



## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund Commits \$59,000 to the Town of Berwick for Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Projects**

**Oct. 2, 2009, Berwick, NS** – FCM President Basil Stewart, and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I. and Greg Kerr, MP for West Nova, on behalf of the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today a \$59,000 Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the Town of Berwick. The Town has used the funding to assess potential renewable energy projects, undertake energy-efficiency measures for town hall operations, and raise awareness on residential and commercial energy use.

"FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments," said FCM President Basil Stewart, and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I. "The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable."

"Our government is assisting municipalities across the country in achieving their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians through the Green Municipal Fund," said Mr. Kerr. "Today's announcement of a \$59,000 grant to assess potential renewable energy projects, undertake energy-efficiency measure for town hall operations, and raise awareness on residential and commercial energy use is another example of how the Government is working in partnership with FCM to help the citizens of Berwick to build a greener future."

Under its umbrella program, *The Berwick Energy Future*, the Town of Berwick has used the GMF grant to assess two potential renewable energy projects and initiate energy-efficiency measures that will reduce electrical demand on the town's municipally-owned electrical utility.

The first study demonstrated that district geothermal systems are financially and technically viable for new construction projects of more than 10 homes or for an equivalent amount of commercial space.

A second feasibility study was conducted on a 1.2 MW district energy utility that would use waste streams from local agriculture as feedstock for anaerobic digestion. This renewable energy project was shown to have the potential to reduce the community's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by an estimated 9,000 tonnes per year.

An energy audit of the town hall was completed and shows the potential to reduce GHG emissions by 61 tonnes annually through energy efficiency upgrades. The Town of Berwick also staged an energy awareness and education fair for residents, businesses and other organizations. If the two renewable energy projects were implemented, and if the two energy demand side projects delivered their projected energy-efficiency outcomes, the collective effect on the town's GHG emissions would be an estimated reduction of 11,000 tonnes GHG emission per year, representing 5 tonnes per resident per year.

“The Green Municipal Fund has been a key contributor to Berwick’s sustainable community research initiatives, helping to equip the Town with the necessary tools to diversify its future energy operations,” said Town of Berwick Mayor, John Prall. “As a small town that has operated its own electric utility for nearly 90 years, Berwick is naturally inclined towards progressive energy projects. The Berwick Energy Future gives the Town confidence of its own sustainability over the long haul.”

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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