



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: HOME ENERGY RETROFIT PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF REPORT

On February 19, 2021 Mayor Heron provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 3/2018 that s/he intended to bring forward the following motion:

Administration bring forward a business case for the 2022 budget deliberations for a St. Albert based Home Energy Retrofit Accelerator program, including funding amounts per year and any administrative cost impacts.

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

Administration bring forward a business case for the 2022 budget deliberations for a St. Albert based Home Energy Retrofit Accelerator program, including funding amounts per year and any administrative cost impacts.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #6: Environmental Stewardship: Explore innovative environmental and conservation opportunities.

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

N/A

BACKGROUND:

On January 13, 2021, a new program was launched to advance the goals of Edmonton's Energy Transition Strategy. Edmonton's *Home Energy Retrofit Accelerator* (HERA) is a program that helps home owners gather an understanding of their home's energy efficiency and provides rebates for upgrades, with bonuses available for more significant retrofits.

Program Details

Details for the City of Edmonton HERA program can be found at the following link:

<https://homes.changeformclimate.ca/hera/>

Homeowners must have an EnerGuide Home Energy Evaluation completed on their home before they can apply for rebates. Performing an EnerGuide evaluation allows homeowners to better assess their home's potential energy efficiency improvements and make more informed decisions. Once the EnerGuide evaluation is complete, rebates for the following product categories will be available:

- Insulation Upgrades
- Air Sealing Improvements
- Window Upgrades
- Water Heating Upgrades, including drain water heat recovery and efficient water heating
- Space Heating Upgrades, including heat pumps, smart thermostats, and high efficiency furnaces
- Renovating to Net Zero

City of St. Albert – Approach to HERA

The City of Edmonton's HERA program works within the framework of the broader Energy Transition Strategy, which has established goals and targets related to community greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction. The City of St. Albert has similar goals related to community GHG targets through the Environmental Master Plan (EMP), and a potential HERA program in St. Albert would be in line with the goals and targets of the EMP.

A HERA program would require set funding per year, such as a dollar per capita, in order to provide appropriate budget for the grant programming. Applications related to a HERA application could either be administered through an outside agency (on a contract basis) or through the creation of a part time City administrator. St. Albert would adopt the same requirements and framework as the City of Edmonton to ensure consistency in the region as well as reduce the program design requirements.

A St. Albert based HERA program would align well with a potential Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP), which Administration is currently investigating. CEIP follows a similar framework of requirements as the HERA program, where residential energy efficiency improvements are required to be registered through an approved EnerGuide Home Energy Evaluation. HERA provides a one time grant for the specific energy efficiency improvements supported by the grant with a resident contribution portion, whereas CEIP is a financing program to support similar but different improvements to a property amortized over the life of the investment.

More information regarding CEIP in Alberta can be found at the following link:

<https://mccac.ca/programs/clean-energy-improvement-program/>

Overall programming as it relates to GHG reductions, and energy efficiency and sustainable environmental programming could be contemplated holistically to streamline actions, processes and focus through a long term directed climate action movement. An example of actions plans include Edmonton's "Change for Climate" which reduces GHGs by 35% and Halifax's "HalifACT" which is a movement towards a low carbon economy by 2050 amongst many others.

Administration could provide a business case in for consideration in the 2022 budget planning process for contemplation.

Report Date: April 6, 2021

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