
News Release

RICHMOND HILL MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS TO RECEIVE ENERGY-EFFICIENCY UPGRADES THANKS TO FEDERAL GAS TAX FUNDING

Richmond Hill, Ontario, September 8, 2009 – The Town of Richmond Hill is getting ready to do more with less – less energy that is. Thanks to a more than \$1.1-million investment from the Government of Canada’s Gas Tax Fund, the Town will improve its energy efficiency and become more reliant on renewable energy in the next few months.

“Our Government understands the importance of supporting infrastructure projects that create jobs, stimulate the economy and improve our environment,” said Paul Calandra, Member of Parliament for Oak Ridges-Markham. “This Gas Tax investment will not only provide more cost effective energy, but will also support environmentally sustainable energy generation.”

“Our Town is a leader in promoting and implementing energy-efficient practices, technologies and alternative sources of power,” said Mayor Dave Barrow. “Thanks to the Government of Canada and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, we’ll be able to install even more renewable energy sources, and upgrade our municipal facilities to make use of energy efficient lighting, heating and solar power.”

The Town of Richmond Hill was granted \$4.3 million in gas tax transfers in 2009, bringing the total received since 2005 to \$10.7 million. To be completed within the next two years, the energy upgrades represent a significant Town investment in environmentally friendly technology.

The funds will be used to install renewable energy sources at three Town facilities, including solar heating and snow melting systems at the Shaw House in Phyllis Rawlinson Park, a solar pool heating system at the Bayview Hill Community Centre and a small wind turbine, solar electrical panels at Richmond Green Park. Other projects, some of which are already completed, include the replacement of exit lighting at the Main Municipal Offices and Richmond Green with LED signs and commissioning a detailed energy audit for 10 buildings. The projects are expected to save the Town \$200,000 annually and reduce total greenhouse gas by 300 tonnes each year.

“The federal Gas Tax Fund acknowledges that all orders of government must work together to address the pressing need for infrastructure investment in Ontario,” said Peter Hume, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). “The funding is supporting hundreds

of important infrastructure projects and is critical to job creation, Ontario's competitiveness and environmental sustainability.”

Federal gas tax funding is being shared with municipalities to support municipal infrastructure projects that promote cleaner water and air and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Applicable projects include public transit, water and waste water systems, solid waste management and community energy systems. From 2007-08 to 2013-14, Canadian municipalities will receive a total of \$11.8 billion in gas tax funding.

Each province and territory has its own Federal Gas Tax Fund Agreement with the Federal Government. In Ontario, Association of Municipalities of Ontario is primarily responsible for distribution of the funds to all Ontario municipalities, with the exception of the City of Toronto.

The Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan is accelerating and expanding an existing federal investment of \$33 billion in infrastructure with almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over the next two years.

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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**Please view the attached “Backgrounder: Richmond Hill Energy Efficient Projects” for additional information on the Town’s energy efficiency projects.*

Backgrounder: Richmond Hill Energy Efficient Projects

2009-2010 Project Highlights

Municipal Offices at 225 East Beaver Creek Road – Three hundred incandescent exit signs at the administrative building have already been replaced with light-emitting diode (LED) signs, saving 80 per cent of energy consumption and extending sign life to about 15 years.

Richmond Green – A small wind turbine and solar panels will be installed at the Operations Centre at 1200 Elgin Mills Road East. The renewable energy sources are expected to produce eight kilowatts of energy, enough to provide constant interior lighting at the facility. In addition, incandescent exit signs will be replaced in the next few months with the new LED variety. The wind turbine is expected to be operational by fall 2009.

Bayview Hill Community Centre and Pool – A solar pool water heating system will be installed, with construction expected to begin in September.

Shaw House – Solar heating and a snow melting system will be installed for this historic dwelling, home to the Robert Holland Interpretive Centre.

Richvale Library – This facility's furnace is at the end of its lifecycle and will be replaced by an energy efficient model.

Energy Audits – Ten Town facilities, including the Municipal Offices, the Operations Centre, swimming pools and community centres, will be the subject of detailed energy audits thanks to the Gas Tax Fund. More audits will be completed in coming years. The comprehensive energy audits will cover everything from exterior windows to interior lighting and heating and will set the stage for more projects in the future.

The Town of Richmond Hill's Clean Air and Energy Initiatives

Since 1996, the Town has actively participated in Clean Air Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address health concerns arising from deteriorating air quality in our community and across the Greater Toronto Area. The Town is also involved in a variety of other projects and activities that will have a positive impact on climate change, including purchasing hybrid vehicles, applying LEED standards to new buildings, energy saving requirements in new homes, geothermal applications at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, water recirculation at Crosby Park, partnerships like the 404-7 Smart Commute, the development of an energy management plan, an anti-idling policy and much more.

In April 2008, the Town installed a Solar Water Heating System on the roof of the Municipal Offices. The system is expected to save the Town \$9,000 a year in heating costs. The Town has also begun monitoring and controlling energy consumption in its facilities through a Building Automation System.

*This document was produced by Communication Services Division staff, Department of the CAO,
at the Town of Richmond Hill*