

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** November 25, 2024  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Program Manager  
**Report Number:** COU24-141  
**Attachments:** None

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**Title:** Climate-Ready Plans and Processes Funding Opportunity

**Objective:** To provide an overview of Green Municipal Fund's Climate-Ready Plans and Processes funding opportunity available to municipalities intended to support climate adaptation and resilience initiatives.

Staff are seeking Council direction to proceed with the funding application to support a 2025 budget expansion request for additional staff capacity.

The application deadline is November 29, 2024.

**Background:** At the August 12, 2024, Regular Council meeting, Council adopted the following resolution:

THAT the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) be adopted;

THAT staff be directed to:

- Identify and advance actions in CCAP that can be implemented within the existing staffing capacity and budget resources;
- Include CCAP programs and supporting resources required for consideration in the 2025 multi-year budget process;

AND THAT staff be authorized to continue to explore potential funding opportunities through senior levels of government.

Staff have identified a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund Program. Through the Climate-Ready Plans and Processes funding, the City may qualify for a grant covering up to 70% of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$140,000.

Subject to Council approval, the City is well-positioned to submit a successful application to this program to support additional staff capacity required for the Climate Action Division.

**Analysis:** Staff have identified an expansion initiative in the 2025 draft budget for a 2-year pilot position (Community Energy Liaison) for Council's consideration. This contract position is anticipated to support capacity-building and initiate priority recommendations of the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP).

The Climate-Ready Plans and Processes funding covers staff remuneration and benefits. Subject to Council deliberations and should the City's funding application be successful, it can help alleviate up to 70% budgetary implications for the expansion request.

This funding is intended to help communities adapt for the impacts of climate change, by developing climate risk assessments and climate adaptation plans, which are critical for safeguarding infrastructure, protecting essential services, and ensuring the well-being of all residents. As such, this is well aligned with the objectives of CCAP to accelerate climate action and ensure community-wide resilience.

If the application is successful, Council would still have the final decision whether to proceed with the position during 2025 Budget deliberations.

The application deadline is November 29, 2024.

### **Financial Implications:**

#### **Financial impact to current year operating budget:**

There is no financial implication to the City's current year operating budget because of making an application to the grant funding opportunity.

#### **Financial impact on future year operating budget:**

Should the funding application be successful, the City's contribution toward the contract position reduces to 30% for each year of the two-year contract position. Based on estimated financial impact in the 2025 draft budget, the annual impact of the expansion is reduced to approximately \$31,455 (or 30% of annual salary and benefits). For a 2-year contract position this would translate to approximately \$62,910, as compared to the expansion costs identified of \$140,150 annually.

#### **Link to Asset Management Plan and Strategy:**

No direct link, however as the funding intends to support climate adaptation plans critical for safeguarding infrastructure, there is an indirect link to the asset management plan and asset management strategy.

## **Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

**Not applicable:** This report does not align with one of the Strategic Priorities as staff are seeking Council direction to proceed with a grant funding opportunity.

## **Alignment with One Planet Principles:**

### **Sustainable Water**

Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought.

### **Local and Sustainable Food**

Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein.

### **Travel and Transport**

Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport.

### **Material and Products**

Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption.

### **Zero Waste**

Reducing consumption, reusing and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution.

### **Zero Carbon Energy**

Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables.

**Staff Recommendation: THAT Council supports the application and authorizes staff to apply for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation initiative, seeking funding for Climate-Ready Plans and Processes to advance actions outlined in the Community Climate Action Plan;**

**AND THAT the City expansion initiative for additional staff capacity be considered during 2025 budget deliberations.**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Program Manager
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