



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee
From: John Irving, P.Eng. MPA
Director, Engineering
Re: **2016 Clothes Washer Rebate Program**

Date: February 18, 2016
File: 10-6060-01/2016-Vol
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Staff Recommendation

1. That the City of Richmond partner with BC Hydro to the end of 2016 to offer rebates of up to \$200, 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.

FOR John Irving, P.Eng. MPA
Director, Engineering
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REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Water Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW	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.

In 2014 and 2015, the City 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 2016 and is requesting that the City continue its participation.

The 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

2014/2015 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

To date, the Clothes Washer Rebate Program has issued 294 rebates at a total cost of \$20,200 to the City resulting in an estimated annual savings in water and energy of 1,655,600 liters per year and 53,800 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 2015.

2016 Clothes Washer Rebate Program

The proposed 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 has also partnered 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:

- City partners with BC Hydro to offer a combined Clothes Washer Rebate Program, 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 clothes washer;

- The proposed spring and fall campaign will run from May 1 to June 30 and October 1 to November 30 of this year.

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 • 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 \$91,400 remaining in 2016. 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 combined rebate program which provides a rebate of up to \$200, equally 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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