

NO: **R157**

COUNCIL DATE: **July 30, 2009**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **July 30, 2009**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development** FILE: **6950-30**
(Sustainability
Planning Initiatives)

SUBJECT: **Regional "Build to Zero" Program and Workshop - Infrastructure Planning Grant**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

- Receive this report as information; and
- Endorse an application to the Provincial government for an Infrastructure Planning Grant of \$10,000 in support of the regional "Build to Zero" program and a related workshop to be held in November 2009.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Advise Council of a regional "Build to Zero" workshop being organized by the Community Energy Association for November 2009 in support of local government action toward creating low-carbon buildings; and
- Obtain Council endorsement of an application for a Provincial Infrastructure Planning Grant to support the Build to Zero program and to prepare a Build to Zero workshop summary report.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed Build to Zero workshop and the workshop's summary report will support the objectives in Surrey's Official Community Plan ("OCP") and Sustainability Charter to increase energy efficiency, promote alternative energy sources, support "green buildings" and reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs).

BACKGROUND

The Community Energy Association has requested that the City support the Build to Zero Program by sponsoring a Provincial Infrastructure Planning Grant application to provide funding

to assist with organizing a workshop and to prepare a summary report on the findings of the workshop. The workshop and summary report will benefit Surrey and other Lower Mainland municipalities. The City has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the Community Energy Association, which has previously supported a number of energy planning initiatives in the City.

The City has begun a process to promote green buildings through an information centre in City Hall and has commenced work on corporate and community GHG reductions, including those from buildings.

DISCUSSION

The Build to Zero Program will pilot a regional Lower Mainland approach to local government climate action toward low-carbon buildings, both new and existing. The November 2009 workshop will kick-off a regional working group, which will help to deploy energy efficiency and renewable energy building policies and infrastructure measures across the region over the following year. At the workshop, urban planners, elected officials, green building NGOs, and the development community will work collaboratively to build capacity for high-impact policies, plans and regulations for constructing or retrofitting community buildings and infrastructure for energy efficiency.

Infrastructure Planning Grant funding will also support the preparation of a report summarizing activities and results from the regional working group, including:

- An executive summary;
- List of participants, summary of background research and copies of any presentations received by the group over the course of the year;
- Summaries of working group discussions on the proposed policy/regulatory/incentive framework and infrastructure provisions for new and existing buildings;
- Reports from each local government participating in the working group on successes and challenges encountered in their efforts to establish cross-municipal collaborative approaches; and
- Recommendations for local governments in BC.

The Infrastructure Planning Grant criteria require that to be eligible for a \$10,000 grant, the local government making application must commit to providing \$5000 of support to the initiative for which the Grant application is being made. In this circumstance, VanCity has agreed to provide a \$5,000 contribution to the City in support of the City making application for Infrastructure Planning Grant. As such, if the Grant application is successful, \$15,000 in funding will be available to conduct the workshop and related program and prepare a summary report, all at no cost to the City.

The Community Energy Association has advised that they will take input on the City's information needs related to low-carbon buildings into consideration when preparing the workshop background materials and agenda and will acknowledge the City as a supporter of the workshop in promotional materials.

Sustainability Considerations

Sustainability Charter "Scope of Sustainability" action items that will be addressed by the workshop and summary document include:

- EC7 - Sustainable Building and Development Practices
- EC8 - Energy Security
- EN1 - Energy Efficiency
- EN9 - Sustainable Land Use Planning and Development Practices
- EN11 - Surrey's Commitment to the Climate Change Action Plan

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council endorse an application to the Provincial government for an Infrastructure Planning Grant of \$10,000 in support of the regional "Build to Zero" program and a related workshop to be held in November 2009.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

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