

FCM Sustainable Communities Award – Letter of Support

ISSUE

The Sustainability Division is interested in submitting an application for the 2020 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) [Sustainable Communities Awards](#). As part of the application process, applicants must include a letter of support from City Council.

BACKGROUND

History

Since 2001, FCM's Sustainable Communities Awards have celebrated the most innovative environmental initiatives in Canadian cities and communities of all sizes. In the early 2000s, the City of Saskatoon (City) won two awards through this awards program: one for the Pleasant Hill Local Area Plan, and one for the Downtown Housing and Development Action Program.

Current Status

The application is due on March 31, 2020, and winners will be notified at the end of May or early June, with a public announcement by FCM in late June. The awards ceremony will take place at FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference on October 20-22, 2020. The Administration is proposing that an application be submitted for the Triple Bottom Line initiative. A draft of the application we propose to submit to FCM is included as Appendix 1 – Draft Application.

The award application requires that a letter of support from municipal council be included in the application (see Appendix 2 – Letter of support).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council that it:

1. Approve the attached Letter of Support for inclusion in the FCM Sustainable Communities Award application for the City of Saskatoon's Triple Bottom Line initiative; and
2. Acknowledge the Triple Bottom Line initiative as deserving of recognition.

RATIONALE

The FCM Sustainable Communities Awards “honour those sustainability projects that demonstrate environmental responsibility and excellence, and take an integrated approach to yielding social and economic benefits for their communities”. The City's Triple Bottom Line (TBL) initiative is very well aligned with the award criteria, given that it integrates environmental health and integrity, social equity and cultural well-being, economic prosperity and fiscal responsibility, and good governance into City decision-making. The TBL initiative has also resulted in a progressive Triple Bottom Line Council

Policy, as well as a one-of-a-kind Decision Making Tool, which may be of value and interest to other municipalities from across Canada.

The City's Triple Bottom Line approach, while still in its early stages, has already shown great success due to its research-driven and collaborative approach, with direct involvement from 13 different divisions/departments from across the corporation. The Sustainability Division would like to recognize the excellent work that has been done by those leading and supporting the initiative by nominating the Triple Bottom Line initiative for FCM's Sustainable Communities Award in the [Asset Management](#) category.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If successful, one city representative would be sent to the FCM Sustainable Communities Conference in St. John's, NL, to accept the award and present at the conference. Cost estimates for travel expenses would come to approx. \$2,500 (the conference registration fee would be waived for the representative who will be accepting the award on behalf of the City). Funding is available in the Triple Bottom Line Capital Project and Sustainability Operating cost centres.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

If successful, the City would be recognized by FCM through an official announcement and a letter to Mayor and City Council. The City would also make its own public announcement.

Applicants would also receive narrative coaching from FCM to deliver a presentation in October at FCM's awards ceremony.

APPENDICES

1. Draft Application
2. Letter of Support

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Shannon Dyck, Environmental Coordinator, Sustainability
Reviewed by: Jeanna South, Director of Sustainability
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Utilities & Environment