

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Township of Langley's Backyard Composting Study

July 7, 2010, Langley, B.C. – Hans Cunningham, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and director of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, B.C., and Mark Warawa, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment, announced today a Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the Township of Langley. The municipality will use the \$30,855 to conduct a feasibility study to assess the optimum delivery for an enhanced backyard composting 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 Cunningham. "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 Mr. Warawa. "Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with the FCM — is helping Langley build a greener future for our citizens."

The eight- to twelve-week study aims to divert 2.2 kg of waste per household per week from municipal landfill sites, measure the actual amount of waste being diverted, identify the greatest barriers to composting, and foster sustainable behaviour.

The goal is to update Langley's 10-year-old waste diversion program by using social marketing techniques to encourage residents to compost as a way to help achieve Metro Vancouver's zero waste challenge. The project will divide study participants into three groups, each receiving varied levels of education and guidance, to determine the part this plays in participation rates.

By weighing and recording the amount of waste entering the compost bin, the study will provide valuable data that other municipalities can use to assess and optimize their own waste diversion potential.

"The Township of Langley appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our sustainable initiative," said Langley Mayor Rick Green.

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with \$550 million to establish 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.

For information:

Township of Langley, B.C.

Robyn Cooper
Solid Waste Coordinator
Township of Langley
Tel.: 604-532-7300
Fax: 604-532-7310
E-mail: rcooper@tol.bc.ca
www.tol.bc.ca

FCM's Green Municipal Fund

Maurice Gingues
Media Relations Officer
Green Municipal Fund
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Tel.: 613-907-6399
Fax: 613-244-1515
E-mail: mgingues@fcm.ca
www.fcm.ca/gmf

Natural Resources Canada

Richard Walker
Director of Communications
Office of the Minister
Tel.: 613-996-2007

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