

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund commits \$145,750 to feasibility study of Guelph's district energy system**

**GUELPH, ONT., January 8, 2010** – Basil Stewart, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I., and Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant of \$145,750 to study the feasibility of a district energy system in Guelph, designed to provide heating, cooling and electricity at three sites: the Guelph General Hospital, the downtown core and with a link to the University of Guelph.

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

“The Government of Canada is working with municipalities across Canada in achieving their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment through the Green Municipal Fund,” said Raitt. “Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping Guelph build a greener future for our citizens.”

Guelph Hydro Inc. and Union Gas Limited, in partnership with the City of Guelph, will examine, as part of the study, various sources of renewable energy (solar and wind power, solar heating, ground source heating and cooling), and the use of an upgraded waste-derived fuel in the form of pellets from landfills to supply a district energy system, which is principally focused on retrofitting existing building and energy system infrastructure.

The study will also explore other options for increasing energy efficiency, and use life cycle analysis to evaluate and compare the environmental and social impacts of each option. The final study report will include draft designs, preliminary cost estimates, implementation schedules and will address required regulatory approvals.

The implementation of a district energy system is expected to reduce overall energy system costs, reduce carbon emissions, improve local air quality, create local employment, attract green businesses and reduce the energy loss associated with long distance transmission of electricity. It is also anticipated to reduce the need to import less clean and more expensive electricity during peak demand periods.

If the proposed district energy system is feasible, the Guelph initiative could become a model for other mid-sized communities in Canada with a long-term vision for the use of renewable energy and energy conservation.

“Guelph Hydro Inc. is committed to powering our community and this project is another way for us to do so,” said Guelph Hydro Inc. CEO Barry Chuddy. “As the major entity implementing the community energy plan for the City, Guelph Hydro Inc. believes that district energy is a key component to a sustainable energy future for Guelph.”

“What makes this project exciting for Union Gas is that the joint commitment of all the funding partners demonstrates the value of working together to help create more sustainable communities,” said Mel Ydreos, vice president, marketing and customer care, Union Gas.

The Green Municipal Fund is an endowment financed by the Government of Canada and managed by FCM. 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 the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.*

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