

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: WATER CONSERVATION - PILOT TOILET REBATE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council authorize staff to undertake a pilot water-efficient toilet rebate program for a period of one year as part of the City's ongoing water conservation strategy, as outlined in this report.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2010 February 09, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council's approval to undertake a pilot water-efficient toilet rebate program for a period of one year (2010 April 01 – 2011 April 01) as an extension of the City's ongoing water conservation strategy. Funds are available in the 2010 Engineering Operating Budget to provide a \$50 per household rebate under this pilot program.

At the end of the pilot period, staff will assess the general public response to this initiative and report back for possible extension of the program. An education and outreach plan will be implemented to raise awareness of the pilot rebate initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Vice Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Member

<p>Copied to: City Manager Director Engineering Director Finance Director Planning & Building Chief Building Inspector</p>
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2010 February 02

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 39500 04

SUBJECT: WATER CONSERVATION – PILOT TOILET REBATE PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To seek approval from Council to undertake a pilot water-efficient toilet rebate program for a period of one year as part of the City's ongoing water conservation strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend Council to authorize staff to undertake a pilot water-efficient toilet rebate program for a period of one year as a part of City's ongoing water conservation strategy as outlined in this report.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Within the Metro Vancouver region, residents use more than 325L of potable water per day in their homes. In order to conserve this resource, it is important that water efficient measures are encouraged to reduce the amount of potable water used, the waste water discharged and the costs associated with the delivery of these services. To this end, the City, as part of its commitment to the regional Drinking Water Management Plan, has undertaken a number of actions over the past years such as responding to complaints regarding extended outdoor lawn sprinkling, selling subsidized indoor and outdoor water conservation kits and rain barrels to Burnaby residents, and having a strong water conservation public outreach program.

This report seeks approval from the Committee and Council to undertake a pilot water-efficient toilet rebate program for a period of one year (2010 April 01 – 2011 April 01) as an extension of the City's ongoing water conservation strategy.

2.0 PILOT WATER-EFFICIENT TOILET REBATE PROGRAM

All buildings permitted and constructed after 2005 September 30 are required to install water-efficient toilets in accordance with the amended B.C. Water Conservation Plumbing Regulation. However, there has been no mechanism or incentive to actively encourage residential home owners whose homes have been constructed prior to this period to replace their exiting functioning toilets with water-efficient toilets which use 6L or less water per flush. To this end, staff proposes a pilot water-efficient toilet rebate program for Council's consideration for a period of one year starting 2010 April 01. The eligibility criteria of the pilot program would be as follows:

- It applies only to single and two family homes constructed and occupied prior to 2005 September 30.
- A \$50 rebate may be given to a property owner for replacement of each existing functioning 13L toilet with a 6L or less water-efficient toilet upon submitting a complete application to the City which includes as a minimum:
 - original receipts showing manufacturer's name and model number;
 - date stamped photographs showing the old toilet in place, the old toilet and tank removed and the new 6L toilet in place.
 - acceptance to a site inspection by City staff if required.
- An application to the City must be submitted by the property owner within two months of purchasing and installing water-efficient toilet(s).
- An eligible property owner may only receive a maximum of \$100 (two water efficient toilets) in rebate for his/her property.
- A property owner is not eligible for a rebate if the water-efficient toilet was purchased and installed prior to the start of the pilot project.
- A property owner holding a permit for renovation of a bathroom for the property cannot apply for a rebate.
- The property owner is responsible for appropriate disposal of the old toilet(s).

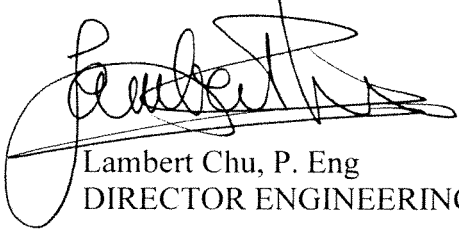
A sum of \$10,000 has been allocated in the 2010 Engineering Water operating budget to fund the rebate program. The average market price of a new 6L toilet and tank set is approximately \$200. In order to raise the awareness of the pilot rebate program, staff will undertake an education and outreach program which could include advertising in local newspapers, placing posters at all civic facilities, including an article in Info Burnaby and City website, and informing applicable local retailers. It is estimated that the use of water efficient toilets could reduce the daily personal potable water consumption by up to 10%.

To: Environment Committee
From: Director Engineering
Re: Water Conservation – Pilot Toilet Rebate Program
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3.0 CONCLUSION

Over the years, the City has taken a number of actions to encourage conservation of water in daily use. As an extension of this, staff is seeking approval from Council to undertake a pilot water-efficient toilet rebate program targeting single and two family homes constructed and occupied prior to 2005 September. While installation of water-efficient toilets is a requirement in all buildings constructed after 2005 September, there are a large percentage of homes constructed prior to this period which are still using toilets with flushing capacity of 13L or more. The pilot rebate program is envisioned to take place over a period of one year starting 2010 April 01. Funds are available in the 2010 Engineering operating budget to provide a \$50 per household rebate under the pilot toilet rebate program. At the end of the pilot period, staff will assess the general public response to this initiative and report back to the Committee and Council for possible extension of the program. An education and outreach plan will be implemented to raise awareness of the pilot rebate initiative.

It is recommended that the proposed pilot program as outlined in this report be approved.



Lambert Chu, P. Eng
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

DD:br

Copied to: City Manager
Director Finance
Director Planning and Building
Chief Building Inspector