



NEWS RELEASE

Green Municipal Fund Commits \$73,975 to the City of Whitehorse for a “Green Cart” Waste Minimalization and Diversion Pilot Project

February 19, 2008, Whitehorse, YT – City of Whitehorse Councillor Jan Stick of the Association of Yukon Communities, representing the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, on behalf of the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today a \$73,975 Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the City of Whitehorse. The City is investing this funding in a “green cart” pilot project to minimize and divert waste as part of its residential organics collection program.

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

“Sustainable communities are the foundation of a sustainable nation. And that’s a goal that we all share,” said the Honourable Vic Toews. “Through the Green Municipal Fund, our government is assisting municipalities across the country to deliver results. Projects such as these will help to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians.”

Under the pilot project the City of Whitehorse is reviewing its residential organics collection system to determine the feasibility of three measures to enhance the program. The first of these measures is the adoption of standardized green carts with lids, coupled with automated lifters for organics to eliminate the cost and process issues currently experienced with bag liners. Secondly, black carts have been tested to create a unified two-cart curbside system to improve the collection program’s profile and visibility. In cooperation with the 2007 Canada Winter Games Host Society, the City has also tested the potential for waste diversion at special events.

“Thanks to the Green Municipal Fund, the City of Whitehorse has had the opportunity to field test measures to refine its organics collection program that it might not have had otherwise,” said Whitehorse Mayor Bev Buckway. “This testing will result in environmental benefits that will improve the quality of life for all residents of Whitehorse. For example, the City estimates that full implementation of a green cart program would offset in excess of 1,100 tonnes of carbon dioxide from our landfill each year. In turn, this would reduce the potential for leachate toxicity and treatment, as well as protect groundwater resources.”

The Government of Canada has endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with \$550 million to establish and manage 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 sustainable communities enjoying a high quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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For information on the City of Whitehorse, visit <http://www.whitehorse.ca>

For information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, visit <http://www.fcm.ca>

For information on the Green Municipal Fund, including details of other approved projects and studies, visit <http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca>

For information on Natural Resources Canada, visit <http://nrcan-rncan.gc.ca>

For information on Environment Canada, visit <http://www.ec.gc.ca>