

GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND FUNDING APPLICATION LETTER OF SUPPORT

Issue

A feasibility study funding application for the Green Municipal Fund's *Community Building Retrofits* program requires evidence of Council support.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That a letter of support be sent to the Green Municipal Fund's *Community Building Retrofits* program in favour of the Town's feasibility study funding application.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

The Town of Okotoks has set a target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and is committed to taking bold action to mitigate climate change as outlined in its Climate Action Plan. Reducing energy consumption in municipal facilities is one way to move closer to corporate emissions reduction goals. Recreation buildings are significant consumers of energy. Okotoks Recreation Centre (ORC), Okotoks Centennial Arenas (OCA), and Foothills Community Centre (FCC) collectively contribute over 60% of corporate emissions and will be the focus of this project.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) have developed a funding program for *Community Building Retrofits* that is designed to assist municipalities with the challenges of increasing energy efficiency and reducing emissions associated with community buildings. The first step in this process is to complete a "Greenhouse Gas Reduction Pathway Feasibility Study" for the selected buildings. The study must outline the following reduction pathways:

- A 10-year plan that achieves at least 50% emissions reduction from current building performance; and
- A 20-year plan that achieves at least 80% emissions reduction from current building performance.

More information on this GMF funding opportunity is available here:

<https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/community-buildings-retrofit-initiative>

A funding application will be submitted to complete a feasibility study for the ORC, OCA, and FCC buildings. ORC was selected because of its high utility demand and the impact that the targeted emissions reductions would have on overall corporate emissions. It was also selected with the intention of aligning efficiency and conservation measures with the facility expansion project. OCA and FCC were selected because of the high utility demand at OCA, and the potential opportunity to integrate energy conservation and re-use efforts between these two buildings due to their close proximity.

The study will provide an analysis and comparison of various decarbonisation scenarios that detail recommended energy conservation measures over the scenario timeline, estimate capital and operational costs, and project energy and emissions savings. The report will provide discussion and conclusions regarding the feasibility of reaching the emission reduction targets. The selected pathway for each building will provide the Town with a road map for projects that could be included in future operational and capital budget requests.

This feasibility study will be a collaboration between members of the Recreation, Facilities, and Environment teams and will be completed by a qualified third-party consultant. It is expected that the project will take approximately 6-8 months to complete, following confirmation of funding.

The total estimated cost of the study is approximately \$240,000. The GMF funding will cover 80% of the cost to a maximum of \$65,000 per building. The study will require approximately \$50,000 which is currently allocated in the Operating Budget.

The financial implications of moving forward to implement the energy conservation measures along the recommended reduction pathways will be outlined in the study findings. Individual project costs will be added for review and approval in upcoming budget requests.

Strategic Plan Goals

<input type="checkbox"/>	Responsibly Managed Growth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrated Environmental Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Local Economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Culture & Community Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Organizational Excellence		

Equity/Diversity/Inclusivity Impacts and Strategy

The feasibility study will target three (3) community buildings with significant social value. It is important to ensure the longevity and affordability of these facilities. This project will evaluate and comment on how improvements to energy efficiency and the pathway to net-zero will serve to improve occupant comfort while reducing the cost to operate these facilities and minimizing the input of resources.

These buildings are emergency reception centers in the event of a flood or other extreme weather event that results in resident displacement. These buildings are typically designated as cooling centers during periods of excessive or prolonged heat to provide respite to community members who do not have relief from the heat in their homes. The number of hot days are expected to continue to increase. Amidst a number of external and market factors that are largely beyond municipal control, these community buildings are one way to provide valuable relief and sanctuary in an equitable and inclusive way.

Environmental Impacts

The primary benefit of pursuing a pathway to net-zero would be a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The success of this program would mean potentially reducing the overall greenhouse gas emissions from municipal buildings in Okotoks by as much as 30% within 10 years by targeting three high energy demand buildings.

Although the feasibility study has the primary objective of reducing emissions, the study will incorporate multiple sustainability and conservation principles to ensure that any retrofits and capital projects maximize environmental co-benefits. This will include consideration of water and wastewater efficiencies to reduce consumption and processing of water, and climate vulnerability risk and adaptation measures to enhance the climate resilience of these facilities.

Community Engagement Strategy

n/a

Alternatives for Consideration

n/a

CAO Comments

I strongly support moving forward with this funding application and encourage Council support.

Attachment(s)

1. Draft letter of support
2. GP B 2.2 Letters of Support Policy

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