

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: ELECTRIC HAND DRYERS - CITY GREEN TEAM INITIATIVE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve an expenditure of \$60,000 from the Gaming Fund for the retrofit of electric hand dryers across existing field houses/washrooms, as outlined in this report.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2013 November 20, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council approval to undertake a retrofit project to replace paper towel dispensers in the City's field houses/washrooms with electric hand dryers.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Vice Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Member

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| Copied to: | City Manager Director Finance Director Engineering Director Parks, Recr. & Cult. Services |
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2013 November 14

FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE

FILE: 2410-20

SUBJECT: ELECTRIC HAND DRYERS - CITY GREEN TEAM INITIATIVE

PURPOSE: To seek approval from the Committee and Council to undertake a retrofit project to replace paper towel dispensers in the City's field houses/washrooms with electric hand dryers.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend Council approve an expenditure of \$60,000 from the Gaming Fund for the retrofit of electric hand dryers across existing field houses/washrooms as outlined in this report.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

In 2011, hand dryers were installed and paper towels were eliminated in one of the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex West change rooms following a vandalism incident. The initial change, while prompted by vandalism, significantly reduced garbage/litter and eliminated the need for refilling the paper towel dispensers. A similar conversion to electric hand dryers followed after the Confederation field house fire as part of the 2012 restoration project, as well as recent installations at Barnet Beach Field house West and at the Kensington Pitch and Putt.

2.0 FINDINGS

Initial findings, in discussions with staff from Parks Operations and Facilities Management, have indicated strong support for ongoing deployment of the electric hand dryers. Aside from labour savings and operational efficiencies this program presents several key environmental, social and fiscal benefits including:

- improved accessibility for some of our parks users
- reduction of fuel consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions for call outs to the facilities
- elimination of paper towel theft and vandalized dispenser units
- reduction in paper usage and related supply costs
- reduction in maintenance costs by Facilities Management and Parks Operations staff
- reduction of garbage, litter and waste
- reduction of vandalism and fire risk

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Parks Operations staff have indicated that they have received little to no complaints from users since the conversion to the electric hand dryers.

Installation costs range from \$1,500 to \$2,000 depending on the facility. Some facilities may have more than one unit depending on washroom configuration. Staff would work to retrofit up to 20 sites within the expenditure budget of \$60,000. There are no maintenance costs for these dryer units, which come with a 10 year warranty and have proven to be reliable, durable, effective and energy efficient.

3.0 PROJECT SCHEDULE

Upon approval by Council, staff would work to identify the facilities and an appropriate roll out schedule for the retrofit to electric hand dryers. It is anticipated that much of this work could be completed within the first few months of 2014.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Through the work of the Environment Committee, there is a clear desire to ensure that the City remains at the forefront of a sustainable approach in all its initiatives. The Green Team is providing a forum for greater stewardship by City staff as we focus on the economic, environmental, and social aspects of purchasing decisions through the use of the Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines.

Given the findings from the initial installations of hand dryers at select field houses/washrooms, and the strong support from staff to move toward a more sustainable offering for our stakeholders across the City, it is recommended that Council endorse this initiative to replace paper towel dispensers with electric hand dryers across existing field houses/washrooms.



Denise Jorgenson
DIRECTOR FINANCE

DJ:GC/ab

Copied to: Director Engineering
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services