

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the MRC of Rivière-du-Loup's source segregation system to divert organic waste and cut carbon dioxide**

**April 16, 2010, Rivière-du-Loup, Que.** – Basil Stewart, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I., and Bernard Généreux, member of Parliament for Montmagny-L'Islet-Kamouraska-Rivière-du-Loup, today announced Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) loan and grant contributions for the Municipalité Régionale de Comté (MRC) of Rivière-du-Loup. The MRC is investing the \$4,400,000 in funding to create a source segregation system that includes an anaerobic digestion site to divert solid organic waste and reduce carbon dioxide produced in the MRC.

“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 support 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 Généreux. “Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping the Municipalité Régionale de Comté of Rivière-du-Loup build a greener future for our citizens.”

Based on a 2007 feasibility study of options for managing organic waste, carried out with the financial support of FCM, the MRC of Rivière-du-Loup has decided to create a source segregation system. This system will include an anaerobic digestion site that will divert 61 per cent of solid organic waste produced on the MRC territory by 2013 — a substantial improvement over the current diversion rate of 19 per cent. Anaerobic digestion — a process for biologically breaking down organic matter without oxygen — produces biogas that is then transformed by scrubbing into biological methane, a green vehicle fuel. The solid matter created after digestion will be used as fertiliser on neighbouring farmland.

“Thanks to GMF financial support, this project will reduce local carbon dioxide levels by an equivalent of 7,455 tons per year,” said Michel Lagacé, prefect of the MRC of Rivière-du-Loup. “Anaerobic digestion of organic waste is an innovative approach for North America. Many other municipalities will benefit from lessons learned from our experience.”

The Green Municipal Fund is an endowment financed by the Government of Canada and managed by FCM. The Fund supports partnerships and the 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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