



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Jennifer Spence, Climate Change Outreach Coordinator

DATE: March 25, 2021

MEMORANDUM NO.: MEM-ADMIN-2021-0007

RE: Transitioning from the Community Sustainability Investment Fund to the Climate Change Investment Fund

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the transitioning of the Community Sustainability Investment Fund (CSIF) into the Climate Change Investment Fund (CCIF) as stated in the 2020 Community Sustainability Investment Fund report ADMIN-2020-0017, dated June 23, 2020, to better align with Council's current strategic plan.

BACKGROUND:

The CSIF provides seed-funding to enable local community groups to implement actions that contributes to the Town of Halton Hills' Community Sustainability Strategy. The CSIF is designed to help applicants leverage funding from other sources, and to establish partnerships between the Town and community groups. The CSIF was established in 2014 after the Community Sustainability Strategy was approved by Town Council in 2013.

In May 2019, Council passed a climate change emergency declaration and set the target of becoming a carbon neutral community by 2030. This created opportunities to disperse the sustainability initiatives relating to cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, and social well-being to other Town departments. Amongst other initiatives, the CSIF remained within the Climate Change and Asset Management division.

To align the CSIF with one of Council's strategic priority areas, namely Climate Change and the Environment, the CSIF will be transitioned to the Climate Change Investment Fund. The CCIF will focus on incentivizing organizations and community groups to take actions to reduce their carbon footprint through mitigation and adaptation measures that align with the Town's current climate change initiatives.

COMMENTS:

The functionalities of the CCIF will remain the same as the CSIF in the past. The application and review process will continue with one in-take per year. The CCIF criteria will be adjusted to weigh more heavily on climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The CCIF will focus on encouraging community groups to take actions that contribute to achieving the Town's climate change emergency declaration goals. Applications will be received by the Climate Change and Asset Management division. Applicants will be required to estimate the impacts of their actions on climate change and commit to reporting the outcomes according to a relevant performance metric, where possible.

The funding recommendation process will be as follows: Climate Change and Asset Management staff will make funding recommendations to the Climate Change Action Task Force who will validate the recommended funding for projects and then staff will bring a report to Council for final approval.

The CCIF will support community groups that implement environmental health projects which align with the Town's community climate change initiatives (mitigation and/or adaptation). For example, air quality, energy conservation/efficiency, environmental education, water conservation, waste reduction, green space enhancement, and preserving natural asset, biodiversity, ecosystem (tree plantings, community gardens) etc.

Many of the applicants seek funding for events or in-person engagement purposes. Due to provincial and regional health regulations to stop the spread of Covid-19, the intake date will shift from April 1, 2021 to August 3, 2021 in the hopes that provincial restrictions will lift for gatherings over the expected time of 14 months for granters to use the funds.

The total funds of \$15,000.00 for this program will remain the same as approved in the Town's 2021 budget. Applicants will still be able to apply for up to \$2,000.00 per project. The CCIF application guidelines and application will be available on the Town website.

CONCLUSION:

The CCIF aligns with the Town's focus on climate change and environmental priorities. The CCIF will be a successful tool to assist community organizations leverage funding to better the community with a focus on climate change and the environment. The CCIF will strengthen partnerships between local community organizations and the Town to address climate change issues together.

Reviewed and approved by,

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Dharmen Dhaliah, Senior Manager of Climate Change and Asset Management

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Cockfield'.

Richard Cockfield, Director of Strategic Planning

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Mills'.

Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer