
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 11, 2009
File No.: 0360-20
To: City Manager
From: Don Degen, Utility Services Manager
Subject: BC Solar Community Progress Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive, for information, the report of the Utility Services Manager dated February 11, 2009 with respect to the BC Solar Community Progress Report;

AND THAT Council receive, for information, the presentation from Solar BC on the solar program in the Province.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Kelowna was one of 6 communities established as solar communities by Solar BC in the fall of 2008. The other communities were Saanich, Tofino, West Vancouver, Dawson Creek and West Moberley First Nation. The selection criteria was based on multiple factors that included, solar targets, actions and initiatives proposed, intention to apply for other grants to help implement the solar hot water initiatives, participation in Community Action on Energy and Emissions and demonstrated commitment and past implementation of solar initiatives in the community. The award included a \$20,000 grant, plus assistance for marketing, training and solar policy development (see www.solarbc.ca). Considerable additional funding is available through application to NRCan and BC Soilar to support the capital construction components of the plan.

A steering committee comprised of the FortisBC, Terasen, the Okanagan Environmental Industry Association and the City has been established to guide the development and execution of a 10 point workplan. The goals of the workplan are to:

- Work with industry, the utilities, and the public to raise awareness of Solar BC and the opportunities of solar as a renewable energy source for solar hot water (SHW) installations
- Provide leadership as a solar flagship community
- Help remove regulatory and financial barriers to residential and commercial solar hot water heating installations
- Install and promote a high profile commercial SWH system at the Athan's Family "Y" pool at Rutland District Recreation Park, which is expected to reduce energy consumption and 300t/year in GHG emissions
- Facilitate the installation of 450 SHW in new and existing homes

Key events planned in the implementation of the plan include:

1. February 10-11, 2009. A training workshop for plumbing inspectors at Okanagan College with scholarships for successful candidates



2. May 15, 2009: Community Solar Workshop and Trade Show at Coast Capri Hotel including German Solar expert Gerhard Stryi-Hipp, climate change expert Guy Dauncey, NRCan expert Jeff Knapp, BC Solar program manager Nitya Harris and key representatives from the development, consulting and construction industries
3. August-October 2009. Installation of SHW system at Athan's pool

EXTERNAL CIRCULATION

- Kelowna's SolarBC Steering Committee
- Solar BC

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Athan's pool project is being funded through an internal loan that will be repaid through energy savings estimated at \$34,500/year.

A current inventory of available SHW financial support will be prepared in conjunction with this project.

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

The workplan includes projects that will:

- Identify non-financial barriers to solar installations and propose revisions
- Identify solutions to technical and regulatory barriers identified by authorities having jurisdiction
- Provide training to plumbing inspectors to facilitate installation approval and inspection

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

EXISTING POLICY

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

INTERNAL CIRCULATION

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:

Submitted by:


D. Degen, Manager, Utility Services Branch

Approved for Inclusion:



John Vos, General Manager, Citizen Services

cc: EMC Committee
OEIA Chair
Solar BC