

STAFF REPORT: Engineering & Public Works - Solid Waste Division



REPORT TO: Infrastructure & Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: June 14, 2011
REPORT NO.: EPW.11.035
SUBJECT: Solar Panel & Federal Gas Tax Funding Expenditure Update 2011
PREPARED BY: Adam McMullin, Environmental Initiatives Coordinator

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive report EPW.11.035, "Solar Panel & Federal Gas Tax Funding Expenditure Update 2011" for information, and

THAT Council direct Staff to suspend the proposed solar panel installations outlined in the 2011 Capital Budget for the new Town Hall and Landfill Operations Building.

B. Background

Town Hall Solar Panel Project Update

Staff proposed to utilize gas tax funding in 2011 to install a PV solar panel system on the new Town Hall under the Ontario Power Authority's (OPA) microfit program. Additionally, Staff proposed a PV solar panel system installation on the landfill operations building using debt-financing.

In January 2011 the Town submitted an OPA microfit application for both installations. The applications have been denied based on capacity limitation of the Hydro-One Meaford transformer station(TS). A number of proposed large wind generation projects in the OPA queue have reserved the majority of the available feed-in energy capacity of the region serviced by the Meaford TS. All projects submitted to the OPA after December 8, 2010 that are serviced by the Meaford TS have been denied indefinitely. There is no indication from Collus or Hydro-one regarding a potential upgrade to the TS that may allow new capacity.

Staff has suspended any action moving forward with respect to these proposed roof-top solar installation projects. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and update Council appropriately.

Based on the current capacity issues regarding renewable energy generation, Staff request that Council suspend the proposed solar panel installations for 2011.

Gas Tax Funding Update

In 2005 the Federal Government began a program to transfer a portion of the Federal Gas Tax Revenues directly to municipalities. A goal of the program was to fund sustainable municipal infrastructure projects.

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The funds are being administered by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) who outlined eligible projects and categories for investment.

A report was presented to Engineering and Public Works Committee in April of 2009 (EPW.09.038) entitled “Federal Gas Tax Funding Expenditure Update”. This report outlined a summary of previous, current and proposed funding spending on Town projects. Many of the proposed expenditures have been incorporated into related project budgets through the annual budget process.

2011 Planned Gas Tax Expenditures

The Organic Processing Facility, Waste Receiving Area Pavement, Town Hall Solar Panel Installation projects received approval through the 2011 Budget process. Recognizing the solar panel installations are on hold indefinitely, Staff proposed a lighting retrofit at the Beaver Valley Community Centre, utilizing Gas Tax, that has been approved by Council.

The table below shows a balance of Gas Tax funding dollars spent to date and the planned funding spending. Staff will bring forward subsequent reports to provide options for the expenditure of Gas Tax fund, or will present opportunities within the annual budget process.

Note: The proposed solar panel installation project has been omitted from table.

Year	Funding Received and Future Funding	Project – Current & Proposed	Gas Tax Expended	Planned Expenditure
2005	\$59,629.06	none	\$0	
2006	\$59,629.06	none	\$0	
2007	\$79,496.53	Town Bikes	\$1,000.00	
		Solar Lights	\$7,335.20	
2008	\$99,256.01	Hazardous Waste Depot	\$30,461.17	
		Integrated Community Sustainability Plan	\$6,851.64	
		Renewable Energy Review	\$25,000.00	
2009	\$198,728.02	Round a bout	\$49,000.00	
		Landfill Environmental Screening	\$97,808.73	
		Integrated Community Sustainability Plan	\$37,591.86	
		Town Bikes	\$2,399.85	
2010	\$209,356.88	Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP)	\$10,924.04	
		Landfill Environmental Screening	\$107,623.25	
		Waste Receiving Area	\$41,717.08	
Subtotal:	\$706,095.56	Subtotal:	\$417,712.82	

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2011	\$209,356.88	Organics Processing Facility		\$27,500
		Waste Receiving Area Pavement		\$30,000
		BVCC Light Retrofit		\$65,000
2012	\$209,356.88	Organics Processing Facility Equipment		\$127,500
		Green Bins		\$85,000
		Landfill Mining		\$220,000
2013	\$209,356.88	Green Bins		\$68,000
2014	\$209,356.88	Green Bins		\$68,000
Subtotal:	\$837,427.52		Subtotal:	\$417,712.82
Total:	\$1,543,523.08		Total (spent and planned):	\$1,108,712.82

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Gas Tax funding will assist the municipality achieving Strategic Plan Goal # 2 "Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs", and Strategic Goal #6 "Providing a strong, well managed municipal government".

D. Environmental Impacts

Each project supported by Federal Gas Tax Funding must have a significant element of environmental sustainability to be eligible for funding support.

E. Financial Impact

The 2010 year-end gas tax funding reserve is \$288,382.74. Currently, there is a planned \$434,810.26 surplus at the end of 2014.

F. Attached

None.

Respectfully submitted,

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