

Funding for Saskatoon Light & Power Fleet EV Charging Stations

ISSUE

Saskatoon Light & Power was a successful recipient of Eco-West Canada's Electric Vehicle Charger Program (EVCP), which provides financial support for the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for fleet use within Saskatchewan. Funding covers up to 50% of total project costs or a maximum of \$5,000 per charge connector. Administration is requesting City Council approval to enter into a Contribution Agreement with Eco-West Canada for the purchase and installation of three dual-port charging stations.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. That Capital Project P.01281 Investigate New Power Supply be increased by \$30,000 funded by Eco-West Canada's Electric Vehicle Charger Program;
2. That existing funds within Capital Project P.01281 Investigate New Power Supply be utilized for the purchase and installation of the electric vehicle chargers; and
3. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreements from the Electric Vehicle Charger Program under the Corporate Seal.

BACKGROUND

In June of 2023, Eco-West Canada connected with the City of Saskatoon (City) regarding their EVCP, which provides funding for the installation of EV charging stations in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The program aims to provide funding for up to 100 charging stations to accelerate the adoption of EVs to meet Canada's net zero emissions target by reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the transportation sector. The program opened in November of 2022 and requires the installation of chargers before February 28, 2024. As of June 2023, funding for up to 20 charging stations was still available.

In July of 2023, the City submitted an online application for the purchase and installation of three dual-port charging stations to satisfy an immediate business need for Saskatoon Light & Power (SL&P). The total cost for the chargers (excluding external funding) is estimated at \$90,000.

On August 10, 2023, the City was notified of the successful receipt of funding equalling approximately one third of total project cost (or a maximum of \$30,000), thereby lowering the total capital investment needed to support the next six EV purchases.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The City recently increased its municipal GHG emission reduction targets from 80% reduction to net zero emissions by 2050. The City's Low Emission Community Plan,

Action 17, identified the need for 100% electrification of municipal fleet by 2030 in support of lowering transportation related emissions. EVs currently reduce emissions by approximately 30% compared to traditional Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles and are expected to improve environmental performance as the electricity grid transitions to clean energy sources.

In 2021, the City initiated an EV pilot project to study the effectiveness and suitability of EVs for municipal use. Through the pilot, four EVs were utilized by SL&P, Parking Enforcement, and Facilities Management Departments for daily use. The pilot project concluded in March of 2023, and confirmed suitability of EVs for fleet use. Further information about the pilot results will be included in the EV Adoption Roadmap that is currently under development.

SL&P has also been strategizing to replace all its ICE fleet vehicles with EVs in alignment with the City's policies and climate actions. In support of this, SL&P has identified the next six light-duty vehicles that can be replaced with an EV in 2024 and 2025. The purchase and installation of three dual-port charging stations is necessary to ensure the EVs can be utilized and effective upon purchase.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With receipt of approximately one-third of the funding, the total estimated cost to the City for the installation of three dual-port charging stations is \$60,000 and will be covered under existing funds within Capital Project P.01281 Investigate New Power Supply.

Capital Project P.01281 Investigate New Power Supply requires an increase of \$30,000 for the Electric Vehicle Charger Program in order to account for the external funding.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

In order to receive funding, the three dual-port charging stations will need to be purchased and installed before the deadline of February 28, 2024. Careful coordination between various municipal departments will be required to ensure successful delivery.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, Administration will proceed with the execution of the funding agreement and commencing the procurement and installation of the charging stations.

APPENDICES

1. City of Saskatoon – EVCP Acceptance Letter

Report Approval

Written by: Jose Cheruvallath, Metering and Sustainable Electricity Manager
Reviewed by: Jeremy Meinema, Senior Financial Business Partner
Trevor Bell, Director of Saskatoon Light & Power
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Utilities and Environment