

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: February 1, 2021

TO: Governance and Legislation Committee

FROM: Jim Gordon, P.Eng., Director, Engineering and Municipal Operations

SUBJECT: Community Energy Mapping

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Governance and Legislation Committee recommend that Council direct staff to report back on project realignments needed to incorporate Community Energy Mapping for White Rock, including budget considerations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff and Council at times receive solicitations during the course of business for products and services that may or may not benefit the City and are not included in current work plans, requiring review and assessment as to whether the program or services should be considered and benefit the community as a whole. A recent example is contact made by a company with respect to its software product that is described as providing a detailed community energy intensity analysis and purported to help to illustrate potential energy savings at the homeowner level.

This report outlines steps the City must take should Council wish to pursue software products that may provide potential energy savings to homeowners. These steps must provide equal opportunity to all similar software vendors.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Motion # & Meeting Date	Motion Details
<i>Governance & Legislation Committee September 28, 2020 Council Oct 5, 2020</i>	<i>Council endorsed Policy 301 – Procurement Policy</i>

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The City received solicitations from a software vendor for a product intended to illustrate potential energy savings investments at the homeowner level.

It appears that the vendor has technology to map carbon and energy intensity in residential communities. The product is designed to show opportunities for energy efficiency programs or energy upgrades in various areas of residential communities. The homeowners in these areas would then be encouraged to make upgrades and the City could direct them to various Provincial

and Federal Programs to help cover the costs. Program costs for the services provided by the vendor are proposed to be up to \$350K that potentially could be funded up to 80% from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

The vendor's promotional materials suggest that the software will provide a building by building energy map for the community. Next steps would be to encourage homeowners to make building upgrades and to participate in various senior government and utility financial assistance programs.

If homeowners finance and undertake various building upgrades, GHG emissions and energy consumption will be reduced.

This type of program is not included in Council's Strategic Priorities Plan approved by Council on November 2020 or in the Five Year Financial Plan currently underway.

Staff note that solicitations from vendors that result in single sourcing of a City expense may compromise the procurement process. As per the City's procurement policy, procurement of goods and services through single sourcing is discouraged unless a valid business case can be made such that entering into a competitive bid process would be detrimental to City operations or where the value of goods is low. If Council decides to proceed with initiating this type of program, staff will undertake this process ensuring that there is an open and fair process that provides opportunities for multiple vendors through a Requests for Proposals process focused on desired outcomes consistent with existing programs and budgets.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff estimate that a budget of \$350K would need to be approved to deliver a program of this nature. A potential grant opportunity is currently available through FCM of up to 80% of the cost, however, the amount of grant funding is not certain and could be considerably less than 80%. Council would need to provide a letter of support to FCM for the project budget and necessary staff resources as part of the grant application.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The program and RFP would need to be crafted to provide opportunities for multiple vendor submissions that complies with the City's Purchasing Policy and related provincial/federal legislation around procurement. As with all procurements, applications would then be assessed and scored on a number of criteria.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

If the program results in individual homeowners making energy efficiency improvements, GHG emissions and energy consumption would be reduced.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Although this type of program does not align with any of Council's Strategic Priorities, it is consistent with the Corporate Vision that "Our environment is protected and nurtured."

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following alternate option is available for consideration:

1. Not support the program at this time.
2. Direct staff to develop a citywide program to identify GHG and energy reduction opportunities for individual White Rock homeowners, subject to Council's approval of \$350K program funding in the 2021 Financial Plan.

CONCLUSION

Council could consider approving the unbudgeted amount of \$350K in the 2021 Financial Plan for a program to identify GHG and energy reduction opportunities for individual White Rock homeowners; however, there is no clear outcome that is not contingent on homeowner investments in upgrades. The addition of this program would impact existing timelines for items currently identified in the 2021-2022 Council Strategic Priorities Plan and is not strongly aligned with the current identified priorities of Council.

If Council wishes to proceed, it is recommended that staff be directed to report back on how this could be achieved and how other projects in the plan would be affected.

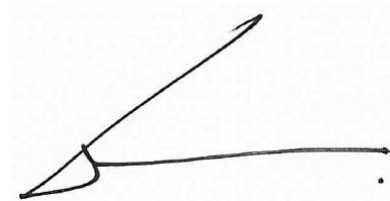
Respectfully submitted,



Jim Gordon, P. Eng
Director, Engineering & Municipal Operations

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

I concur with the recommendation(s) of this corporate report.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer