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News Release

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Municipalities Can Get A Big Boost Toward Energy Savings

McGuinty Government Fund Targets Newest Green Technologies

News

Ontario is helping municipalities cut their energy costs and reduce their environmental impact by exploring leading-edge green building technologies.

Starting today, municipalities can apply for up to \$500,000 in grants for showcase projects through Ontario's \$20-million Municipal Eco Challenge Fund (MECF).

Showcase projects will help highlight new, innovative energy efficient technologies that are not typical and not commonly used such as using LEDs for general office ceiling lighting.

Municipalities can apply to cover up to 50 per cent of showcase retrofit costs, up to a maximum of \$500,000. The deadline for the first round of applications is July 2, 2008.

The MECF is designed to help municipalities undertake infrastructure projects that will conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Premier Dalton McGuinty announced the fund as part of the Ontario's Go Green action plan on Climate Change. The fund works in conjunction with a \$200 million Infrastructure Ontario / OSIFA loan program for municipal projects that reduce GHG emissions.

Quotes

□Partnering with our municipalities to achieve better, greener environments is a benefit to all Ontarians,□ said Gerry Phillips, Minister of Energy.

□Our government is taking a bold and unwavering approach to help municipalities build sustainable communities, conserve energy and fight climate change,□ said Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

□The Showcase fund is much needed support that will assist municipalities to embrace promising new technologies that reduce energy use and greenhouse gases,□ Doug Reycraft, president of AMO.

Quick Facts

- Under another strand of the fund announced earlier this year, municipalities can apply for up to \$100,000 (up to 25 per cent of costs) for more standard retrofit projects. The deadline for round one applications was May 23, 2008. Applications for a second round of grants are being accepted until October 10, 2008.
- At over 6.6 billion kilowatt-hours a year, municipalities consume more electricity than any industrial sector outside Pulp and Paper. That□s also more than the consumption of the cities of Hamilton and Ottawa combined.
- Municipal electricity consumption also causes at least 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year. That□s equivalent to the annual emissions from 300,000 cars. Municipal buildings account for as much as 80 per cent of those emissions.

Learn More

Find application forms, guidelines and templates for the Municipal Eco Challenge Fund at www.energy.gov.on.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=conservation.mecf

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