



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: February 17, 2015

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

File: 10-6650-02/2015-Vol
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Re: 2015 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

Staff Recommendation

That:

1. the City partner with BC Hydro to offer a combined rebate program May 1 to June 30 and October 1 to October 31 of this year, which will provide a rebate of up to \$200, equally cost shared between BC Hydro and the City, for the replacement of an inefficient clothes washer with a new high efficiency one;
2. the scope of the existing toilet rebate program funding be expanded to include clothes washer rebates; and
3. the CAO and General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be authorized to execute an agreement with BC Hydro to implement this program.

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REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Finance Division Water Services	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
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.

Last year, the City partnered with BC Hydro on 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. Further rebates were offered by Home Depot and Samsung in the month of October.

BC Hydro is offering the program again in 2015.

The program supports the 2014 Official Community Plan (OCP), the Corporate Sustainability Framework, as well as the 2014 Community Energy and Emissions Plan, which includes “promoting building efficiency through outreach and education and providing incentives for building retrofit action.”

Analysis

2014 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

In 2014, the washing machine rebate program issued a total of 205 clothes washer rebates at a total cost of \$15,750 to the City.

Eight municipalities, including the City of Abbotsford and the City of Vancouver, participated in the partnership program with BC Hydro last year.

2015 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

The proposed program offered by BC Hydro will run from May 1 to June 30 and October 1 to October 31 of this year. To date, thirteen municipalities are participating in this year’s partnership program with BC Hydro.

BC Hydro has also partnered with Samsung, Home Depot and Future Shop, 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 and Future Shop rebates will apply to eligible models purchased at each respective store. Including City participation, the rebate for a high-efficiency Samsung model purchased at Home Depot or Future Shop will be \$400.

Changes from last year are:

- BC Hydro has extended the spring campaign from one month to two months; and
- Energy and water performance metrics have been updated to align with new federal standards coming in effect March 7, 2015.

Staff recommend that the City partner with BC Hydro to match rebate offers on high efficiency washing machines similar to last year.

Estimated Savings

Clothes washers rank second in indoor water use (after toilets), accounting for approximately 21% of indoor household water consumption. Table 1 outlines the estimated annual reduction in electrical consumption, water consumption, and GHG emissions per clothes washer replacement.

Table 1: Estimated Energy, Water, and GHG Savings

Total Rebate Amount	City Contribution	BC Hydro Contribution	Electricity Savings	Water Savings	GHG Savings
\$100 (Top-loading)	\$50	\$50	92 kWh/year	61,285 litres/year	0.03 tCO ₂ e/year
\$100 (Front-loading)	\$50	\$50	160 kWh/year	63,787 litres/year	0.05 tCO ₂ e/year
\$200 (Front-loading)	\$100	\$100	256 kWh/year	64,858 litres/year	0.07 tCO ₂ e/year

The proposed \$100 rebate will be offered to front-loading clothes washers with IMEF of 2.76-2.94 and IWF of 3.5 or less and to top-loading clothes washers with IMEF of 2.30 or higher and IWF of 4.2 or less. The proposed \$200 rebate will be offered to clothes washers with IMEF of 2.94 or higher and IWF of 3.2 or less.

Roles and Responsibilities

City and BC Hydro roles and responsibilities are outlined in Table 2. BC Hydro will be responsible for carrying out program administration and associated activities, and the City will be responsible for providing funding to supplement the BC Hydro rebate and advertising the rebate program within Richmond.

Table 2: City and BC Hydro Roles and Responsibilities

City of Richmond	BC Hydro
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding to supplement the existing 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 • Verify applicants' eligibility, as determined by the City • 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 \$88,800 remaining in 2015. The uptake on toilet and washing machine rebates has a high degree of variability. Staff will monitor participation and report back to Council after the May/June clothes washer promotion if there is higher than anticipated participation.

BC Hydro will cover all costs associated with program administration.

Conclusion

The City has an opportunity to partner with BC Hydro in providing rebate incentives to residents for purchasing efficient clothes washers. BC Hydro will be responsible for administering the rebates, which will be offered May, June and October of this year. Staff recommend that the City participates in this combined rebate program which provides a rebate of up to \$200, equally cost shared between BC Hydro and the City, and that the scope of the existing toilet rebate program funding be expanded to include clothes washer rebates.

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LB:cd