

Town gets \$175K for climate change plan

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The Town of Halton Hills will receive \$175,000 from the federal government for an initiative the town says will break new ground in municipal climate change adaptation planning.

The announcement from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), which came on Thursday (Oct. 19), is the first set of grant funding through two new programs funded by the federal government.

In total, \$6.8 million has been provided for initiatives in 103 communities across the country. FCM said one of the programs aims to help communities with asset management, while the other focuses on innovative green initia-

tives.

"Municipalities can affect 50 per cent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions, so it's important they are part of the solution."

FCM now has a few different programs to help municipalities improve the environment in their community, and there are quite a number of innovative projects underway," said FCM in a release.

"These new programs will help municipalities to plan, build and maintain their infrastructure more strategically, and will enable them to invest in infrastructure projects reducing greenhouse gas emissions and better preparing for the impacts of climate change," said Amarjeet Sohi, minister of infrastructure and communities.

Addressing climate change was identified as a priority for the 2014 to 2018 council term, and the funds will be put toward developing the town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan using the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) tool - a framework utilized by several municipalities across the country.

"Town staff are keen to apply to this grant, as the additional funding would enable the town to go well beyond the minimum standards set by BARC," said town staff in a memo to council on April 3, 2017.

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