

STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: **Infrastructure and Recreation Committee**
MEETING DATE: **June 22, 2010**
REPORT NO.: **EPW.10.081**
SUBJECT: **Environmental Initiatives Temporary Hires**
PREPARED BY: **Adam McMullin, Environmental Initiatives Coordinator**

A. Recommendation

THAT Council receives Report EPW.10.081 entitled “Environmental Initiatives Temporary Hires” for their information.

B. Background

In March 2008, the Town entered into a grant funding agreement with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) under the provincial Community Go Green Fund (CGGF) initiative.

The primary objective of the CGGF project is the promotion of greenhouse gas emission reductions. The funding is directed at the development of a greenhouse gas reduction kit. The kit promotes lifestyle and behavioural changes that result in reducing or offsetting greenhouse gas emissions. The MOE agreement called for the distribution of the kits to all households within The Blue Mountains.

The initiative was launched in August 2009 with a free public BBQ and the distribution of the GHG reduction kits by a volunteer youth group to residents. It was anticipated that in-kind services of youth volunteers would distribute the kits to residents throughout summer and fall period. However, there were troubles recruiting enough volunteers and the anticipated rate of distribution was far below actual delivery rates. Thus, the kits have not been distributed to all households as required in the MOE agreement.

The MOE has provided an amended agreement that extends the deadline to distribute the kits until November 30, 2010 and reallocate unspent grant funding to hire part-time Staff to assist in the kit delivery. Hiring part-time, short term Staff will provide the resources to ensure that all of the kits will be distributed.

Staff plan to hire two temporary contract workers for a length of 70 hours each, to deliver kits during July and August. The workers will be trained to deliver the kits door-to-door and to discuss the initiative with residents. The hires will either utilize a Town vehicle or a personal vehicle with reimbursement.

No additional Town funding is required to hire the contract workers. The Community Go Green grant is the source of funding.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Informing and mobilizing the community to promote the reduction of GHG will assist with Strategic Goal #3 "Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features... of the community" and will also be part of Strategic Action 3.1, the "Green" strategy to "Proactively protect air, water and land features and sites".

D. Budget Impact

There will be no impact to taxation or user fees, as an approved grant from the MOE will be utilized to cover the expense of the temporary hires.

E. Environmental Impacts

The reduction of greenhouse gases can improve local air quality and help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Additionally, measures typically employed to reduce GHG emissions - conservation, product substitution, recycling, etc - have other environmental benefits such as waste reduction and ecological preservation.

F. Attached

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam McMullin
Environmental Initiatives Coordinator

Reg Russwurm
Director, Engineering & Public Works

For more information, please contact:

Adam McMullin
amcmullin@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 x.264