



Legislation Text

File #: PM-22-005, **Version:** 1

Home Energy Retrofit Accelerator Program Funding

Notice given by: Mayor Heron

BUDGET POSTPONED MOTION:

That \$50,000 be added to the budget for the Home Energy Retrofit Accelerator Program for a 3 year program funded from the tax levy.

Administration's Understanding of the Intent of the Motion:

That \$50,000 be added to the Environment budget to implement and administer a 3 -year Home Energy Retrofit Accelerator (HERA) program funded from the tax levy.

Operational or Organizational Impacts if Motion is Approved:

Assuming no change to Environmental services, the staff capacity to design and implement a HERA program would assume no loss to the existing structure of the Environment branch.

Financial Implications of Motions:

That \$50,000 will be allocated from the tax levy to implement and administer a 3-year HERA program in 2022.

Stakeholder Consultations:

N/A

Background:

On April 6, 2021, City Council approved a motion (CM-21-006) directing Administration to bring forward a business case for the 2022 budget deliberations for a St. Albert based Home Energy Retrofit Accelerator (HERA) program. The HERA program is intended to provide partial funding for eligible residential energy efficiency improvements. It is anticipated that a program in St. Albert would be administered by a third party, which would be an estimated 10-20 per cent of the program funding.

City Administration is currently working to establish the energy efficiency financing program known as the Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP). On May 17, 2021, City Council approved the Clean Energy Improvement Tax Bylaw 20/2021 to establish CEIP in St. Albert. CEIP is a financing program designed to make residential energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades more accessible. Repayment is facilitated through an added Clean Energy Improvement charge to the participant's regular property tax bill. At the beginning of September 2021, the City submitted an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) initiative to

assist with the administration and funding of the program. The application review process will take approximately six months (March 2022).

The incentive mechanisms for HERA and CEIP are different. HERA provides rebates and CEIP provides financing (loan), however both of these energy efficiency programming initiatives aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption in the community and deliver energy bill savings to program participants. City Administration recommends Council await the response of the City's FCM CEF application and subsequent launch of the program in 2022. If HERA is identified as a program service gap in the community, it is anticipated the Energy Efficiency Reserve will have sufficient balance in 2022 to fund HERA at this time.

Report Date: December 2, 2021

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