

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the City of Blainville's feasibility study of a municipal geothermal energy service

January 25, 2011, Blainville, Que. – Jocelyne Guertin, member of the National Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and councillor for the City of Laval, and the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant for the City of Blainville. The city has invested the \$277,400 in funding to undertake a feasibility study of a municipal renewable geothermal energy service.

“FCM's Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments,” said Ms. Guertin. “The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.”

“The Government of Canada is assisting municipalities across the country in achieving their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians through the Green Municipal Fund,” said Minister Paradis. “Today's announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with FCM — is helping the city of Blainville build a greener future for our citizens.”

The city has launched a study of the technical and financial feasibility of municipal production and distribution of renewable geothermal energy. The municipal organization *Énergie Renouvelable Blainville* (ERB) will manage this process. To achieve its objective of becoming a municipal environmental leader, Blainville will use the Chambéry Project — a 250-hectare residential development with a 50-hectare greenbelt — to conduct the feasibility study.

The pilot project will produce sufficient geothermal energy for 36 residential units in six buildings. It will evaluate the technical and economic aspects of this type of energy production and assess its potential on a larger scale. The geothermal energy installation is expected to deliver a renewable energy supply that will account for about 44 per cent of the buildings' total energy consumption (compared to baseline measurements) if they were using a non-renewable energy source such as oil or natural gas. The study's potential on a larger scale promises even greater environmental benefits. With the eventual expansion of ERB service to the entire Chambéry Project as well to other clients in the city, greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced by as much as 1,235 tonnes.

“The City of Blainville appreciates the support of the Green Municipal Fund for our feasibility study”, says Mayor François Cantin. “The energy and environmental advantages anticipated as a result of the study's successful completion foresee an annual reduction of the equivalent of 88.98 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Such a reduction will make Blainville an even better place to live.”

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish the Green Municipal Fund™. The Fund supports partnerships and leveraging of both public and private-sector funding to reach higher standards of air, water and soil quality, and climate protection.

FCM has been the national voice of municipal governments since 1901. It fosters the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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