

**Agenda Item: D.4**

Request for Decision

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| **Title** | **Municipal Energy Manager Program Application** |
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| **Proposed Motion** | 1. That Council direct Administration to apply to the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre’s Municipal Energy Manager Program to support the County’s environmental stewardship initiatives. 2. That, if Sturgeon County’s application to the Municipal Energy Manager Program is approved, the unfunded portion be funded by Sturgeon County through the General Operating Reserve. |
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| **Administrative**  **Recommendation** | That Council endorse Administration’s application for a Municipal Energy Manager through the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre to support the County’s efforts to be responsible environmental stewards and to identify potential cost savings through reductions in energy use. |
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| **Previous Council Direction** | None. |
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| **Report** | Background Information   * The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre was founded in 2009 as a collaborative initiative of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and the Government of Alberta. * The Municipal Energy Manager (MEM) program enables municipalities to manage their energy use, become more energy efficient, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in their facilities by providing funding to hire a Municipal Energy Manager. * A MEM helps the municipality develop an energy management plan, find energy-saving opportunities, and lead energy and GHG-reducing projects. The MEM program supplements the salary of a new or existing municipal employee to serve as the Municipal Energy Manager. * The grant funds 80% of the eligible expenses of a temporary MEM to a maximum for $80,000 per year. The anticipated maximum salary for the position would be approximately $100,000. * Administration recommends that any portion of the cost not funded by the Municipal Climate Action Centre’s grant program be funded through the General Operating reserve, which currently has an uncommitted balance of approximately $4 million. * The program provides the option for a second year. If it is decided to apply for a second year, the financial request will be made through the 2022 budget process. |
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| **Implication of Administrative Recommendation** | Strategic Alignment:  **Environmental Stewardship** – The hiring of a Municipal Energy Manager would support the development of an Energy Management Plan for Sturgeon County.  Organizational:  If successful in receiving the grant, the County will add a valuable resource to spearhead activities related to energy management.  Financial:   * If successful in securing the grant, the County would be responsible for any unfunded portion (the grant will cover 80% to a maximum of $80,000 per year). * Administration recommends that the County’s portion be funded through the General Operating Reserve, which currently has an uncommitted balance of approximately $4 million. * The Federal Government announced in December 2020 that they would be raising the carbon tax from $30 per tonne to $170 per tonne by 2030. * The carbon tax will impact municipal operations (fuel for fleets and heating). A Municipal Energy Manager along with County low-carbon initiatives will help to mitigate the financial impact. |
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| **Alternatives Considered** | The County could choose not to apply for the Municipal Energy Manager Program. |
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| **Implications of Alternatives** | Organizational:   * The work that would be undertaken by the Municipal Energy Manager would likely need to be undertaken by other staff members throughout the organization. * The County would not receive funding that is available for work that will likely be required over the coming years. |
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| **Follow up Action** | 1. Apply for Municipal Energy Manager Program (Administration, February 2021). 2. If successful, enter into a funding agreement with the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (Administration, 2021). |
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| **Attachment(s)** | None. |
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| **Report Reviewed by:** | Tim Osborne, Corporate Operations Advisor  Scott MacDougall, Chief Operations Officer – COO  Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO |

**Strategic Alignment Checklist**

**Vision:** *Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.*

**Mission:** *Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.*

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| **Focus Areas** | **Not consistent** | **N/A** | **Consistent** |
| **Planned Growth and Prosperity** |  |  |  |
| *We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic*  *base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment.*  *(Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 36)* |  |  |  |
| * *Supports a strong thriving business environment to strengthen our economic foundation* |  |  |  |
| * *Plans for responsible growth through the MDP and regional growth plan.* |  |  |  |
| * *Manages growth for current and future developments through:*   + *transparent bylaws, policies and processes to enable responsible land development* |  |  |  |
| * + *targeting growth around existing and identified future growth areas* |  |  |  |
| **Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities** |  |  |  |
| *We are committed to a safe and viable community, where our residents are*  *provided with access to opportunities and quality of life.*  *(Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)* |  |  |  |
| * *Provides access to programs and services that have a positive impact on residents’ quality of life* |  |  |  |
| * *Provides access to safe and reliable infrastructure assets* |  |  |  |
| * *Supports the safety of people and property* |  |  |  |
| **Strong Local and Regional Governance** |  |  |  |
| *We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and*  *transparent processes (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)* |  |  |  |
| * *Provides effective leadership and management consistent with Strategic Plan, MDP, master plans, bylaws, policies, community engagement* |  |  |  |
| * *Considers fiscal stability and sustainability* |  |  |  |
| * *Fosters collaborative intergovernmental partnerships* |  |  |  |
| **Community Identity & Spirit** |  |  |  |
| *We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)* |  |  |  |
| * *Promotes and/or enhances residents’ identification with Sturgeon County* |  |  |  |
| * *Support and/or collaborate with voluntary organizations in the region* |  |  |  |
| **Environmental Stewardship** |  |  |  |
| *We foster a healthy environment and minimize our impact on ecosystems. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)* |  |  |  |
| * *Plans and partnerships that minimize environmental impact on natural areas* |  |  |  |
| * *Provides awareness of environmental issues impacting the County* |  |  |  |