey that is currently available and will solicit feedback from the regional community at large. We are working through GHG reduction target-setting scenarios and planning a future Town Hall event to ‘launch’ the final Climate Action Plans.

ICECAP member staff liaisons have been meeting regularly with GBB staff to discuss actions that their municipality and the region at large can take to reduce emissions. This team has reviewed best practices from other municipalities leading on climate action and integrated the climate actions that their own municipalities have already taken, or are planning to take, into a draft action list. This list will be the basis of corporate climate action projects in the coming years.

On December 1st, GBB staff held an introductory call with the department heads from ICECAP member municipalities to explain the planning process and discuss where each of their departments fits into the larger plan. Now, municipal staff can work with their ICECAP liaison to review, modify, and finalize the action list making sure that it reflects their own municipality’s needs and priorities.

It will take the combined efforts of staff and Council across ICECAP municipalities to ensure that these plans are a success. Early engagement is critical to this process.
The Town of Parry Sound and Shawanaga First Nation were successful in their application to ICLEI Canada’s Advancing Adaptation Program. This program is funded through support from the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada. Over 18 months ICLEI is engaging with 40 Ontario communities in three cohorts to build capacity in adaptation assessment, planning and implementation.

Beginning in August, 2021 both the Town and Shawanaga, with support from the GBB, joined the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Cohort. This cohort is for communities that have not undergone any formal adaptation planning. ICLEI is supporting both communities to understand climate project ideas, how to use and apply climate data and information from various sources, identify climate change impacts, and assess these communities’ vulnerability to climate risks through a collaborative process.

Moving forward, regional partners will help to assess the region’s vulnerability to projected climate impacts through an online survey. Once vulnerabilities have been determined, a workshop to assess the region’s overall risk to these climate impacts will be held in early spring.

With the completed Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, Shawanaga First Nation, the Town of Parry Sound, and GBB will move into the Adaptation Planning cohort and a regional adaptation plan will be prepared by the end of December 2022.

As discussed at the Nov. 4 ICECAP Budget Meeting, the GBB is moving towards launching a sponsorship program for the ICECAP Partnership. Businesses, organizations, and other regional partners will be able to sponsor ICECAP and contribute to local climate action!

Have sponsors in mind? Let us know! Email climate@gbbr.ca with potential sponsors.
Through community and corporate engagement, GBB staff are working towards having Local Climate Action Plans drafted in the spring of 2022. These plans will then go to each ICECAP member’s Council for approval and, once approved, signify the completion of Milestones 2 and 3 of the PCP program. After Council approval, ICECAP members will move formally into Milestone 4: Implementation of the Local Action Plan.

Alongside this work, the GBB is continually looking for funding opportunities that would further ICECAP member’s climate ambitions and pursuing projects that reduce emissions locally and across the region.

New municipal and First Nations members to ICECAP are always welcome, as are community groups, corporations and organizations. Thank you to our current ICECAP members, advisors and our 70+ community partners!

Your ICECAP Project Team,

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Next Steps

ADAPTATION PLANNING

There are upcoming climate change adaptation assessment and planning workshops planned for throughout 2022 and we look forward to our partners’ continued support in this important process.