



CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION
Environment Section

TO: Chair and Members of the Community and Corporate Services Committee
SUBJECT: RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Report Number: CORPSERV-7/04 Report Date: November 8, 2004
Author(s): Lynn Robichaud Date to Committee: November 23, 2004
Telephone: 905-335-7600 Ext. 7931 Date to Council: December 6, 2004
Ward(s) Affected: 1 2 3 4 5 6 All File Number(s): 210-09-02

APPROVALS: Department Head General Manager City Manager

To be completed by the Clerks Department

Committee Disposition & Comments table with 7 columns for status options

01- Approved 02 - Not Approved 03 - As Amended 04 - Referred 05 - Deferred 06 - Received & Filed 07 - Withdrawn

Council Disposition & Comments table with 7 columns for status options

01- Approved 02 - Not Approved 03 - As Amended 04 - Referred 05 - Deferred 06 - Received & Filed 07 - Withdrawn

1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support in principle funding for the Residential Energy Efficiency Project (REEP) in 2005 to be administered by the Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence in Burlington; and,

THAT the funding be subject to 2005 current budget approval and be in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 based on a subsidy of \$25 per audit and a target of 300 homes; and,

THAT the source for funding be considered by Council in the 2005 current budget within the Corporate Services - Environment cost centre; and,

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THAT subject to funding approval, the Sr. Environmental Co-ordinator report back to the Community and Corporate Services Committee in the fourth quarter of 2005 with an update on the REEP program.

2.0 PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the delivery of the Residential Energy Efficiency Project in Burlington by the Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence (ECEE) and recommend Council support in principle to continue the REEP subsidy in 2005 for Burlington homeowners.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Supporting community energy conservation programs is related to the following goals and strategies in the city's strategic plan, *Future Focus VI*:

Long Term Goal:

The city will be a leader in making a high level of environmental performance one of the primary goals of its policies, programs and operations, and in the actions of its citizens, to provide the highest quality of life for all.

Three Year Goal

2.2 The city will enhance the quality of air, land, water and the city's natural heritage.

Strategy

b) Participate in municipal and/or other programs designed to improve air, land, water quality and the natural heritage.

In 2004, Council approved a \$25 subsidy for Burlington homeowners for home energy audits through the Residential Energy Efficiency Project (REEP). REEP is delivered by the Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence, a non-profit organization. The total amount of funding was \$9,925 including \$6,375 towards subsidizing 255 home audits at \$25 per audit and \$2,550 directed towards marketing.

A REEP audit helps homeowners identify ways to make their homes more energy efficient and comfortable. A comprehensive report is completed for the homeowner that includes suggestions on how to reduce energy loss. Leakage problems are evaluated through a blower door test. The report includes an estimate of how much energy is lost through the basement, windows, doors, main walls and ceiling, and the home's mechanical ventilation system, providing recommendations for improvements. A follow-up visit is required to assess the improvement in energy efficiency in the home after the homeowner has implemented the recommended measures. Residents are eligible for a rebate on the measures they have implemented, which is based on the improvement in energy efficiency of the home measured during the follow-up visit.

Based on a University of Waterloo survey of Waterloo residents, it is estimated that the average homeowner spends \$2,400 in the first year following the audit on improvements. If 80% of the 255 homeowners implement improvements, the spending total in the community is estimated to be just under \$500,000.

4.0 DISCUSSION:

There is insufficient information at this time to determine the success of the REEP in Burlington with respect to the investment made by homeowners in improvements and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The ECEE completed 96 home audits between June and mid-October 2004. The 2004 target was 255 homes, but funding was delayed due to the timing of the budget approval process. In comparison, home audits performed during the same time period in the other Halton communities were: Oakville – 75; Halton Hills – 53; and, Milton – 26.

The ECEE has recently increased the number of auditors servicing Halton from one to three. Therefore, it is expected that their capacity to increase the frequency of audits will increase and it is estimated that the remaining 159 home audits will be completed by February 2005.

Funding was also provided to the ECEE to help promote REEP in 2004. Marketing consisted of a brochure, advertising through the Burlington Post and Chamber of Commerce, as well as a planned Contractors' Forum in early 2005.

The ECEE has requested a total of \$10,500 in funding to support REEP home audits in Burlington in 2005; \$7,500 to subsidize 300 Burlington home audits at \$25 per audit and \$3,000 for marketing (see Appendix A).

Staff recommend that \$7,500 be approved in principle, subject to the current budget approval process, to subsidize the cost of home audits. However, staff do not recommend that the city provide funding for marketing. It is the position of staff that the city can efficiently provide in-kind communications support to promote REEP in Burlington.

5.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Funding of \$7,500 is proposed in the 2005 current operating budget of Corporate Services - Environment Section to subsidize the REEP in Burlington. No additional funding will be requested in the 2005 current operating budget to cover the in-kind marketing support to promote the REEP.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

Refer to Section 3.0 and 4.0

7.0 COMMUNICATION MATTERS:

Environment staff will work with Corporate Communications to coordinate the in-kind marketing support. Options to promote REEP include Burlington Hydro billing inserts, the Environmental Corner in the *Burlington Post*, the City's website, City Talk, and other vehicles identified as appropriate.

8.0 CONCLUSION:

Continued support of the REEP program provides the city with an opportunity to work with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet our commitment under Future Focus VI to enhance our local environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Robichaud
Sr. Environmental Co-ordinator

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Appendices:

A: ECEE Funding Request

Staff / Others Consulted:

Name	Telephone
Fleur Storange-Hogan	7580
Leo DeLoyde	7331
Sean O’Brady	7531
Environmental Management Team	
Robin Cooper, REEP	1-866-501-1112
Don Eaton, ECEE	1-519-846-0841

Notifications:

Name	Mailing or E-mail Address
Robin Cooper	
Don Eaton	

Special Instructions:

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APPENDIX A – ECEE Funding Request



October 22, 2004

**Halton Residential Energy Efficiency Project
Burlington Status October 2004**

Halton REEP has completed 96 EnerGuide for Houses evaluations in the City of Burlington.
5 Burlington homes have already completed their home retrofits and had their second evaluation.

Current Marketing

Halton REEP Brochure	\$850.00
Burlington Chamber of Commerce	\$288.90
Burlington Post Ad	\$253.00
Contractor' Forum January 2005	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
Total committed	\$2,891.90

Activity expected for 2005

Currently 255 EnerGuide evaluations
supported by the City
of Burlington

Proposed Budget Request

An additional 300 EnerGuide evaluations @ \$25 each	\$7,500.00
2 Burlington Hydro inserts @ \$1500 each	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Total	\$10,500.00

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Halton REEP has trained two additional energy advisors who will receive their certification in the first week of November. This is in time for the busy season and will give REEP the necessary capacity to complete the 555 evaluations by January 2006.

The contractor's forum has proven to be very effective in other communities. Many homeowners will call a window, insulation, or mechanical contractor when trying to make their home more energy efficient. Contractors who come to the forum will not only make their businesses more competitive by directing their clients to EnerGuide and a possible federal grant, but will assist REEP in getting the right information to homeowners that are serious about improving their homes.

Utility bill inserts have generated more evaluations than any other type of marketing. Burlington Hydro has expressed a willingness to deliver these if REEP bears the printing costs.

If you need to discuss these numbers with Don or I please give us a call.

Regards,

Robin Cooper