



March 2021 Newsletter

FCM to launch a new energy efficiency program with a focus on meeting the needs of smaller municipalities

Within the next few months, the FCM will be launching a new energy efficiency funding program that will specifically be aimed at helping smaller municipalities to help them achieve their goals in the area of GHG reductions in their community buildings. The program will have two main objectives:

1. Achieve triple bottom-line benefits:

- Environmental: Reduce GHG emissions
- Economic: Decrease energy costs
- Social: Improve building quality and support community benefit

2. Drive market transformation:

- Empower municipalities to capitalize on the short and long-term GHG reduction potential of their community buildings
- Scale deep GHG retrofits by developing implementation pathways for common building types and the capacity within municipalities to translate learnings across assets.

The following elements of the program design were approved by GMF Council in principle:

- The stream will be open to municipalities of all sizes, but will be designed to focus on and meet the needs of small municipalities in particular;
- The stream will focus on community recreational facilities owned by municipalities and non-profits, with additional building types eligible when aggregated with community recreational facilities and
- The stream will target deep GHG retrofits through standalone projects and projects that are part of a stage-gated pathway to deep GHG reductions.

Building Eligibility

A community building is an enclosed public place or an enclosed workplace:

- that is owned by a municipal government or non-profit.
- that is primarily used for the purposes of providing athletic, recreational, cultural and community programs or services to the local community.
- to which the public is normally allowed access

The rationale for focusing on community buildings is that energy efficiency and decreasing GHG emissions from municipal buildings are actions relevant to almost all municipalities. Community buildings are prioritized because they are typically responsible for the greatest GHG emissions within a municipality's portfolio of buildings. Projects addressing community buildings are also of higher interest to municipalities during COVID-19 compared to other municipal buildings as they create community benefit.

Non-profit ownership of these buildings is significant. In some municipalities, the entire portfolio of community recreational facilities is owned and operated by the non-profit sector. Including non-profits within eligibility will allow the stream to target the full suite of potential buildings.

Focus on Small Municipalities

The primary barriers to GHG reductions from large buildings are capacity (time and expertise) and financial. Consultations identified that these barriers are most pronounced in small municipalities and that these barriers have been exacerbated by COVID-19. The barriers to GHG reductions from large buildings in small municipalities are sufficiently acute that small municipality participation in the CCA stream is unlikely unless interventions are designed with particular focus on their needs. Small municipality participation is critical both from an equity perspective and from a GHG reduction perspective – small municipalities have a proportionately high number of community recreation facilities, with a significant portion of these buildings having poor energy/GHG performance.

Eco-West Canada delivers on NRCan's ZEVIP (Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program) for the installation of 31 level 2 electric vehicle charging stations in Manitoba

Natural Resources Canada is investing \$155,000 to install 31 Level 2 chargers for electric vehicles (EVs) in the City of Winnipeg and several rural municipalities in southern Manitoba. This investment will provide Canadians with access to the latest technologies that will fuel our transition to a low-carbon economy and reduce pollution, as part of Canada's commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Eco-West Canada is currently implementing this initiative in Manitoba. We hope to follow up on this first roll-out of the ZEVIP program with a second round as NRCan will shortly be announcing a call for proposals for more chargers later into 2021. **We are encouraging municipalities that are interested in participating in this program to contact us at drobidoux@eco-ouest.com.**

"We are pleased with this direct and strengthened federal-municipal partnership. The project showcases the unique expertise developed by Eco-West Canada, which brings together the green economy and the municipal world. As the level of government closest to citizens, municipalities are key allies in the federal government's sustainable economic recovery plan," said Ivan Normandeau, president of Eco-West Canada and the Association des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (AMBM).

A total of eight chargers for electric vehicles will be installed at various locations within the City of Winnipeg, with the remaining chargers going to the City of Selkirk, Village of Dunnottar, Town of Stonewall, Rural Municipality of Ritchot, Rural Municipality of Taché, Village of St. Pierre-Jolys, Rural Municipality of Alexander, Local Urban District of Pinawa and Town of Niverville.

"The implementation of this regional project will involve a wide range of Manitoba expertise in terms of products and services. Our goal is to maximize the economic benefits for the various municipal partners and the province as a whole," explains Dany Robidoux, executive director of Eco-West Canada.

Funding for this project comes from the Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP), which supports the federal government's ambitious goal of having 100% of light-duty vehicles sold by 2040 to be zero-emission vehicles. To achieve this goal, the federal government will invest more than \$300 million in the deployment of a Canada-wide network of electric vehicle chargers.

The new EV infrastructure will enable electric car owners to drive and charge their vehicles across the country. Funding is also being provided for the demonstration of next generation charging technologies and the development of enabling codes and standards. The government remains committed to investing in green infrastructure projects that will facilitate the adoption of zero-emission vehicles for Canadians and help them in their transition to a low-carbon future.

Circular Economy

A circular economy is an economic system designed to eliminate waste and the continuous use of resources. Circular systems use reuse, sharing, repair, refurbishment, reconditioning and recycling to create a closed-loop system, minimizing the use of resource inputs and the creation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions. The circular economy aims to keep products, equipment and infrastructure in service longer, thereby improving the productivity of these resources. All 'waste' must be used in the creation of another process: either a by-product or resource recovered for another industrial process, or resources that regenerate nature (e.g. compost). This regenerative approach contrasts with the traditional linear economy, which has a 'take, produce, and dispose' production model.

Smaller, rural municipalities (and their communities), of which there are many in Manitoba, are generally 'takers' with respect to capacity and control of impact of and response to provincial, national or international issues. Such is the case with the level of influence and control a small or rural community has to climate change response, due mainly to a lack of human and financial resources as well as a lack of knowledge. In a circular economy context will seek to provide the information, training, tools and support to assist communities in identifying opportunities within the circular economy and capitalizing on those opportunities, using waste characterization methodology as a starting point. Having small and rural communities actively engaging in and planning within the context of circularity

will have significant impacts, both qualitative and quantitative, of their contribution and response to broader climate action.

Activities consist of designing and delivering a framework to selected Manitoba municipalities that provides crucial information related to the circular economy and their role as participants. They also help to identify specific opportunities the municipalities have for economic advancement and/or reduced environmental impact through adoption of circular economy principles and initiatives focused on material flows, use, management and waste. Using the data generated, and the cultivated enthusiasm of participating municipalities, a digital platform pilot will be created for the municipal exchange of materials information including quantity, location, quality and potential end use.

Supply Chain Canada offering a circular economy webinar

Supply Chain Canada (Manitoba) have a new learning webinar coming up called “The Circular Economy: Navigating for Supply Chain Success”. The webinar will be an introductory highlight into the world of the circular economy, and what organizations, individuals, and metropolitans can do to be a part of the circular economy in their professional spaces. This webinar will help guide participants towards the most efficient and sustainable methods for all of our economies.

They are offering 4 session slots, to best fit everyone schedules.

Information & Registration:

<https://mbportal.supplychaincanada.com/mpower/event/loadevent.action?e=415#home>

Village of Dunnottar embarks on a regional municipal waste characterization study with RM of St. Andrews, RM of Rockwood and Town of Stonewall

Along with its partners the Village of Dunnottar and Nativus Consulting Group, Eco-West has initiated a waste management characterization study at the Village of Dunnottar with the potential of leading to the creation of a circular economy at the local level (most notably through the adoption of waste to value-added waste treatment technologies) depending on which technology is ultimately chosen.

A total of 10 provincial ‘zones’ have been identified for these types of studies, encompassing more than 60 rural Manitoba communities. The study scope of work has been designed in such a way as to enable the client municipalities to gain a clear understanding of the current waste characteristics, waste management gaps within their communities and waste management programs as well as identify suitable technologies to best manage regional waste.

The data and knowledge gained will provide the municipalities with the ability to make intelligent decisions on the path forward for managing waste. Statistical methodology will be used to estimate volumes of waste based on the characterization of the waste studied in each quarter for the development of the baseline to be used for any technology. Consensus data on population and forecasted population growth correlated to the baseline sampling will be used to reasonably extrapolate waste trends in future years. To maximize the potential waste streams for re-use/re-purpose, the quantification of other waste material in the region including but not limited to rail ties, specific risk materials, and biomass shall be addressed through discussions with commercial/industrial facilities within the localized vicinity for the community(s).

The Village of Dunnottar and its regional partners are now proceeding with their waste characterization study as well as an evaluation of potential waste treatment technologies. Municipal leaders of that group have indicated a strong interest in opting for a waste to value-added technology, including the zero waste unit that will be tested (for batch capacity as well as emissions) very shortly by the Municipality of Minto-Odanah in southwest Manitoba (Minnedosa area).

Southwest Manitoba Zero Waste Initiative – Minto-Odanah to begin emissions testing of its ‘zero waste’ operating system at Evergreen Regional Landfill

In 2015, the Southwest Regional Development Corporation, the RM of Minto-Odanah and their partners - RM of Elton, RM of North Cypress-Langford, Town of Neepawa, Town of Minnedosa and Town of Carberry - began to explore the possibility of developing a regional waste to value-added project after being made aware of a modular zero waste /gasification technology designed by Celtic Power & Machining (based in Rapid City, Manitoba). Eco-West Canada has helped to manage the project, including obtaining the funding for the ongoing pilot project from the FCM. The assembly of waste treatment apparatus for the feasibility study/pilot project was recently completed and is now located at the regional landfill site owned and operated by Evergreen Environmental Technologies Ltd. Emissions testing of the unit is slated to begin in the spring.

The proposed ‘zero waste system’ that is provided by the process of gasification results in a highly efficient means of disposal of nearly 100 percent of municipal, industrial, medical and agricultural solid wastes. All that remains after this process has been completed is a small amount of aluminum, other metals, glass, and a fine, inert (non-toxic) ash. All components of this system are modular, all of which will be supported by a compacted area, very similar to normal road building practices. The site thus requires minimum preparation and the system provides a cost-effective method of disposing of all combustible landfill waste. It is important to note that this innovative gasification system requires a minimal infrastructure and is modular, which means that it ultimately has the potential to be transported to localities such as First Nations and remote northern communities anywhere in Canada.

FCM's Regional Climate Advisor Program to end on April 1st, 2021

In 2017, the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program entered a partnership with teams of Regional Climate Advisors (RCAs) to offer local climate support across the country. Each servicing a specific region, the RCAs have been helping communities of all sizes reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move through the PCP program's Milestone Framework. The success of this partnership is a clear sign that communities across Canada are eager to improve their climate resilience with the support of PCP services.

Eco-West Canada will remain at the service of municipalities to continue offering its full support in the area of sustainable economic development, from project initiation to planning and implementation. We are available to discuss your future municipal plans at your convenience, either via Zoom, teleconferencing or any other means of communication at your disposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 204-797-7328 (Dany Robidoux, Executive Director) or 204-806-4035 (Michel Forest, Technical Writer).