



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: February 14, 2018

From: John Irving, P.Eng. MPA
Director, Engineering

File: 10-6650-02/2018-Vol
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Re: 2018 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

Staff Recommendation

1. That the City of Richmond partner with BC Hydro to the end of 2018 to offer a combined rebate of \$100 for the spring campaign and up to \$400 in the fall campaign, equally cost shared between BC Hydro and the City, for the replacement of inefficient clothes washers with new high efficiency clothes washers;
2. That the scope of the existing Toilet Rebate Program funding be expanded to include clothes washer rebates; and
3. That the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be authorized to execute an agreement with BC Hydro to implement the Clothes Washer Rebate Program.

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| REPORT CONCURRENCE | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| ROUTED TO: | CONCURRENCE | CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER |
| Finance Department Water Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE | INITIALS: | APPROVED BY CAO |

Staff Report

Origin

BC Hydro and local governments have an interest in encouraging the conservation of water and energy. Through PowerSmart, BC Hydro offers a variety of incentive programs that encourage uptake of energy-efficient technologies, including energy-efficient appliances.

Since 2014, the City has partnered with BC Hydro to implement the Clothes Washer Rebate Program. The program offered a rebate of up to \$200, which was equally cost shared between BC Hydro and the City.

BC Hydro is offering the Clothes Washer Rebate Program again in 2018 and is requesting that the City continue its participation.

This program supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #4 Leadership in Sustainability:

Continue advancement of the City's sustainability framework and initiatives to improve the short and long term livability of our City, and that maintain Richmond's position as a leader in sustainable programs, practices and innovations.

4.2. Innovative projects and initiatives to advance sustainability.

This program supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #5 Partnerships and Collaboration:

Continue development and utilization of collaborative approaches and partnerships with intergovernmental and other agencies to help meet the needs of the Richmond community.

5.2. Strengthened strategic partnerships that help advance City priorities.

This program also supports the 2041 Official Community Plan (OCP), the Corporate Sustainability Framework, as well as the Community Energy and Emissions Plan, which includes "promoting building efficiency through outreach and education and providing incentives for building retrofit action."

Analysis

Clothes Washer Rebate Program

To date, the Clothes Washer Rebate Program has issued 765 rebates at a total cost of \$54,700 to the City resulting in an annual savings in water and energy of 3,114,000 liters per year and 73,750 kilowatt hours per year, respectively. Eleven municipalities, including the City of Abbotsford and the City of Vancouver, participated in the partnership program with BC Hydro in 2017.

2017 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

The proposed 2018 Clothes Washer Rebate Program offered by BC Hydro will run during the spring and fall of this year. It is anticipated that all eleven municipalities that partook last year will participate in this year's partnership program with BC Hydro.

BC Hydro will also partner with Samsung and Home Depot, with each of these organizations offering to match BC Hydro's rebate. The Samsung rebate will apply to eligible Samsung models, and the Home Depot rebate will apply to eligible models purchased at Home Depot. Including recommended City participation, the rebate for an eligible Samsung clothes washer purchased at Home Depot will be up to \$400.

This year's program details are as follows:

- The City partners with BC Hydro to offer a combined Clothes Washer Rebate Program. BC Hydro will offer a \$50 rebate and the City will match this rebate to provide a combined rebate of \$100, for the replacement of an inefficient clothes washer with a new high efficiency clothes washer in the 2018 spring campaign.
- In the 2017 spring campaign, BC Hydro offered two tiers of rebates, \$50 and \$100, which totaled to \$100 and \$200 when combined with the City's rebate. However, the rebate was reduced to \$50 in the fall campaign due to high participation in the spring. BC Hydro is anticipating a large uptake in the 2018 spring campaign and has set the rebate at \$50 per qualifying clothes washer.
- The 2018 fall campaign rebate amount will be determined by BC Hydro at a later date based on participation for the spring campaign. The combined rebate will range from \$100 to \$400, equally cost shared between BC Hydro and the City.
- The proposed spring and fall campaign will run from May 1 to June 30, 2018 and October 1 to November 30, 2018 respectively.

Staff recommend that the City partner with BC Hydro to match rebate offers on high efficiency washing machines for the proposed dates and any future extensions that may be requested.

Roles and Responsibilities

The City and BC Hydro roles and responsibilities are outlined in Table 1. BC Hydro will be responsible for carrying out program administration and associated activities, and the City will be responsible for providing matching funding to supplement the BC Hydro rebate and advertising the rebate program within Richmond.

Table 1: City and BC Hydro Roles and Responsibilities


| City of Richmond | BC Hydro |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding to supplement the BC Hydro rebate • Advertise the rebate offer locally | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer email and phone inquiries about the program • Receive and process online applications • Provide rebate directly to applicants, and invoice the City for its portion • Provide post campaign reporting to the City |

Financial Impact

Staff recommend that the rebates be funded from the approved Toilet Rebate Program. The Toilet Rebate Program has an annual budget of \$100,000, with \$92,200 remaining in 2018. The uptake on toilet and washing machine rebates has a high degree of variability. Staff will monitor participation and report back to Council if there is higher than anticipated participation. BC Hydro will be responsible for all costs associated with program administration.

Conclusion

The City has an opportunity to continue partnering with BC Hydro to provide rebate incentives to residents for purchasing efficient clothes washers through the Clothes Washer Rebate Program. Staff recommend that the City continue to participate in this rebate program which provides a combined rebate of \$100 for the spring campaign and up to \$400 in the fall campaign, equally shared between BC Hydro and the City, and that rebates be funded from the Toilet Rebate Program.

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