



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



NEWS RELEASE

Green Municipal Fund Commits \$44,078 to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for a Landfill Gas Feasibility and Technology Implementation Study

April 8, 2008, Fort McMurray, AB – Reeve Tim Stone of Saddle Hills County, representing the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Honourable Brian Jean, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and Member of Parliament for Fort McMurray–Athabasca, on behalf of the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today a \$44,078 Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB). The funding will help the RMWB determine the most viable landfill gas (LFG) recovery technologies for minimizing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at both its existing and future landfill facilities. The study includes LFG production assessments, data analysis, LFG technology management recommendations, planning and pre-design of a full-scale facility for each site, and a public education and outreach program.

“FCM’s Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments,” said Reeve Tim Stone, representing 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 deliver projects that will help to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians,” said Mr. Jean. “I am proud to announce our contribution to the landfill gas study that will help minimize emissions from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo’s existing and future landfill facilities.”

The RMWB is experiencing enormous growth because of the burgeoning Alberta oil sands industry. It is estimated that municipal solid waste will likely increase from approximately 50,000 tonnes per year in 2006 to over 100,000 tonnes per year by 2010. Based on conservative LFG estimates for both sites averaged over 50 years, and a conventional LFG recovery efficiency of 70 percent, GHG emissions reductions could be achieved in the range of 44,000 tonnes per year, as carbon dioxide equivalents, by implementing LFG technology at both landfills.

“Because the RMWB strives for a zero-emission landfill operation, project implementation will aim to reduce LFG emissions by nearly 100 percent through the capture and further destruction of LFG,” said Mayor Melissa Blake. “In addition, preliminary estimates of LFG emissions from both sites support the potential of one megawatt of electrical energy production over 40 years. This would displace 3,793 tonnes of coal or 700,000 m³ of natural gas annually.”

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:

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, AB

Jarrold Peckford BTech, CEPIT,
Coordinator, Solid Waste Services
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Tel: 780-799-7485
Cell: 780-714-0404
Email: Jarrod.Peckford@woodbuffalo.ab.ca

Green Municipal Fund

Raymond Sullivan
Communications Manager
Centre for Sustainable Community Development
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Tel: 613-907-6294
Fax: 613-244-1515
Email: rsullivan@fcm.ca

Natural Resources Canada

Louise Girouard
Director of Communications
Minister's Office
Natural Resources Canada
Tel.: 613-996-2007
Fax: 613-943-0663

For information on the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, visit <http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.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>