

NEWS RELEASE

FCM'S Green Municipal Fund pays out \$1,126,200 to Senneterre for the construction of a thermal park

Senneterre QC, January 20, 2009 – Sherbrooke Mayor and President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Jean Perrault, and the Honourable Christian Paradis, acting on behalf of the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, today announced a \$500,000 grant and a \$626,200 loan to the Town of Senneterre from the Green Municipal Fund (GMF).

“Through the Green Municipal Fund, our government helps municipalities, everywhere throughout the country to reach their goal of a cleaner, safer environment,” explained Minister Paradis. “Today’s announcement is yet another example of how our government helps municipalities increase the standard of living of their communities while building a more ecological future for their residents.”

“FCM’s Green Municipal Fund offers a full range of resources and services tailored to meet the specific needs of municipal administrations in sustainable development,” explained Mayor Jean Perrault acting for FCM. “The financing and expertise supplied by the GMF supports the development of more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable communities.”

The town of Senneterre plans to build a receiving station or thermal park to recover excess heat from the cogeneration unit of the *Fonds de revenu Boralex énergie* in Senneterre in order to redistribute this energy to farming, agri-food, agro-industrial and processing companies.

Senneterre hopes to diversify and revitalize its social and economic structures using green energy. The system will supply residual energy in the form of hot water to occupants of the thermal park including greenhouses, aquaculture and agro-industrial facilities.

The town foresees a 91% reduction in greenhouse gases and a decrease in water consumption at the cogeneration unit. Among the other benefits, there is the recovery of carbon dioxide to promote photosynthesis in the greenhouses, a significant support for the community’s economic development and the creation of new jobs.

“In these difficult economic times, it is essential that we innovate and diversify our economy. The thermal park has been identified as a cornerstone of our diversification plan and of our sustainable economic development. This financial contribution allows us to go ahead with the park’s infrastructures that represent a fundamental component of our town’s economic vitality,” explained Jean-Maurice Matte, mayor of Senneterre.

The Government of Canada has endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with 550 million dollars to establish the Green Municipal Fund and offer a source of steady long-term funding for municipal administrations and their partners. The Fund supports communities in their initiatives aimed at improving the quality of air, water and soil, and deal with climate change.

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.

For further information:

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