



NEWS RELEASE

Green Municipal Fund Invests \$2,223,899 to Promote City of Guelph Community Sustainability and Environmental Waste Management

March 25, 2008, Guelph, Ont. – Guelph Councillor Lise Burcher, representing the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Honourable Michael Chong, Member of Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills, announced today Green Municipal Fund (GMF) support totalling \$2,223,899 for the City of Guelph. The city has invested this funding in six different initiatives to promote community sustainability and effective waste management.

“FCM’s Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments,” said Councillor Lise Burcher on behalf of FCM. “The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.”

Through the Green Municipal Fund, the Government of Canada is assisting municipalities across the country to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians,” said the Honourable Michael Chong. “I am pleased our government is working with FCM and the City of Guelph to help make these six projects happen. This will contribute to a more eco-friendly future for the citizens of Guelph.”

Under three community sustainability projects, the City of Guelph is working with community and other stakeholders to develop feasibility plans that will achieve significant local environmental improvement and community development goals. These planning projects involve:

- The development of assessments and action plans towards the remediation of a former metal foundry and salvage yard at 200 Beverly Street so that the site may provide future opportunities for possible land uses such as housing, commercial, parkland, and institutional development.
- The preparation of a local growth management strategy that will guide the city’s development for the next quarter century. This Plan intended to implement the Provinces’ Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and will input Guelph’s ‘values’ for community sustainability. Particular attention is being given to urban intensification, transit supportive development, downtown rejuvenation, the creation of a ‘complete’ community and environmental protection.
- The development of a community energy plan that will reduce corporate and community energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by way of a long-term strategy for prioritizing energy considerations in community planning and development.

With GMF support the City of Guelph is also engaged in three environmental waste management projects that will lead to the fulfillment of important municipal waste management and landfill gas utilization goals. These three projects involve:

- A comprehensive review of Guelph’s current solid waste management system in order to identify a new preferred waste management system that will target the diversion of 70 per cent of waste per year.

- The construction of a three megawatt landfill gas (LFG) utilization facility at the Eastview Landfill site to serve as a backup for the existing LFG flare system and, when commissioned, allow for a potential annual reduction of 185,000 tonnes of direct CO₂e emissions.
- Field testing of the preliminary design for a proposed biosolids processing facility at the City of Guelph Wastewater Treatment Plant which will lead to a decrease in the quantity of biosolids requiring management and storage, the maintenance of lower cost biosolids handling equipment, beneficial biosolids reuse and improvement of the hydrolysis of organic material and gas production.

“These projects would not have been possible without support from FCM’s Green Municipal Fund,” said Guelph Mayor Karen Farbridge. “We are already seeing the benefits of these initiatives in our community, and they will have a significant impact over the long term.”

The Government of Canada has endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with \$550 million to establish and manage the Green Municipal Fund. The Fund supports partnerships and leveraging of both public and private sector funding to reach higher standards of air, water and soil quality, and climate protection.

FCM has been the national voice of municipal governments since 1901. It fosters sustainable communities enjoying a high quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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For information on the City of Guelph, visit <http://www.guelph.ca>

For information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, visit <http://www.fcm.ca>

For information on the Green Municipal Fund, including details of other approved projects and studies, visit <http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca>

For information on Natural Resources Canada, visit <http://nrcan-rncan.gc.ca>

For information on Environment Canada, visit <http://www.ec.gc.ca>