



April 20, 2018

Impact and Innovation Unit  
Privy Council Office  
Room 1000  
85 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3

To the Smart Cities Challenge jury panel:

**RE: TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER COMMITMENT TO THE SMART CITIES CHALLENGE**

I'm writing this letter to confirm Bridgewater Town Council's enthusiastic endorsement of our community's application to the Smart Cities Challenge program. With your \$5 million contribution, our Town will lift 20% of its population out of energy poverty by 2028.

The stories shared by our community partners and residents have made it clear that energy poverty is having a profound and debilitating impact here in Bridgewater. Energy poverty is rooted in low average incomes, combined with an aging and leaky housing stock, inefficient transportation systems, and high energy prices. This systematically strips many of our residents of their dignity and damages the physical and mental well-being of young and old alike.

Yet, the real, lasting, and practical solutions to this problem are so close at hand that we can already see them emerging.

Through our Energize Bridgewater program, our community has demonstrated nationally-recognized leadership in understanding and planning a pathway toward a new kind of energy economy – one where energy services are universally available and affordable, clean and efficient, and protected from supply volatility and the coming ravages of climate change. Our Community Energy Investment Plan, adopted by Town Council in January 2018, confirms that this transition is not only feasible, but incredibly beneficial for all members of our community and for our planet.

Through our community energy programs such as the Living Energy Laboratory, the Bridgewater Energy Partnership, and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, we are already witnessing an acceleration of solutions driven by a genuine desire to solve problems on the local level. In recognition of these innovations, our town was the winner of the Federally-sponsored 2018 GLOBE Climate Leadership Award in the Small Municipal Trailblazer category.

Bridgewater is ready for a massive shift toward a smart energy economy by becoming a Smart Community. Bridgewater is also ready to show Atlantic Canada, and the nation, how it can be done. Town Council has stewarded and supported our award-winning sustainability work for over 10 years. Through its demonstrated successes, ranging from community gardens, to energy management practices, to climate change adaptation planning, to a community transit start-up, Bridgewater's innovations are being adopted across the province and beyond. The Town has demonstrated that it has the capacity and resourcefulness to build partnerships around complex, transformative projects, and to accomplish them with excellence.

Council's Economic Development Action Plan consists of three pillars that seek to improve quality of life for all residents in our community and igniting our community's energy transition is a central part of that plan. But we need help in fanning this fire and we need help to make sure that those among us who are most vulnerable, and least able to afford the transition, are the first ones we help across the threshold. Those residents have the most to lose, and through the betterment of their lives, our community has everything to gain.

With \$5 million in Smart Cities funding, our town will install sophisticated energy monitoring and communications equipment in over 1000 homes, develop a self-funding energy retrofit financing program, improve its transportation systems, and increase local clean tech sector training and literacy. It will also allow our community partners to increase their capacity to exchange knowledge and work more efficiently and effectively to reduce, and ultimately end, energy poverty in our community. Every dime will be used, because the need is so great.

Bridgewater's community spirit was forged more than a century ago when a fire destroyed our downtown – from its ashes we rose again, and, over the decades, we have worked together to innovate, to grow, and to ensure that every member of our community has a place in our society. Despite today's challenges, we are confident that the same community spirit will carry us through this challenge and into that greener and more equitable world that we all desire.

Yours truly,



David Mitchell  
Mayor



**GLOBE**

**CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2018**

**Small Municipal Trailblazer**

**WINNER**

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