

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the City of Guelph's field test on the use of greywater for toilet flushing

February 23, 2010, Guelph, Ont. – Basil Stewart, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I., and Natural Resources Minister Christian Paradis today announced Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) loan and grant contributions for the City of Guelph. The City will use the \$72,524 in funding to test the feasibility of using greywater for toilet flushing in residential settings.

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

The City will gather information on the costs, benefits, barriers, opportunities and requirements of residential greywater reuse systems. The research team will install greywater reuse systems in 30 homes that will capture greywater from showers and baths and use it for toilet flushing. The installations will include monitoring equipment to measure the amount of greywater produced and used within the home. To date, approximately half of the installations have already been completed.

Water quality will be monitored and researchers will survey homeowners to track their satisfaction with the new systems. The research team will also complete a full life-cycle cost analysis and gather information on overall system management and maintenance requirements. It will also examine potential energy savings and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The field test is expected to lead to the implementation of a residential greywater reuse rebate program for Guelph residents. The goal of the program would be to install 200 residential greywater reuse systems by 2019. These installations would reduce each household's water use by approximately 32,850 litres per year, while reducing household utility costs by approximately \$73 per year. The test will also help to fill a research void on the subject of residential greywater reuse systems.

“Guelph is a leader in water conservation and efficiency, as residents use less water than the national average. Greywater reuse could enable us to significantly build on that success, and this

field test will help us answer many questions about it,” said Guelph mayor Karen Farbridge. “We thank FCM’s Green Municipal Fund for helping to make this project possible.”

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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For information:

City of Guelph

Wayne Galliher
Water Conservation Project Manager
City of Guelph
Tel.: 519-822-1260 ext. 2106
E-mail: wayne.galliher@guelph.ca
www.guelph.ca

FCM’s Green Municipal Fund

Lorie Boucher
Manager, Communications and Marketing
Green Municipal Fund
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Tel.: 613-907-6298
Fax: 613-244-1515
E-mail: lboucher@fcm.ca
www.fcm.ca/gmf

Natural Resources Canada

Margaux Stastny
Director of Communications
Office of the Minister
Natural Resources Canada
Tel.: 613-996-2007

Media Relations
Natural Resources Canada
Tel.: 613-992-4447