

Memo



To: Regular Meeting
From: Financial Services
Date: 2022-07-11
Subject: Local Government Climate Action Program

Purpose

To provide Council with information about the new Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP).

Background

As Council may be aware, the Province ended the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) in 2021, with no plans to reinstate or replace it at that time. The City received notification of the new LGCAP program in mid-May.

Program Highlights

The LGCAP will support Local Governments through capacity building and investments in greenhouse gas reduction by providing flexible, long-term funding to signatories of the Climate Action Charter.

The Province will provide the City with funding of \$70,082 each year from 2022 to 2024 to help reach legislated climate targets and prepare for the impacts of climate change. This funding can either be spent each year or accumulated in a reserve and then spent later on, with the only stipulation being that all spending be completed by March 31, 2025.

To be eligible for the first year of funding, applicants are required to:

- Be signatories to the B.C. Climate Action Charter or be a B.C. Modern Treaty Nation
- Measure and report corporate greenhouse gas emissions in the first year or prepare for mandatory emissions measurement and reporting in the second year of the program.
- Demonstrate climate investment (matching funding or in-kind contributions) equivalent to 20% of the provincial funding received.
- Report on projects linked to one or more objectives from the *CleanBC Roadmap to 2030* and/or the *Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy*.
- Submit and publicly post:
 - a completed and signed attestation form to confirm all funds were, or will be, used towards climate action
 - a completed PDF version of the required program survey

The Province will be working with local governments over the next year to determine future reporting requirements for the second and later years.

Some examples of how the funding may be used include, but are not limited to, the following:

Buildings – step code adoption, energy efficiency, zero carbon heating

Transportation – active transportation plans, secure bike parking, electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Community climate planning – energy efficient community planning, renewable energy, climate and energy emissions planning, waste reduction

Education and awareness – communications, public education and engagement

Climate resilience

Natural asset infrastructure

Staff is currently working on completing the survey by the July 15th deadline, and plans on submitting the attestation form as required, prior to July 29th. The Province is planning to disburse funds at the end of August.

CARIP Program Funding

Under the former CARIP program, the City was reimbursed for the carbon tax paid on gasoline, diesel and natural gas purchased, approximately \$7,000 to \$10,000 per year.

The CARIP funding and interest has been retained in the Climate Action Reserve, with a balance of \$41,724 remaining as at the end of May, 2022.

Attachments

Letter from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Local Government Climate Action Program Guide

Options

N/A