



# Staff Report

## Operations Department

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**Report To:** Committee of the Whole  
**Meeting Date:** February 25, 2020  
**Report Number:** CSOPS.20.014  
**Subject:** Environmental Sustainability Fund Distribution  
**Prepared by:** Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste and Special Projects

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.20.014, "Environmental Sustainability Fund Distribution";

AND THAT Council approve the distribution, conducted in accordance with "The Blue Mountains Sustainability Fund" Terms of Reference, of a total of \$5,000 in funds as follows:

Beaver River Watershed Initiative – Education Program: \$2,200;

Beaver Valley Community School – Compost Liners and Irrigation System: \$700; and

Climate Action Now Network – Divert and Capture Microplastic Fibre: \$2,100.

### B. Overview

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A Staff committee has reviewed and evaluated 7 applications made to the Town's Environmental Sustainability Fund. The evaluation has resulted in a recommendation to distribute a total of \$5,000 to four projects that will provide greater awareness local environmental issues and participation in beneficial actions.

### C. Background

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Council approved the creation of an Environmental Sustainability Fund (Staff Report CSPW.17.090) to provide financial support to projects that advance sustainability in The Blue Mountains. An annual amount of \$5,000 is available to be distributed to local sustainable/environmental projects. A terms of reference guides the distribution of the funds.

### D. Analysis

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Seven applications from five groups were received in December of 2019. The Staff Committee, consisting of Cameron Wilson, Public Works Maintenance and Compliance Coordinator, Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council and Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste and Special Projects, reviewed and evaluated the applications and based on the nature

of the applications and the requested amounts concluded and recommend the following distribution of funds:

- Beaver River Watershed Initiative – Education Program on the Beaver River Watershed for local elementary school and adults: \$2,200;
- Beaver Valley Community School – purchase of compostable liners for school composting program and installation of a rain collection irrigation system for the school community garden: \$700; and
- Climate Action Now Network – Purchase and distribution of microplastic fibre filters for washing machines to 33 local homes with financial barriers: \$2,100.

Applications were received from two other groups however based on the evaluation and mandatory criteria the other applications and associated projects are not being recommended for financial support.

The Staff Committee decided on the above distribution of funds based on the scoring related to the terms of reference criteria. The applicants were scored in the following areas:

- Project description and articulation of benefits;
- People, partnerships and performance measurement;
- Level of impact;
- Project feasibility; and
- Planning.

## **E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan**

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Goal #1: Create Opportunities for Sustainability

Objective #5 Improved Visibility and Local Identity

## **F. Financial Impact**

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Applicants will receive half the outlined funds immediately following Council approval and the remainder upon completion of the project. The applicants have one year to complete the project. Completion will be defined and associated with a measurable outcome.

The total funds to be distributed and allocated from the 2019 budget will be \$5,000. The 2020 draft budget will carry \$5,000 for distribution in 2020/2021.

## **G. In Consultation With**

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Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT

Cameron Wilson, Public Works Maintenance and Compliance Coordinator

Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

## **H. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Jeffery Fletcher, [managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca).

## **I. Attached**

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None

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeffery Fletcher  
Manager of Solid Waste and Special Projects

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Shawn Carey  
Director of Operations

For more information, please contact:  
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