

HELP Resolution Summary

Contents

Introduction	1
History	1

Introduction

The Home Energy Loan Program was launched in September 2021. See below a history of past council resolutions related to the program.

History

On February 22, 2021, City Council approved the current program elements and financing for HELP.

On April 26, 2021 at a Public Hearing, City Council received the [Intent to Borrow](#) Report and approved up to \$2,500,000 of borrowing for HELP. The report also indicated that the interest rate for HELP loans was variable and derived from calculating what the City of Saskatoon (City) would receive if the principal were instead invested in the market for the same period. This report also stated interest rates will be updated annually based on current market rates.

On May 31, 2021, City Council approved *The [Home Energy Loan Program Bylaw, 2021 \(Bylaw No. 9762\)](#)*.

On February 28, 2022, City Council received the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities Funding Decision for Home Energy Loan Program Report](#), and resolved that:

1. The income-qualification cut-off for the HELP program be calculated at 2.5 times Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off;
2. That option 2 income-qualified households eligible for all base/free items, standard rebates, and additional rebates; and participants with homes built in 1990 or prior eligible for standard rebates; be approved for the HELP program;
3. That table 3: Rebate categories and values per item be approved for application in the HELP program while rebate funding is available; and
4. That Capital Project P1956 – Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing Program be increased by \$3,666,600 for the grant portion and \$7,333,200 for the loan portion (subject to an intent to borrow report and public notice) of FCM's Community Efficiency Financing Program Funding.

On March 28, 2022, City Council authorized the additional \$7,333,200 of borrowing at a Public Hearing.

On May 24, 2022, City Council approved *The [Home Energy Loan Program Amendment Bylaw, 2022 \(Bylaw No.9827\)](#)* which adjusted the income-qualification cut-off for the

HELP Resolution Summary

Home Energy Loan Program to 2.5 times the low-income cut-off published by Statistics Canada.

On February 7, 2023, City Council received the [Home Energy Loan Program – Annual Status Update Report](#), and resolved that:

1. The City Solicitor be directed to draft the bylaw amendments to the Home Energy Loan Program Bylaw, 2021, Bylaw No. 9762 recommended in Appendix 2; and
2. Application intake for new applications into the program be paused until additional funding for the program is sourced.

On April 26, 2023, City Council passed [The Home Energy Loan Program Amendment Bylaw, 2023 \(Bylaw No.9890\)](#), and [The Home Energy Loan Program Exemption Bylaw, 2023 \(Bylaw No. 9891\)](#).