



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Budget Committee

FROM: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

MEETING DATE: November 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Report CSD12-033
Update on the Low-flow Toilet Replacement Rebate Pilot Program

PURPOSE

A report to update Council on the results of the Low-flow Toilet Replacement Rebate Pilot Program for the residential sector.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSD12-033 dated November 26, 2012, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That the report be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Low-flow Toilet Replacement Rebate Pilot Program has been included in the 2013 capital budget, 6-8.03, pages 482 – 483, and will be reviewed as part of the budget process.

BACKGROUND

Council approved the Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan on April 2, 2012. One of the priority actions listed in the plan was to establish a water conservation and efficiency program that motivates water consumers and makes available resources for water conservation. The Low-flow Toilet Replacement Rebate Pilot Program meets the requirements of this priority action.

Following Council's approval of Report CSD12-007 of April 16, 2012, the 2012 Low-flow Toilet Replacement Rebate Pilot Program officially began on May 28, 2012.

Program Update

As Peterborough Utilities Commission (PUC) moves from a flat rate billing system to a water meter program in 2013, customers will pay for their water usage. PUC estimates that the metering of water usage based on consumption should reduce city water demands by approximately 15 to 20%.

With toilet use accounting for approximately 27% of the residential indoor water use, the conversion from an older 13 or 20 litre toilet to a 4 to 6 litre toilet can save 14 to 16 litres per flush.

If a single residential toilet uses 13 litres of water per flush, one person can consume as much as 74 litres per day or 27,010 litres per year. Compare this to a toilet that uses 4 litres per flush; one person can consume as little as 20 litres per day or 7,300 litres per year. This represents a savings of 19,720 litres of water per year per person.

The pilot program offered the residential sector a \$50 rebate for the replacement of an existing toilet to a high-efficiency, low-flow toilet. Maximum two rebates per household or per unit. The initial \$40,000 program budget created 800 rebates. The pilot program sold out within 11 weeks.

With the approval of Director of Corporate Services, an additional \$10,000 from the Sustainability Projects Capital Budget was used to top up the program budget, creating an additional 200 rebates.

This pilot program has been extremely successful in meeting the project objectives. The community uptake on the rebates was steady, with little advertising or marketing. Program information was taken to the stores in advance of the program launch and stickers were provided to each store to promote the program and confirm which toilets were eligible for the rebate.

The results of the pilot as of November 1, 2012 are provided in the table below.

Facility Name & Address	# of Toilet Rebates	# people at the address	Potential Water Savings per Day (litres per day)
AON's Empress Gardens	100	92	4,140
AON's Princess Gardens	156	131	5,895
AON's The Kingsford	96	125	5,625
AON's Benmor Towers	52	65	2,925
Marycrest at Inglewood	55	74	3,330
Churchill Manor Apartments	91	160	7,200
Peterborough Co-operative Homes Inc.	10	26	1,170
AOTS Community Homes Inc. - Chemong Village	41	90	4,050
Single Family Dwellings	301	746	33,570
TOTAL	902	1,509	67,905

SUMMARY

The Low-flow Toilet Replacement Rebate Program meets the requirements of the Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan by establishing a water conservation and efficiency program that motivates consumers to reduce their water use. The pilot program has been extremely successful, with maximum community uptake, community commitment to water conservation, while reducing the amount of flow to the sewage treatment plant. Staff recommends the Low-flow Toilet Replacement Rebate program be continued in 2013.

Submitted by,

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