



NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund supports the Toronto Community Housing's building-mounted wind turbine study

July 16, 2011, Toronto, Ont. – Berry Vrbanovic, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and councillor for the City of Kitchener, Ont., today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) grant contribution for Toronto Community Housing. The agency put the \$175,000 in funding toward a study of the feasibility of mounting wind turbines on multi-storey social housing units in the urban core.

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

Toronto Community Housing, Canada's largest social housing provider with more than 164,000 tenants living in over 58,500 housing units, continually seeks to reduce energy costs to make more funds available for tenant priorities like maintenance and repairs. Toronto Community Housing studied the feasibility of harnessing wind energy as a sustainable resource at 11 of its 170 high-rise apartment buildings. The first stage of the feasibility study involved creating mathematical models to calculate potential energy yields by measuring wind speed on the roofs of four of the buildings and analysing data from Environment Canada's wind atlas and other sources.

The field test that would have been the second stage of the study was cancelled when those models calculated that it would take 113 years for the projected energy yields to cover the cost of acquiring and installing the equipment.

Wind energy from building-mounted turbines will remain an option for Toronto Community Housing in the future. Today, equipment costs are high because there are no off-the-shelf solutions. As building-mounted turbine technology matures and a roof-mounted design standard is established, prices should fall dramatically, while energy costs are expected to continue their rise.

“The results of this study will help Toronto Community Housing and other landlords make smart energy investments that deliver the best results for the environment and the financial bottom line. For us, this kind of information is absolutely crucial to meeting our goal of investing our resources wisely and well,” said Len Koroneos, Toronto Community Housing's CEO.

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.

Toronto Community Housing (www.torontohousing.ca) is Canada's largest social housing provider and home to more than 164,000 tenants with low and moderate incomes -- about six per cent of the City of Toronto's population. Toronto Community Housing employs 1,400 staff in a broad range of jobs, who deliver its mandate to provide affordable housing, connect tenants to services and opportunities, and work together to build healthy communities.

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