

Staff Report



To	City Council
Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services
Date	Monday, March 9, 2020
Subject	Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Sustainable Communities Awards application
Report Number	IDE-2020-27

Recommendation

1. That Council support the City of Guelph’s application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)’s 2020 Sustainable Communities Awards for Guelph’s new snow storage facility.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To seek Council approval for nominating Guelph’s new snow disposal facility for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ (FCM) Sustainable Communities Awards, as required by FCM’s application process.

Key Findings

The Sustainable Communities Award shines a national spotlight on innovative environmental initiatives in cities and communities across Canada as part of FCM’s Sustainable Communities Conference.

Guelph’s new snow disposal facility, located near the wastewater treatment facility on Wellington Street West, has been identified as a strong candidate for this award because of its innovation in managing snow collected from city streets and sidewalks, protecting soil and groundwater, remediating a brownfield site, using recycled concrete and asphalt in construction, and incorporating a commercial net-metered solar panel system.

Financial Implications

None

Report

Since 2001, FCM has honoured the most innovative sustainability and environmental initiatives in Canadian cities and communities. The Sustainable Communities Awards recognize projects that leverage current and advanced technologies and best practices, and can be replicated and scaled up across Canada to achieve national quality of life, sustainability and climate goals. Winners are honoured at FCM’s Sustainable Communities Conference, taking place October 20 to 22, 2020 in St. John’s, NL, and their projects are promoted nationally by FCM.

Guelph's state-of-the-art snow storage pad, which opened in January 2020, is an example of innovation in sustainable and environmentally-friendly approaches to managing snow collected from streets and sidewalks. Snow melts on the pad, and then is collected and treated to remove contaminants before it is released back into the water supply. Previously, snow was brought to a field where it would melt directly into the sandy soil below and around the field. The project received a \$3.5M grant from Infrastructure Canada's Clean Water and Wastewater Fund in 2019.

The snow pad includes a number of sustainability features, including a commercial net-metered solar panel system, salt-resistant and pollinator-friendly trees and plants, and the use of recycled concrete and asphalt. It also marks the successful remediation of a brownfield site where debris from street sweeping and melting snow was dumped for almost three decades.

FCM's application process requires Council approval in order to be eligible for the award. With Council's support, staff will submit an application by the March 31, 2020 deadline.

Financial Implications

None

Consultations

Engineering and Transportation Services; Operations; Policy and Intergovernmental Relations; Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Strategic Plan Alignment

Sustaining our Future: mitigate climate change by reducing Guelph's carbon footprint; plan and design an increasingly sustainable city as Guelph grows.

Attachments

None

Departmental Approval

N/A

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Approved and Recommended By

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