

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023**

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**SUBJECT**     **Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program - Delivery Organizations Grant Application**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

A Capital Regional District (CRD) Board resolution is required per the CRD's delegation bylaw for a grant application to Natural Resource Canada's Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program for a Delivery Organizations Electric Vehicle Charger Assistance program.

**BACKGROUND**

CRD staff have been implementing the Capital Region Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Roadmap, which includes supporting CRD services, local governments and external stakeholders with installing EV charging stations for fleet, residential and public use. Continued investment in EV infrastructure is required to achieve zero-emission vehicle targets.

Natural Resource Canada's (NRCAN) Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP) - Delivery Organizations funding is an opportunity for organizations to design and implement a funding program to redistribute funds locally to meet local and regional EV charging goals.

The CRD is well positioned to access funding to deliver a regional Electric Vehicle Charger Assistance program. This program aims to access up to \$1,581,251 of NRCAN ZEVIP funds to provide rebates for up to 175 Level 2 chargers and 10 Level 3 chargers across the region. Should the CRD's application be successful, the CRD Climate Action Service would take on the role of the delivery organization to redistribute funds to eligible recipients for public EV infrastructure projects. Eligible recipients would be other CRD services, local governments, community organizations and private sector businesses that would participate through an application process. Charging projects intended for workplace (employee) charging, multi-unit residential buildings and fleet would be considered on a site-by-site basis. Ultimate recipients would be eligible for 50% of total project costs, or \$5,000 per Level 2 charger (\$50,000 per Level 3 charger), up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project.

NRCAN's ZEVIP is accepting applications until the end of 2023 or until funds are exhausted.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That staff be directed to apply for, negotiate and, if successful, enter into an agreement and do all such things necessary for accepting grant funds and overseeing grant management to implement a regional Electric Vehicle Charger Assistance Program under the Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program - Delivery Organizations grant.

*Alternative 2*

That staff not apply to the Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program - Delivery Organizations grant.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Environmental & Climate Implications*

The CRD Climate Action Strategy identifies on-road transportation as a major source of regional emissions. To achieve the CRD's regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 61% by 2038, continued advancement on key initiatives is required, including the acceleration of adoption of zero-emission vehicles.

*Intergovernmental Implications*

Staff are working with local governments and electoral area staff through the CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Working Group to execute this project. Outputs of this project may directly support CRD services, local governments, and community organizations in partially funding EV infrastructure projects. Any local government or community organization interested in participating in this program will be required to apply to the CRD detailing their proposed project.

*Financial Implications*

The total final grant application will be for \$1,581,251. This would cover up to 175 Level 2 chargers and 10 Level 3 chargers plus 15% for program administration. The CRD is expected to match the proposed project management contribution from NRCAN as an in-kind contribution, which will be covered within existing service levels. The CRD will be expected to redistribute funds received from NRCAN based on regular grant claims detailing eligible expenses from ultimate recipients. These funds will be released from NRCAN according to grant claim schedules and will not impact core Climate Action Service budgets.

*Service Delivery Implications*

The CRD Climate Action Service will be responsible for overall grant and project management. Legal and Financial Services will support program development and administration. This can be accommodated under existing service levels through to 2026.

*Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

This project aligns with the CRD 2023-2026 Corporate Plan 6b-1 to implement the Capital Region EV Infrastructure Roadmap to support the shift to low-carbon transportation options.

*Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

This project aligns with the CRD Climate Action Strategy actions 3-10 and 3-11 to support a public EV network and encourage uptake of Zero Emission Vehicles and implement the Capital Region EV Charging Roadmap.

**CONCLUSION**

CRD staff have been implementing the Capital Region EV Infrastructure Roadmap, which identifies continued need for investment in charging infrastructure to achieve Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) targets. In addition to current and upcoming programs, applying to the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP) - Delivery Organizations program would put the CRD in the position to be able to support local organizations, businesses, workplaces and multi-unit residential buildings to install ZEV charging infrastructure. As such, CRD staff are seeking approval to pursue NRCAN's ZEVIP application under the Delivery Organizations stream to administer a funding program for public EV charging infrastructure across the capital region.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That staff be directed to apply for, negotiate and, if successful, enter into an agreement and do all such things necessary for accepting grant funds and overseeing grant management to implement a regional Electric Vehicle Charger Assistance Program under the Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program - Delivery Organizations grant.

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