



## Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of March 26, 2020

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** March 17, 2020  
**From:** Philip Bellefontaine, Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works  
**Subject:** Agreement for Participation in the CleanBC Home and Workplace EV Charging Program

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### RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorise:

- a) the City to enter into a partnering agreement for a term of one year until March 31, 2021 with the Government of British Columbia and the BC Hydro and Power Authority to provide a service, the CleanBC Home and Workplace EV Charging Program, on behalf of the City, subject to Council providing notice to the public pursuant to s. 24 of the *Community Charter*; and
- b) any amendments to the partnering agreement that are substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement, provided that the form and contents are satisfactory to the City Solicitor and the Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works; and
- c) the City to renew the partnering agreement for further successive periods of one year each.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City established renewable energy targets in its Climate Leadership Plan (CLP) that include a transition to 30% renewable energy powered passenger vehicles by 2030 and 100% renewable energy powered passenger vehicles by 2050. In recognition that these are ambitious targets requiring City support, a number of actions are planned, including fulfillment of a commitment by Council to support adoption of Zero Emission Vehicles. In the November 2019 report to Council titled "2019 Climate Action Strategy – Proposed Programs and Initiatives" Council adopted a recommendation to allocate \$75,000 to "Program matching funds – Zero Emissions Fed/Prov programs".

These funds were set aside in recognition of a number of factors:

- The City is experiencing renewable powered vehicle adoption growth at rates in excess of 50% per year based on local electric vehicle (EV) sales. This rate, if sustained, is sufficient to meet City targets, however almost all EVs sold in Victoria are to residents living in single-family homes with access to home charging. It is estimated that 70-90% of all EV charging occurs at home. As 67% of Victorians live in multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs) the majority of city residents do not have access to home charging.
- Providing access to "at home" EV charging for residents of MURBs is an essential step to ensure sustained adoption of EVs and an important mechanism to support equity.

- EVs have been shown to operate with much lower fuel and maintenance costs than conventional internal combustion engine vehicles and are increasingly viewed as a means to address broader household affordability concerns.
- Retrofitting MURBs with EV chargers is more expensive than a single-family home. While costs vary widely, it is estimated that providing a Level 2 (240 volt) charger in a MURB will cost \$6,000 and in a single-family home less than \$2,000.
- Beyond the additional infrastructure expense, MURB residents face extra barriers restricting access to at home EV charging. These barriers include obtaining support from strata councils, ensuring building electrical capacity is available, managing shared or dedicated chargers and managing billing for use of chargers.

In 2013, recognizing the need to support EV charging infrastructure in existing MURBs, the Province launched the *Multi Unit Residential Building Charging Program* through the Plug-in BC initiative. The program provided up to \$4,500 or 75% of total costs per Level 2 charging station. The program was very successful and typically fully subscribed within a few months of launch in each of its years of operation. This program was replaced in September 2019 with the *CleanBC Go Electric EV Charger Rebate Program* (the "Program").

The new Program continues to support retrofitting MURBs, providing up to 50% of purchase and installation costs of eligible, new, Level 2 charging stations or energized outlets to a maximum of \$14,000 (up to a maximum of \$2,000 per station). The latest information from the Province indicates that of the 71 apartment rebates issued thus far, only six (6) were for Victoria apartments.

The Province has engaged BC Hydro and Fortis BC to administer and deliver the Province's Program. Under section 21 of the *Community Charter*, municipalities can provide assistance to a business, person, or organization that provides a service on behalf of the City under the terms of a partnering agreement. BC Hydro will be providing the service to the City of implementing and administering the Program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the City.

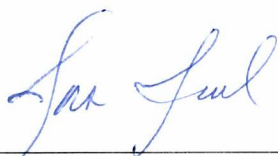
Topping up the Program requires the execution of a partnering agreement with the Government of British Columbia and the BC Hydro and Power Authority. In entering the agreement, the City intends to commit \$50,000 to provide up to 25 top-ups of \$2,000 per charger install in Victoria apartments. In providing this contribution, Victoria apartment building owners will be able to receive up to 75% of the installation cost of EV chargers. The remaining \$25,000 of the funds approved by Council in November 2019, are currently reserved for alternative provincial/federal programs supporting EV charging in MURBs, however they may be added to this program in future based on the uptake of these incentives and availability of alternative programs.

The Program also provides rebates for charger installs in workplaces and single-family homes. Currently, the City has no plans to provide a municipal top-up in these areas.

## CONCLUSIONS

In providing authorization for the partnering agreement, Council will enable an action in the Council report "2019 Climate Action Strategy – Proposed Programs and Initiatives". The agreement will provide City residents with lack of access to EVs with a better opportunity to enjoy their benefits, while attracting additional provincial investment to the City and supporting implementation of the City's Climate Leadership Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



*for* Laura Berndt  
Manager, Energy and Climate Action



Philip Bellefontaine  
Acting Director, Engineering and Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

  
Date: March 20, 2020