

# **Community Energy Innovation Fund (CEIF)**

## **Description of the Program and Goals**

Energy Evolution: Ottawa's Community Energy Transition Strategy is a community wide initiative to transition Ottawa to city powered by clean, renewable energy. It also moves the city closer to attaining its goal of an 80% reduction of GHG emissions below 2012 levels by 2050. The strategy has proposed that a Community Energy Innovation Fund (CEIF) be established to help community partners advance energy conservation, energy efficiency, or renewable energy generation in Ottawa.

## **Source of Funding**

In 2018, the fund will originate from the tax base and be a grant program. In future years, it is intended that amounts exceeding the Hydro Ottawa budgeted \$20 million annual dividend be directed to the CEIF.

## **Uses of Funding**

The development of a Community Energy Innovation Fund is intended to seed the development of viable energy efficiency opportunities and savings as well as longer term planning for Ottawa's low carbon future. Sources of investment may include dividends from Hydro Ottawa when those fund exceed estimates in the City's Long Range Financial Plan. In 2018, staff will bring a report to Council on the mandate, financing and governance of the fund for the longer term.

The fund will be used to support community wide initiatives that support a sustained transition away from our dependence on fossil fuels and the goals of the Energy Evolution: Ottawa's Community Energy Transition Strategy. This may include the following

- Projects that increase the amount of local and regional renewable energy production in Ottawa. Such a project could pave the way for successive similar projects that may or may not receive Community Energy Innovation Funding.
- Support for a community organization that administers supporting programs in the fields of energy efficiency or the transformation to new renewable or low carbon energy sources
- Development of an energy efficiency technology or renewable energy technology

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply to CEIF, applicants must:

- The application process and eligibility criteria will be further defined in 2018 when funding becomes available.

## **Assessment Criteria**

Projects or programs will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Projects or programs shall take place in Ottawa
- Ability to reasonably establish feasibility of proposals
- Ability to reduce GHG emissions or increase production of local renewable energy
- Ability of an initiative to encourage widespread adoption of a practice or technology
- Financial viability
- Where possible, the project leverages existing community partnerships and resources to advance the goals of Energy Evolution: Ottawa's Community Energy Transition Strategy.
- Meets one or more goals of Energy Evolution: Ottawa's Community Energy Transition Strategy including:
  - Help meet or exceed locally established energy reduction targets
  - Develop local renewable energy generation opportunities
  - Improved energy security
  - Greater opportunities for residents to own or invest in local energy systems and businesses
  - Reduce environmental impact
  - Complement long term municipal land use, transportation and infrastructure master plans
  - Advance economic development objectives, and
  - Bring groups together to facilitate info sharing and development of joint solutions.
- Delivers secondary benefits such as reduced local noise and air pollution, or increased energy security
- How the project lends itself to being scaled up in the future

### **Submission Requirements**

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- A short description of the project
- A project work plan that clearly states the actions to be undertaken to achieve the project goals and objectives.
- A feasibility plan for how the project will be sustained after City funding is completed.
- The project includes measurable impacts with an evaluation component built into the project design that will allow the City and other stakeholders to assess those impacts and how the project might be scaled up in the future.
- Provide a project budget clearly outlining the funding request and any contributions to be made by the applicant or partners

## How to apply:

The application process and eligibility criteria will be further defined in 2018 when funding becomes available. Some of this criteria will include:

1. Indicate your interest in the program
  - Email or mail to receive the application form  
Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department (PIED)  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1  
[ceif@ottawa.ca](mailto:ceif@ottawa.ca)
2. Submit your initial application
  - Applications will be reviewed by an internal application selection team three times a year, until funds have been exhausted.
  - Applications requiring a third party project manager require identification of that requirement as part of the applicant's application. Costs for this party are to be included in the application
  - Organizations may also be contacted by PIED at any point in the application process if additional information is required regarding the organization and / or project.
3. Decisions on applications
  - All organizations will be contacted and informed within a week of the completion of the review of the application if they have been successful
  - A legal agreement and non-disclosure documents will be prepared and signed
  - Funds will be paid at established project milestones.
  - Selected projects will also be announced.