



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the General Committee**

**From:** **Cynthia Fletcher**  
**Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services**

**Meeting Date:** **December 1, 2020**

**Subject:** **Report IPSIM20-028**  
**Green Municipal Fund Community Efficiency Financing Application**

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## **Purpose**

A report to provide an update on the City's application to the Community Efficiency Financing program offered by Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund (GMF).

## **Recommendations**

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report IPSIM20-028, dated December 1, 2020, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services as follows:

- a) That Report IPSIM20-028 be received for information; and
- b) That, upon confirmation of funding through the Community Efficiency Financing program, staff be directed to develop an incentive framework suitable for the Peterborough context to be presented to Council for consideration at a future date.

## Budget and Financial Implications

A maximum allocation of \$45,000 from the approved Sustainability Projects (5-7.01) budget has been allocated for the City's required 20% contribution to the program design application. Actual City expenditures may be less, as the program allows for the contribution of in-kind staff time. The use of any in-kind contribution will reduce the City's actual cash contribution.

## Background

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities offered municipalities the opportunity, to apply by October 30<sup>th</sup>, to access funding to improve residential energy-use through home renovations. The City made application for the first stage of the program.

The program offers funding of up to 80% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$175,000 towards designing a Home Energy Efficiency Program (HEEP). Through the Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) program, municipalities can design a home retrofit incentive program that meets the local community needs. The CEF allows participants to develop the framework for a program and determine how it will be administered, financed, and monitored. The City can design a program that fits the Peterborough context.

Accessing Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) funding will facilitate reductions in residential greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and is envisioned as the catalyst to accelerate a reduction in total community emissions through improvements to home energy-efficiency. A residential energy program designed to focus on reducing household GHG emissions will assist Peterborough in reaching the 30 percent community GHG emission reduction targeted by 2031, as approved by Council in considering Report CSD16-031 at its meeting on December 14, 2016.

The housing sector in Peterborough is the most significant source of community GHG emissions and accounts for 39 percent of all emissions or 123,673 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018. Home heating derived from natural gas combustion is responsible for 94 percent of the residential emissions. The local housing stock is predominantly composed of older dwellings built before 1980, making this housing category a substantial consumer of energy and source of GHG emissions. These houses are ideal candidates for home energy retrofits that will reduce emissions and improve the energy and financial security of homeowners by reducing the long-term energy needs.

Developing a home energy-efficiency program supports existing GHG emission reduction strategies already developed by the City and aligns directly with the following:

- Strategy H1 of the community Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) that recommends developing a deep energy retrofit program to lower household energy use by 40 percent;
- The updated draft Official Plan (2019) that embeds directions to strategize GHG emission reductions city-wide and implement energy conservation into new building construction;
- The Climate Emergency Declaration (2019), that directs staff to consider all measures to expedite GHG emission reduction to accelerate climate action timelines; and
- Staff report IPSIM-20-003 that recommends seeking additional funding from the province or federal governments to enable broadening community CCAP mitigation actions.

Introducing a home retrofit program to Peterborough will directly benefit the budding economic recovery through job creation in the trades and other ancillary services.

The program design application will require support from Corporate Services as well as continued involvement of Infrastructure and Planning Services. External stakeholders that are envisioned at this point include local environmental non-profits, post-secondary institutions, financial institutions, trade organizations and local utilities.

The design component of a Home Energy Efficiency Program (HEEP) is expected to occur over a 12-month period after confirmation of funding, which is anticipated in Q1 of 2021. The earliest projected launch of a home energy-efficiency program would be in the first half of 2022, subject to available funding. Funding of the capital implementation component of program implementation is also being offered by FCM and the Green Municipal Fund. Staff will provide details of the implementation funding opportunity in a future update report to Council.

## Summary

As developing a deep energy retrofit program to lower household energy use by 40 percent is a key objective of the Community Climate Action Plan and the City's objective to expedite greenhouse gas reduction, staff has made application to Federation of Canadian Municipalities for the Green Municipal Fund Community Efficiency Financing Program. The program offers funding of up to 80% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$175,000 towards designing a Home Energy Efficiency Program (HEEP). The City's

20% financial commitment will be a combination of in-kind staff time and funds from the approved Sustainability Pilot Project budget to a maximum of \$45,000.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Fletcher  
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Development Services

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