



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: February 21, 2019

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

File: 10-6060-01/2019-Vol
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Re: 2019 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

Staff Recommendation

1. That the City of Richmond partner with BC Hydro to the end of 2019 to offer a combined rebate of \$100 for both spring and fall campaigns, equally cost shared between BC Hydro and the City, for the replacement of inefficient clothes washers with new high efficiency clothes washers; and
2. 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. In 2018, the program offered a rebate of up to \$100, which was equally cost-shared between BC Hydro and the City.

BC Hydro is offering the Clothes Washer Rebate Program again in 2019 and is requesting that the City continue its participation.

This program 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

The 2018 Clothes Washer Rebate Program issued 149 rebates at a cost of \$7,450 to the City. Over 900 rebates have been issued to date at a total cost of \$66,300 to the City, resulting in annual savings in water and energy of 3,442,000 liters per year and 88,110 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 2018.

2019 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

The proposed 2019 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.

In addition to recommended City participation, BC Hydro will also seek industry partners to match their rebate, increasing the total rebate amount for eligible clothes washers.

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 single tier rebate of \$50 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 2019 campaigns.
- The proposed spring and fall campaigns will run from April 5 to May 31, 2019 and October 1 to November 29, 2019, subject to coordination with BC Hydro.

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 and Clothes Washer Rebate Program. The Toilet and Clothes Washer Rebate Program has an annual budget of \$100,000. 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 both spring and fall campaigns, equally shared between BC Hydro and the City, and that rebates be funded from the Toilet and Clothes Washer Rebate Program.



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