

REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Green Municipal Fund Application

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That County Council authorize staff to apply for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation initiative for the creation of Oxford County's Climate Action Plan;
2. And further, that County Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and/or Director of Corporate Services to sign all documents related thereto.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Green Municipal Fund via the Federation of Canadian Municipalities will deliver Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) grants of up to \$140,000 each to support local governments in planning for and responding to the impacts of climate change.
- As part of the application process, a Council resolution is required.
- Applications are due November 29, 2024, with results expected in Spring 2025.
- If successful, this funding will help to support the ongoing work related to the creation of the Climate Action Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

Following approval of this report and adoption of the recommendations, staff will proceed with the LLCA grant application via Green Municipal Fund.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts related to the approval of this report. If the LLCA grant application is successful, any funding dollars received will go towards supporting the creation of the Climate Action Plan in 2025 and will offset operational costs, including staff time.

Communications




There are no communication-related requirements associated with the grant application. As per [CAO 2024-06](#), an engagement strategy will be undertaken as part of the broader Climate Action Plan work.

2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Oxford County Council approved the [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#) on September 13, 2023. The Plan outlines 39 goals across three strategic pillars that advance Council’s vision of “Working together for a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future.” These pillars are: (1) *Promoting community vitality*, (2) *Enhancing environmental sustainability*, and (3) *Fostering progressive government*.

The recommendations in this report supports the following strategic goals.

Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
		
Promoting community vitality	Enhancing environmental sustainability	Fostering progressive government
	<p>Goal 2.1 – Climate change mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>Goal 2.2 – Preserve and enhance our natural environment</p>	<p>Goal 3.2 – Collaborate with our partners and communities</p> <p>Goal 3.4 – Financial sustainability</p>

See: [Oxford County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

DISCUSSION

Background

As outlined in [CAO 2024-06](#), staff have begun working to deliver the Climate Action Plan (CAP), one of the goals identified within the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. The CAP is anticipated to be brought forward to Council in 2025, with much of this work being completed internally in collaboration with various departments, including Finance, Communications, Emergency Management, Public Works and Planning. While working towards this goal, staff are actively seeking funding opportunities that align with this initiative while also considering those that could support future implementation projects. The Green Municipal Fund offers over \$2 billion worth of funding to support municipalities in both climate adaptation and mitigation efforts and will continue to be pursued by staff in the coming years as we move from planning to implementation.

Comments

The Green Municipal Fund's *Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation* (LLCA) initiative aligns with where staff are currently at in the process of creating the Climate Action Plan, as this funding is intended to support municipal work that integrates climate resilience into municipal plans, processes and management systems. While there is no guarantee of funding, this opportunity would support the work already being undertaken from an operational perspective and would offset costs including staff time, consultation services and community engagement activities. Moreover, based on the intended use of this funding opportunity and the current state of the County's efforts in the development of our Climate Action Plan, staff feel it is in the County's best interest to take advantage of this funding while it is still available.

CONCLUSIONS

Through the Green Municipal Fund, grant money is available that well-aligns with Goal 2.1.1 of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. As part of the application requirements, a resolution from Council is required to be submitted. Staff will continue to seek funding opportunities to support both the creation and implementation of the County's Climate Action Plan.

SIGNATURES

Report author:

Original signed by

Chelsea Martin, BES, CAPM
Coordinator of Community Environmental Sustainability

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Benjamin R. Addley
Chief Administrative Officer