



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Damian Szybalski, Manager of Sustainability

DATE: January 8, 2014

REPORT NO.: PDS-2014-0005

RE: Grant Agreement
Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Green Municipal Fund
Project Status Update #3
Mayor's Community Energy Plan
File No.: D27-CO Community Energy Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PDS-2014-0005, dated January 8, 2014, regarding a Grant Agreement between the Town and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and a project status update, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and Town Clerk be authorized to execute and sign the Grant Agreement between the Town and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), as well as any other associated documents.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to:

- 1) Obtain Council authorization for the Mayor and Town Clerk to execute a Grant Agreement between the Town and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, as well as any other associated documents; and
- 2) Provide a brief project status update.

BACKGROUND:

The Town is nearing completion of an innovative Energy Plan, referred to as the Mayor's Community Energy Plan. Town staff have provided prior updates on this project via several reports, including:

- PDS-2013-0053: <http://haltonhills.ca/calendars/2013/PDS-2013-0053.pdf>
- PDS-2013-0045: <http://haltonhills.ca/calendars/2013/PDS-2013-0045.pdf>

The Mayor's Community Energy Plan will deliver practical actions that are anticipated to translate into measurable financial benefits, efficiencies, reduced operating costs, lower greenhouse gas emissions, community awareness and corporate leadership. The Plan will not only meet the Town's obligations under the *Green Energy Act* in terms of reporting municipal energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions, and the completion of a Corporate Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan, but it will also complete major components of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. The PCP program consists of five milestones. Three of these milestones will be completed as part of the Mayor's Community Energy Plan, specifically:

- Creation of a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory;
- Setting of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target; and
- Development of a Local Action Plan which will outline practical actions that can be taken to achieve the greenhouse gas reduction target.

The remaining two PCP milestones entail the implementation of the Local Action Plan, and the monitoring and reporting on implementation progress.

According to FCM, the PCP program "...is a network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change." Currently, nearly 250 Canadian municipalities are members, including the Town of Halton Hills.

COMMENTS:

1. FCM Green Municipal Fund

Through its Green Municipal Fund, FCM funds "...the very best examples of leadership and innovation in municipal sustainable development. These initiatives must aim to achieve significant environmental impact and have the potential to be replicated in other communities." For successful projects, grants to cover up to 50% of eligible costs (to a maximum) are available.

In May 2013, Town staff completed and submitted a detailed application to FCM seeking funding towards the Mayor's Community Energy Plan. Following FCM review,

the Town has been successful in securing a grant of \$73,020 or 50% of eligible costs (whichever is less).¹

To receive the grant, the Town must sign a Grant Agreement with FCM. The recommendations of this report seek Council authorization for the Mayor and Town Clerk to sign the said Agreement on behalf of the Town, as well as any associated documents.

Generally speaking, the Grant Agreement stipulates the roles and responsibilities (obligations) required of the Town and FCM. This includes details pertaining to the grant amount, project scope, documentation, intellectual property rights, format of deliverables, indemnification and associated documents.

2. Project Status Update

Since last reporting to Council with an update on the Mayor's Community Energy Plan in June 2013, significant progress has been made and the project is now nearing completion. Progress has included:

- As required by Ontario Regulation 397/11 of the *Green Energy Act*, the Town's 2011 energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions data has been completed and made publically available;
- Detailed energy audits of select Town facilities have been completed to identify additional energy efficiency opportunities;
- Detailed computer GIS modeling and analysis has been undertaken to assess the pattern of energy use across Halton Hills, and to develop future energy use and greenhouse gas emission scenarios;
- Development of the components of a Corporate Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan;
- Community engagement. This has included community and Town staff surveys, stakeholder workshops, Social Media, Website, Media Releases, Mayor's Announcements, Newspaper advertising, engagement at various community events (e.g. Acton Fall Fair, farmers' markets), presentations to youth at summer camps, and presentations to stakeholders (e.g. Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, Georgetown BIA, Mayor's Youth Action Committee, Halton Hills Hydro, Credit Valley Conservation, Town Environmental Advisory Committee).

To maximize community engagement, rather than holding general public meetings as previously planned, community stakeholders were engaged via workshops, attendance at various community events and by other means.

¹ Based on the actual scope of work completed and an audit of actual expenditures, the actual amount of the grant may be adjusted.

- Successful FCM funding application.

3. Next Steps

Key next steps include:

- Completion and review of the draft Mayor's Community Energy Plan by the project's Steering and Technical committees;
- Finalization of the draft Plan;
- Report to Council with an overview of the draft Plan;
- Completion of the Final Plan;
- Report to Council with an overview of the Final Plan.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Sustainability is one of ten Council priorities identified in the Town's Strategic Action Plan, and repeatedly referenced throughout the Strategic Plan's Strategic Objectives and Strategic Actions. Therefore, the preparation of the Mayor's Community Energy Plan will better enable the Town to fulfill its many sustainability objectives, including those directly related to energy. In particular, Strategic Action B.5.(h) which reads: "Develop a Community Energy Plan, in cooperation with Halton Hills Community Energy Corporation."

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The FCM Grant will help offset a significant portion of the project's cost.

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:

A Media Release will be prepared to communicate the Town's successful FCM Green Municipal Fund application.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

By focusing on energy conservation, efficiencies, and greenhouse gas emission reductions, the Mayor's Community Energy Plan supports three areas of community sustainability:

- Resilient Economy;
- Healthy and Diverse Environment; and
- Responsive and Effective Government.

There is alignment between the Mayor's Community Energy Plan and the Community Sustainability Strategy, specifically the focus areas of:

- Energy;
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions; and
- Green Economy.

The Plan also relates to numerous Green Plan recommendations, including #25, 26, 31, 39, 43, 44, 48, 60, 66 and 67 which relate to energy and water efficiency, new development practices, energy management, LEED® building design, renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The Plan's recommendations will benefit future generations through a focus on efficiency, conservation, renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reductions. Successful implementation is anticipated to translate into financial benefits through improved energy efficiency in municipal operations.

CONSULTATION:

The project's Steering and Technical committees have been engaged throughout the project's duration.

CONCLUSION:

This report has sought Council's authorization for the Mayor and Town Clerk to execute a Grant Agreement between the Town and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, as well as any associated documents. It has also provided a brief project status update.

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