



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: September 12, 2007  
Author: Mark Hartman  
Phone No.: 604.871.6695  
RTS No.: 06943  
VanRIMS No.:  
Meeting Date: September 20, 2007

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment

FROM: Tom Timm, General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Provincial Application to the Federal Government for Residential Solar Energy Program Funding

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter on behalf of Council to Natural Resources Canada in support of the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources' Residential Solar Energy Program application to the federal "ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat Program Residential Pilot Initiative".

**CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The City Manager supports this recommendation.

**COUNCIL POLICY**

In March 29 2005, Council approved the Community Climate Change Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions in the community to 6% below 1990 levels by 2012.

In March 2007, Council passed a motion directing staff to begin planning for significant, long-range GHG reductions with the eventual goal of becoming a carbon-neutral city.

In July 2007, Council adopted targets to reduce Community GHG emissions to 33% below current levels by 2020 and 80% below current levels by 2050. In addition, Council adopted the target of having all new construction in Vancouver be GHG neutral by 2030.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek council authorization for the Mayor to send a letter of support on behalf of Council for the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources' application to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) for a Residential Solar Energy Program.

## BACKGROUND

NRCan currently has an incentive program for solar systems in larger developments. Smaller residential systems were excluded until NRCan released a \$9 million call for proposals under the ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat Program *Residential Pilot Initiative*. Applications are due September 28, 2007.

Solar hot water heating systems are less greenhouse gas (GHG) intensive than other sources of energy and can meet more than half of the hot water load in a typical residential dwelling. As such, the Province has convened a multi-stakeholder team to develop a plan to help British Columbia achieve the goal of having 100,000 solar roofs province-wide in the longer term.

In addition, the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR) is submitting a proposal to NRCan for \$2 million, to match provincial funding, for a \$2000 incentive for up to 2000 solar roof projects in new and existing residential homes in B.C. by 2010.

## DISCUSSION

The NRCan funding would apply to single family dwellings, townhomes, row homes, duplexes and fourplexes. There are a number of future development projects planned for Vancouver which may require additional funding to make solar hot water heating economic. MEMPR's proposal would provide a source of funding for small-scale solar projects in Vancouver.

More solar roofs in the city would reduce GHG emissions and would compliment the efforts of the City's Green Building Strategy, EcoDensity Initiative and climate protection programs.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## CONCLUSION

The provincial Residential Solar Energy Program proposal will provide incentives to Vancouver homeowners for the installation of solar systems and would support a range of City efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Accordingly, staff recommend that Council provide a letter of support for the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources application to NRCan.

\* \* \* \* \*