



Town of
East Gwillimbury

Canada 

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Town of East Gwillimbury's Community Energy Plan

August 19, 2010, East Gwillimbury, Ont. – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and Natural Resources Minister Christian Paradis today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant for the Town of East Gwillimbury. The Town used the \$129,250 grant to develop a Community Energy Plan (CEP) that addresses its overall energy demand and productivity, targets energy efficiencies, and identifies renewable energy options and conservation measures.

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

“The Government of Canada is assisting municipalities across the country in achieving their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians through the Green Municipal Fund,” said Minister Paradis. “Today’s announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with the FCM — is helping East Gwillimbury build a greener future for its citizens.”

The town’s CEP process incorporated milestones 1 to 3 of the Partners for Climate Protection program. A research team collected and analyzed data to establish a baseline and, after exploring global best practices, they drafted a plan that positions the municipality to reach greenhouse gas emissions targets that are 30 to 50 per cent below baseline levels within 25 to 30 years.

East Gwillimbury is one of the first municipalities in Ontario to prepare a CEP as part of its Official Plan (OP) review process and to incorporate energy policies into the resulting OP. The CEP and associated OP policies make energy conservation a priority through more efficient land use, community design, and energy and transportation planning; through water conservation; and through infrastructure design, building retrofits, and enhancements to the town’s existing green building policies. Moving into the future, East Gwillimbury also plans to explore all forms of renewable energy, including district energy, geothermal and solar technologies.

“The Town of East Gwillimbury appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our initiative. One of our top priorities is to establish pragmatic and sustainable solutions as the Town grows,” said East Gwillimbury Mayor Jamie Young. “We have been recognized as a leader in environmental stewardship, and we are proud to partner with FCM on this project. Our Community Energy Plan, one of the first in Ontario, will go a long way to ensuring that residents receive the best possible services while reducing our carbon footprint.”

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish 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 the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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