

Natural Resources Canada Project Applications

ISSUE

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is accepting applications for the Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP) and the Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative (ZEVAI). The Administration is requesting approval to submit applications under each of these funding programs.

If approved for these grants, City Council approval is required for the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreements under the Corporate Seal.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. The Administration be directed to submit applications to Natural Resources Canada's Climate Change Adaptation Program and the Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative; and
2. That if the applications are successful, the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreements under the Corporate Seal.

BACKGROUND

In 2022, the Government of Canada issued a plan for reducing emissions which includes the ZEVAI that supports projects to increase awareness, knowledge, and public confidence in zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), as well as public charging and refueling infrastructure. A call for proposals for [education and awareness project funding – clean transportation and clean fuels](#) is open until September 26, 2023.

In July 2023, NRCan announced a call for proposals under the CCAP, to identify cost-shared projects that will make important contributions to advancing adaptation progress in Canada. Up to \$15 million in contribution funding may be awarded through this process. NRCan is soliciting proposals under four topics: adaptation skills, economics, emerging issues, and natural resource sectors. The City of Saskatoon's (City's) Economic Value of Natural Assets in a Changing Climate project would apply for funding under the economics topic.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Climate Change Adaptation Program

The CCAP is a national, competitive, and merit-based contribution program intended to support the goals of Canada's National Adaptation Strategy and position Canada's regions to adapt to a changing climate. Eligible projects include developing, sharing, and applying knowledge, tools, and practices that will assist communities, decisions-

makers, and natural resource-sector businesses in taking adaptation-informed decisions and developing and implementing adaptation actions.

Administration recommends an application to conduct an economic analysis of the impacts of climate change and adaptation solutions on natural assets, including the corresponding risks and benefits to adjacent residential, commercial, and industrial areas. The Economic Value of Natural Assets in a Changing Climate project will examine priority natural areas and assets in Saskatoon. Natural Capital Asset Valuations will be completed for these sites, with an emphasis on the cost-benefit analysis of managing and restoring the sites to achieve climate adaptation, storm water management, and other ecosystem service benefits.

This work is aligned with the *Corporate Climate Adaptation Strategy* and supports work to integrate resilience planning into current work and integrate climate risk and resiliency into asset management. Effective management of the City's natural assets supports the City's core services, such as storm water management, and is becoming more essential to prevent the degradation of these assets due to changing climate conditions. This project will support the City in future decision-making on climate adaptation solutions by providing a more detailed understanding of the services provided by natural asset solutions to address high priority climate risks.

Gaining a better understanding of the condition, quality, and value of our natural assets and how those factors change depending on level of maintenance, asset management, and restoration, will support the City in determining appropriate levels of service for priority sites in the green network. It will also support the development of key performance indicators and targets for the green network, as well as monitoring and mapping, as part of the Green Network Program.

This work builds on:

- The *Corporate Climate Adaptation Strategy*;
- the *Wetland Policy*;
- Natural area management planning and processes development; and
- the City's asset management framework.

This work is aligned with:

- Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan Initiatives:
 - G.15: Services and emergencies: climate change scenarios and responses;
 - K.24: Design assets in alignment with climate projections;
 - K.25: Review standards for resiliency;
 - L.28: Species selection for resiliency, and
 - L.29: Retain moisture;
- Green Pathways Initiatives:
 - 1.2.1: Natural area management plans;
 - 1.4.1: Natural asset framework; and

- 3.1.3: Green network asset integration; and
- Green Infrastructure Strategy Action 4.5: Evaluate the ecosystem services of the green network through the natural capital asset valuation process.

More information on the NRCan CCAP and Administration's proposal can be found in Appendix 1.

ZEVAI - Education and Awareness Project Funding – Clean Transportation and Clean Fuels

NRCan's Education and Awareness Project Funding for clean transportation and clean fuels provides funding for projects that address gaps in awareness and confidence in zero-emission vehicles to encourage greater adoption across various focus areas (light-duty vehicles, medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, and clean fuels awareness projects).

Administration's proposed project would look to enhance light-duty ZEV adoption in Saskatoon through enhanced awareness and education. The project will be designed using a gap analysis approach, keeping in mind diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and include:

1. Residents of Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs): Owners and Renters – Homeowners are more likely to own ZEVs due to additional barriers felt by renters;
2. Age gap in EV interest – Older individuals have a more skeptical attitude towards the benefits of EV technology;
3. Language barriers - The information about ZEVs and electric vehicle charging stations contain technical jargon, which can disengage readers who are not well-versed in these terms;
4. Residents of MURBs: Owners and renters - Installing charging stations in MURBs presents several challenges, such as limited parking space and the need for collective endorsement due to shared ownership. Renters in MURBs tend to be more hesitant about adopting ZEVs as they don't own the property; and
5. Information barrier, misconceptions, and range anxiety.

The awareness and education activities will be designed to overcome the above-mentioned barriers, including diverse media awareness campaigns, interactive workshops, and curriculum development to address misconceptions, promote accurate information, and engage various demographic groups. In combating implicit bias and embracing intersectionality, the core team members will work to provide an inclusive environment. Additionally, translating materials into relevant languages and seeking partnerships with non-government and community-based organizations will enhance accessibility.

The project seeks to heighten community awareness, increase charging infrastructure utilization, foster collaborative partnerships, and accelerate ZEV adoption while continually measuring and reporting on DEI-related key performance indicators to gauge project impacts and outcomes.

More information on the ZEVAI Education and Awareness Project Funding and Administration's proposal can be found in Appendix 2.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The NRCan CCAP will provide up to 60% of eligible costs for selected projects. The total project cost is estimated to be \$450,000, making the City's portion \$181,000. \$20,000 of this funding is available from P.02598 Climate Adaptation Strategy which is intended for this use. The remainder of the City contribution (\$161,000) will come from already existing operating funding. Administration is also exploring other potential external funding sources. If successful, this additional funding would increase the scope of work without additional cost to the City.

The NRCan Education and Awareness Project Funding will contribute up to 75% of the total project costs to a maximum of \$150,000 for one-year projects. The total project cost is expected to be \$150,000 with the City's contribution of 25% costing \$40,000. This will be paid through existing funding in the EV Adoption Roadmap project - P.10015.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy or legal implications identified.

The project team will complete a Triple Bottom Line (TBL) assessment using the City's TBL Decision Making Tool to identify opportunities to achieve higher TBL outcomes in the project.

NEXT STEPS

If City Council approves the applications for submission, Administration will complete and submit the applications prior to the submission deadline. If applications are approved, the Administration will report back to City Council for budget adjustments on the projects if required.

APPENDICES

1. Climate Change Adaptation Program
2. Zero Emissions Vehicle Awareness Initiative - Education and Awareness Project Funding

Report Approval

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