

Sustainability Reserve Project Funding

ISSUE

The Sustainability Reserve is meant to provide a source of funding for environmental sustainability initiatives, as directed by [Policy C03-003, Reserve for Future Expenditures](#). A process has been established which follows Triple Bottom Line principles to recommend how the funds should be allocated.

Reserve funds are available from 2021 (\$446,500), 2022 (\$250,000), and 2023 (\$250,000), and allocating these funds to initiatives requires City Council approval. This report provides the results of the adjudication process, summarizes the eligible projects, and requests approval of the recommendations for the use of the Sustainability Reserve funds.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. That the following capital projects be established, and funding allocated from the 2021 Sustainability Reserve as follows:
 - a. Sustainable Food Pilot establish Capital Project – \$140,000
 - b. Climate Adaptation Capital Project P.02598 - \$30,000
 - c. Traditional Land Use and Knowledge Assessment Capital Project P.02390 - \$225,000
 - d. Street Garden Expansion P.02390 - \$51,500, and
2. That the following capital projects be considered for establishment and funding from the Sustainability Reserve in the 2022-2023 Business Plan and Budget deliberations:
 - a. Climate Adaptation Capital Project P.02598 - \$130,000 (2022)
 - b. Electric Vehicle Adoption Roadmap establish Capital Project - \$45,000 (2022) & \$175,000 (2023)
 - c. SaskPower Energy Assistance Program Capital Project P.03001 - \$75,000 (2022) & \$75,000 (2023).

BACKGROUND

City Council approved \$250,000 of annual funding for an Environmental Sustainability Reserve during the 2020-2021 Business Plan and Budget Deliberations.

At its meeting held on September 28, 2020, City Council resolved, in part:

“That Council Policy No. C03-003, Reserve for Future Expenditures, be amended to establish an Environmental Sustainability Reserve.”

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At the 2021 Business Plan and Budget meeting on December 3, 2020, an additional one-time amount of \$196,500 from Multi-Material Stewardship Western was approved by City Council for addition to the Reserve.

At its meeting February 1, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services received an information report titled “Environmental Sustainability Reserve Implementation Update” which outlines broadly how the funds can be applied, and informed that administrative procedures are under development for the selection of environmental sustainability projects to recommend to City Council for Reserve funding.

The 2020 Environmental Sustainability Reserve funds of \$250,000 were allocated to the Home Energy Loan Program. At its meeting February 22, 2021, City Council resolved, in part, that:

“Capital Project P1956 – Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing Program be increased by \$352,750, funded from the existing FCM grant of \$102,750 and \$250,000 from the Environmental Sustainability Reserve.”

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Sustainability Reserve has a current balance of \$446,500 that can be allocated immediately upon City Council approval. The reserve receives \$250,000 per year through the City of Saskatoon’s (City) operating budget; this amount is anticipated in both 2022 and 2023. Allocation of these funds will require approval through the 2022-2023 Business Plan and Budget Deliberations.

To generate a recommendation to City Council for use of Sustainability Reserve funds in 2021, 2022 and 2023, the Administration developed a process based on the February 2021 Report to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services. This process is shown in Appendix 1 – Adjudication Process. An adjudication committee of seven subject matter experts from across the Corporation was struck. These experts brought a breadth of knowledge and perspective to the process and helped to ensure selections deliver valuable outcomes and align with the City’s strategic objectives.

Fifteen Sustainability initiatives, described in Appendix 2 – Sustainability Reserve Funding Submissions, were submitted for consideration. These projects were reviewed using the process described in Appendix 1. The scores are available in Appendix 3 - Initiative Scoring and Recommended Funding, along with funding recommendations. Appendix 3 also shows other funding, which is revenue from [Multi-Materials Stewardship Western](#) to the City as a Collector, that became available to consider funding for waste reduction-related projects after the adjudication process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Administration’s recommendation is to allocate the Sustainability Reserve funding as follows:

- 2021 funds (\$446,500):

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- a) Sustainable Food Pilot - \$140,000
 - b) Climate Adaptation - \$30,000
 - c) Traditional Land Use and Knowledge Assessment - \$225,000
 - d) Street Garden Expansion - \$51,500
- 2022 (\$250,000) and 2023 (\$250,000) funds:
 - a) Climate Adaptation - \$130,000 (2022)
 - b) Electric Vehicle Adoption Roadmap - \$45,000 (2022) & \$175,000 (2023)
 - c) SaskPower Energy Assistance Program - \$75,000 (2022) & \$75,000 (2023)

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The initiatives recommended for Sustainability Reserve funding meet the following environmental sustainability criteria:

- To reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change;
- To conserve resources (energy, water, etc.) or produce substantial efficiencies;
- To help prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impacts of major disaster events and adapt to climate change; or
- Identified as high or medium risk on the Corporate Risk Register or in strategic documents.

There are no policy, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

NEXT STEPS

If approved by City Council, the Administration will proceed with implementing the 2021-funded initiatives and the 2022 and 2023 recommendations will be forwarded to the 2022-2023 budget deliberations for consideration and final approval.

The Administration will consider successes and lessons learned from the process used to adjudicate and recommend use of Sustainability Reserve funds to improve and refine the process and establish an Administrative Procedure. A recommendation for use of the 2024 and 2025 reserve funds will be brought forward in advance of the 2024-2025 Business Plan and Budget Deliberations.

APPENDICES

1. Adjudication Process
2. Sustainability Reserve Funding Submissions
3. Initiative Scoring and Recommended Funding

Report Approval

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