



Staff Report

Report To: South Huron Council
From: **Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk**
Date: May 22 2018
Report: CAO 11-2018
Subject: FCM Climate Change Staff Grant

Recommendations:

That the report of Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer dated May 22, 2018 with respect to the FCM Climate Change Staff Grant be received; and

That Administration be authorized to proceed with an application for funding under the FCM Climate Change Staff Grant.

Purpose:

Council approval

Background and Analysis:

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has established a grant program for climate change staff grants of up to \$125,000 to supplement the salary of a new or existing municipal employee who will work on initiatives to improve adaptation to local climate change impacts or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

With small municipalities such as South Huron, lack of staff resources is one of the biggest barriers for communities looking to take action on climate change. These grants, disbursed over two years, help municipalities address staffing gaps and produce lasting improvements in their operations related to climate change and sustainability.

Municipalities can use the funding to dedicate staff to activities such as developing or refreshing GHG emissions reduction or climate change adaptation plans, creating GHG emission inventories or adding climate change practices into daily municipal processes.

In order to be eligible for funding through a climate change staff grant must move the following three municipal initiatives from planning to implementation over the course of the grant period:

- Develop or refresh a GHG emissions reduction or climate adaptation plan, which:
 - Aligns with the municipality's sustainability and environmental goals, such as the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP), Official Community Plan or other related policy documents
 - Integrates asset management priorities
- Implement operational or institutional changes to produce long-term climate change impacts within the municipality beyond the end of the grant period, such as the creation of a climate change advisory committee or integration of climate considerations into infrastructure decision-making processes
- Undertake preparatory work leading to the implementation of municipal GHG emissions reduction or climate change adaptation initiatives, such as creating GHG inventories, conducting stakeholder consultations or doing policy research

Small and medium sized municipalities have been strongly encouraged to submit applications, particularly those in the early stages of maturity on our self-assessment scales. South Huron would fall into this criteria. In addition, the following are encouraged:

- Municipalities with a population of 150,000 or less
- Two or more municipalities that will share the services of one grant-funded staff person
- Indigenous communities that have a shared service agreement with a municipal government related to infrastructure, GHG emissions reduction or climate change adaptation

Note: Preference will be given to first-time applicants to the MCIP program.

The grant of to \$125,000 to cover the salary of one staff person. Eligible applicants can receive a maximum of one climate change staff grant and funding for up to 80 per cent of eligible costs over a two-year period

Operational Considerations:

As Council has already endorsed to become a member in the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP), there are a number of strategies that are identified in the grant funding that can be linked back to our required milestone activities. As a result, pursuit of this grant would allow the Municipality to move forward to achieve sustainability and efficiencies.

South Huron's Strategic Plan:

Section 6.2.2 of the Municipality of South Huron 2015- 2019 Strategic Plan identifies key priorities and strategic directions. The following elements are supported by the actions outlined in this report:

- ✓ Improved Recreation and Community Wellbeing
- ✓ Administrative Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Increased Communications and Municipal Leadership
- ✓ Transparent, Accountable, and Collaborative Governance
- ✓ Dedicated Economic Development Effort

Financial Impact:

There are no financial implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report

Legal Impact:

There are no legal implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report

Staffing Impact:

There are no staffing implications as a result of the actions outlined in this report

Policies/Legislation:

None

Consultation:

None

Related Documents:

None

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk