
Recommendations Report for a Low Emissions Community (Saskatoon's Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan) – Award of RFP

Recommendation

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

1. That the proposal submitted by Sustainability Solutions Group for the Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan: Mapping and Modeling at an estimated cost of \$100,000 be approved;
2. That His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the contract documents as prepared by the City Solicitor under the Corporate Seal.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain City Council approval to award the Request for Proposals (RFP) to Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG) for mapping and modeling required for the Low Emissions Community report, and to provide an update on the Low Emissions Community report. The intent of the Low Emissions Community report is to identify a set of specific actions the City of Saskatoon (City) will take to facilitate and lead corporate and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. Previously referred to as the Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan, the report will provide a long-term roadmap for achieving the targets through changes to policy, planning and regulation, investments in projects, programs, and partnerships. This is an update on the opportunities that have undergone thorough evaluation and are now recommended to form the basis of the report.

Report Highlights

1. The Low Emissions Community report is a business strategy for identifying specific actions the City should adopt to achieve (GHG) emissions reductions.
2. Significant analysis, utilizing high level planning parameters, has been performed for approximately 270 corporate and community emissions reductions actions. The results suggest:
 - The City may be able to meet its Corporate emissions reduction target of 40% below 2014 levels in 2024; and
 - Based on what has been identified as an opportunity today, Community emissions may be reduced by 6% by 2023. This is short of the target reduction of 15%, however further modelling work may reveal additional emissions reduction potential.
3. The initiatives described in this report will now be mapped and modelled, and used as the basis for an Implementation Plan that is expected to be complete in June 2019. On September 17, 2018, the City advertised an RFP for Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan – Mapping and Modeling. The RFP closed on October 8, 2018. Four proposals were received, and Administration is

- recommending the project be awarded to SSG based on the evaluation of the proposals.
4. The Implementation Plan will include recommended capital projects. Any funding required to advance these initiatives will be referred to the 2020 budget deliberations.
 5. With existing resources, the City can advance some of the identified water conservation initiatives. Administration also continues to work on solar opportunities.

Strategic Goals

The Low Emissions Community report supports the corporate performance targets of reducing GHG emissions as a corporation by 40% below 2014 levels by 2023, community emissions by 15% below 2014 levels by 2023, and all emissions by 80% below 2014 levels by 2050. The report also supports the strategic goals of: Environmental Leadership, by providing innovative options to reduce emissions; and Asset and Financial Sustainability, by mitigating the effects of the carbon price mechanism that will be implemented in 2018 either by the provincial or federal government.

Background

In November 2015, the City became a signatory to the Compact of Mayors, now known as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which commits the City of Saskatoon to address climate change by reducing GHG emissions.

City Council, at its meeting held on September 25, 2017, considered the Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan – Opportunities report; and resolved:

- “1. That the information pertaining to Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan be received; and
2. That the allocation of Corporate Performance Department Capital Funding of \$20,000, in addition to \$80,000 of Federation of Canadian Municipalities grant funding, be referred to the 2018 Business Plan and Budget deliberations to support development of the Business Plan.”

In August 2018, Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) introduced an internal audit on climate change activity in Saskatoon. The recommendations of the internal audit stated that current resourcing was not adequate to reach the emissions reductions targets, and that emissions reductions should focus on energy reduction and replacement of grid energy with renewable sources.

Report

Award of RFP

On September 17, 2018, a RFP was advertised on the SaskTenders website for Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan – Mapping and Modeling. The RFP closed on October 8, 2018.

Proposals were received from four companies:

- Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG) (Vancouver, BC)
- Integral Group (Vancouver, BC)
- Artelys Optimization Solutions (Montreal, QC)
- Urban Systems (Saskatoon, SK)

Systematic evaluations of the proposals were completed by a team of three employees from the Environmental & Corporate Initiatives division and the Planning & Development division, based on the following rated criteria:

- Financial proposal – fees and costs (30%)
- Corporate profile, team composition, relevant experience and strengths (30%)
- Presentation of proposal (10%)
- Methodology and timelines – energy and financial mapping and modeling (20%)
- Methodology and timelines – technology mapping and modeling (10%)

Based on the evaluation and ranking results, Administration recommends awarding the RFP to the highest scoring proponent, SSG.

A Business Plan Approach to a Low Emissions Community

The Low Emissions Community report will provide a business strategy for identifying specific actions the City should adopt to achieve GHG emissions reductions.

The Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan – Opportunities report, provided a list of initiatives for reducing emissions in buildings, transportation, waste, energy, water, and land use. In addition to actions the City might take to reduce emissions from its own operations, the initiatives incorporated options for policy changes, strategic planning, and investments in projects and programs, and partnerships intended to support and enable the community to enact change. These options are intended to positively affect water consumption, waste diversion, transit ridership and active transportation, as outlined in the Saskatoon Strategic Trends 2018 report.

Administration has now completed significant analysis, utilizing high level planning parameters, of approximately 270 corporate and community emissions reductions actions. A report describing the analysis approach and outcomes can be found on the city website at <https://www.saskatoon.ca/community-culture-heritage/environment/energy-greenhouse-gas-management>. A number of opportunities have been identified for further exploration based on three strategic principles: impactful emissions reduction, the economic realities of our region, and local appetite for change.

Attachment 1, Executive Summary: Low Emissions Community, summarizes the findings of the initial analysis. Highlights include:

- The City may be able to meet its own corporate emissions reduction target of 40% below 2014 levels in 2024.
- Based on what has been identified as an opportunity today, community emissions may be reduced by 6% by 2023 (as opposed to the target reduction of 15%).

- A number of enabling strategies will be required to optimize community emissions. Most significantly, the emissions-reduction potential of the Growth Plan and Green Strategy will continue to be analyzed as these impactful strategies are expected to have positive effects on the emissions profile for Saskatoon.

Next Steps

The initiatives outlined in Attachment 1 will be included in further mapping and modeling work, completed by SSG, and incorporated into an Implementation Plan that is expected to be complete in June 2019. The Implementation Plan will include recommended capital projects. Any funding required to advance these activities will be referred to the 2020 budget deliberations.

While the initiatives outlined in Attachment 1 are not being put forward for approval to begin implementation at this time, with existing resources the City can continue to advance some emissions reducing initiatives. For example, there is an existing capital project for some of the identified water conservation initiatives. The Administration is also continuing to work on solar opportunities and will provide a series of reports on this work prior to completion of the Implementation Plan.

Options to the Recommendation

A request for \$150,000 and 1 FTE was not prioritized for inclusion in the 2019 Budget. The Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services could forward this request to City Council for consideration as part of the 2019 Business Plan and Budget deliberations. This would allow work on developing an Implementation Plan to proceed more quickly.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

The analysis of the Low Emissions Community scenarios included a number of engagement events, including the larger Saskatoon community, local businesses and the civic Administration. Next steps in the business plan analysis, including development of the Implementation Plan and measurements for success, will also involve engaging the Saskatoon community and corporation.

Communication Plan

A communications strategy that further promotes participation in the next phase of engagement is currently being developed. The strategy will be community-focused for the community-based emissions reductions, and internally focussed for corporate emissions reductions. In addition, communications will be combined with other relevant civic projects, such as the development of the Waste Diversion Plan and Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Policy Implications

Policy implications have been analyzed at a high level in developing the recommendations. Some of the policies recommended are administrative in nature,

requiring minimal investment in change, while others will require specific effort by the Administration to further explore and understand.

Financial Implications

The PwC audit report recommended at least 9.3 FTEs be added by the end of 2019 to complete emissions planning, reporting and high level program development. The Administration does not believe this many FTEs are required at this time. Instead, the Administration plans to identify the capital and FTE requirements of specific capital projects and community programs to reach the GHG emissions targets. These requirements will be communicated in more detail in the Implementation Plan, which will include a mapping and modeling exercise at an approximate cost of \$100,000.

Total Base Fees	\$100,000.00
GST	\$ 5,000.00
Total Fees	<u>\$105,000.00</u>
GST Rebate	(\$ 5,000.00)
Total Net Cost to the City	<u>\$100,000.00</u>

Capital Project #2539 – Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan includes sufficient resources, partially funded through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to complete the Implementation Plan by June 2019. Once complete, new funding would be required to continue to planning and program development. There is some existing capacity within the Environmental and Corporate Initiatives Division to continue reporting.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no environmental, Privacy or CPTED considerations or implications.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

The Low Emissions Community Implementation report will be presented to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services in June, 2019.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachment

1. Executive Summary: Low Emissions Community

Report Approval

Written by:	Nasha Spence, Environmental Accounting Manager
Reviewed by:	Brenda Wallace, Director of Environmental & Corporate Initiatives
Approved by:	Dan Willems, Acting General Manager, Corporate Performance Dept.