

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund helps twelve Manitoba municipalities develop climate change action plans

March 16, 2011, Thompson, Man. – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant for 12 Manitoba municipalities. The municipalities will use the \$112,000 in funding toward the development of climate change action plans.

“FCM’s Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments,” said Cunningham. “The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.”

“The Government of Canada is assisting municipalities across the country in achieving their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians through the Green Municipal Fund,” said Minister Paradis. “Today’s announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping these Manitoba communities build a greener future for our citizens.”

The 12 Manitoba municipalities — the cities of Thompson, Brandon, and Winkler; the towns of Morden and Virden; the villages of St. Pierre-Jolys and Notre Dame de Lourdes; and the rural municipalities of Taché, De Salaberry, St. Laurent, Stanley, and Thompson — are partnering through the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), with the City of Thompson as lead, to complete the five-milestone Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program.

Supported by Manitoba’s Community-Led Emissions Reduction (CLER) program, the AMM’s application will help the collaborating municipalities further their PCP work. Each municipality has already completed milestones 1 and 2: preparing a 2003 baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory, and committing to achieve reductions of 20 per cent below 2003 levels by 2012.

The participating municipalities will receive expert advice, training, options, and support, while local advisory committees will ensure PCP plans focus on environmental sustainability and link into relevant existing municipal plans. Projects and activities will range from large capital projects to bylaw changes and promotion of environmentally positive behaviour.

The lessons learned will help the AMM and the Province of Manitoba to assist other municipalities to integrate sustainability into their long-term planning. In addition, the unique collaborative approach will provide a model for other small Canadian municipalities that lack the resources to independently develop focused, comprehensive action plans.

“The AMM is pleased to be a partner in an initiative to assist not only these 12 municipalities, but potentially dozens more to incorporate climate change action plans into their overall community development,” says Doug Dobrowolski, AMM President. “Through the Green Municipal Fund, Manitoba’s municipalities can become leaders in sustainability and in turn showcase their best practices for other communities.”

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish the Green Municipal Fund™. The Fund supports partnerships and leveraging of both public and private-sector funding to reach higher standards of air, water and soil quality, and climate protection.

FCM has been the national voice of municipal governments since 1901. It fosters the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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