



Report to Council From the Offices of Councillor Meghan Lahti and Councillor Amy Lubik

Date: June 10, 2021

Subject: Municipal Support for the CleanBC Better Homes Program

Purpose

To provide Council with information regarding a resolution passed by the Climate Action Committee about initiating a municipal top-up and heat pump group purchase rebate program under the CleanBC Better Homes program.

Recommendation

THAT \$25,400 be approved to fund Municipal Top-Up Option 1, a municipal top-up rebate and heat pump group purchase rebate program under the CleanBC Better Homes Program, as outlined in Attachment 4 of and recommended in the report dated June 10, 2021 from Councillor Meghan Lahti and Councillor Amy Lubik regarding Municipal Support for the CleanBC Better Homes Program;

AND THAT the budget of \$25,400 be forwarded to the Finance Committee to identify a funding source;

AND THAT staff be directed to implement and coordinate promotion of Municipal Top-Up Option 1 for a CleanBC Better Homes municipal top-up rebate and heat pump group purchase rebate program as outlined in Attachment 4 of the report dated June 10, 2021 from Councillor Meghan Lahti and Councillor Amy Lubik regarding Municipal Support for the CleanBC Better Homes Program;

AND THAT the City of Port Moody invite CleanBC Better Homes Program to present a webinar for the community and the program information be posted on the city website and social media to promote the program.

Background

At the March 22, 2021 Climate Action Committee meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the CleanBC Community Energy Coaches regarding the CleanBC Better Homes program (**Attachment 1**). The Committee passed the following resolution:

CAC21/006

THAT the Climate Action Committee request that staff report back with a potential municipal top-up program for the CleanBC Better Homes rebates, and a community education program to promote the Heat Pump Group Purchase Rebate program and the CleanBC Better Homes rebate program.

CAC21/007

THAT the City of Port Moody invite CleanBC to host a webinar for the community;

AND THAT the CleanBC program information be posted on the City website, City social media, and City print publications, with all posts including a link to the Climate Action Plan.

At the April 26, 2021 Climate Action Committee meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the Sustainability and Energy Coordinator regarding the Draft CleanBC Port Moody Municipal Top-Up Rebate Options (**Attachment 2**). The Committee passed the following resolution:

CAC21/012

THAT Council direct staff to design a Port Moody municipal top-up on the CleanBC Better Homes Program and coordinate administration of the municipal top-up as outlined in Option 1 in the memo dated April 13, 2021 from the Community Development – Policy Planning Division.

AND THAT staff be directed to initiate a heat pump group purchase rebate program under the CleanBC Better Homes Program.

AND THAT up to \$25,400 of funding to support the municipal top-up and heat pump group purchase rebate program be forwarded to Finance Committee to determine a funding source.

Discussion

About the CleanBC Better Homes Program

The [CleanBC Better Homes program](https://betterhomesbc.ca/)¹ assists homeowners and businesses in accessing information and rebates to reduce home energy use and greenhouse gas emissions through retrofits and upgrades. The program is funded by the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada under the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund, and rebates are administered by BC Hydro and FortisBC. CleanBC Better Homes is an integrated offer of incentives, information, and support to help homeowners make informed decisions about energy efficiency and low carbon home solutions. A list of current CleanBC Better Homes rebates can be found in **Attachment 3**.

¹ CleanBC Better Homes: <https://betterhomesbc.ca/>

Local Government Initiatives to Support CleanBC Better Homes

The CleanBC Better Homes program allows local governments to offer tailored municipal top-up rebates on existing CleanBC Better Homes rebates. Local governments can choose to provide top-ups to several existing rebate streams (outlined in **Attachment 4**) that support local priorities such as the [Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP)² goals and targets. Municipalities offering top-ups provide a budget to the CleanBC Better Homes administration team and support the program by promoting the municipal and provincial rebate offers through promotion channels. The CleanBC program sets the value per each rebate and the number of top-up rebates available is determined based on the total budget provided by the municipality. There is no additional application process for homeowners to access municipal top-ups as eligibility is automatically assessed when a CleanBC rebate application is submitted.

The [Heat Pump Group Purchase Rebate](#)³ (GPR) is an additional rebate offer that rewards groups of homeowners working together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by switching from an oil, natural gas, or propane heating system to an air source heat pump. Participants are encouraged to spread the word about their heat pump purchase group, as the larger each group becomes, the larger the rebate per home will be. Similar to the municipal top-up, the CleanBC administration team handles administration of the GPR, and promotion is coordinated locally through promotional channels and networks to grow interest and increase the rebate amount per home. Municipalities can start a GPR group and collaborate with community leaders to grow interest and create a larger group of applicants to maximize the rebate per home.

Climate Action Committee Feedback

After the presentation on March 22, 2021 from the CleanBC Community Energy Coaches, the Climate Action Committee directed staff to report back with options that Port Moody could consider when offering a municipal top-up and Heat Pump Group Purchase Rebate Program. A staff memo outlining potential top-up program options was discussed at the following Climate Action Committee meeting on April 26, 2021 (**Attachment 4**). At this meeting, the Climate Action Committee passed a resolution that asks Council to support Option 1 for a municipal top-up, a GPR program, and to direct staff to coordinate implementation and local promotion of the programs as outlined in **Attachment 4**.

The development of a CleanBC Better Homes municipal top-up rebate and participation in the GPR program aligns with the Climate Action Plan and climate emergency declaration by supporting the following CAP goals and targets:

CAP Section 14 Buildings, 14.2 Goals

- Design/construct/renovate buildings that use sources of energy that produce lower amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and energy systems that are more likely to withstand or recover quickly from disruptive events.

² Port Moody Climate Action Plan: <https://www.portmoody.ca/en/services/edocs.ashx?docnumber=511721>

³ CleanBC GPR: <https://betterhomesbc.ca/rebates/gpr/>

CAP Section 14 Buildings, 14.3 Targets

- By 2030, all new and replacement heating and hot water systems are zero emissions
- By 2030, all oil and propane heating and hot water systems are replaced with zero emission systems
- By 2050, all buildings have replaced heating and hot water with zero emission systems

Other Option(s)

1. THAT Municipal Top-Up Option 2 – 50 rebates for \$23,000, as outlined in Attachment 4 of the report dated June 10, 2021 from Councillor Meghan Lahti and Councillor Amy Lubik regarding Municipal Support for the CleanBC Better Homes Program, be endorsed.
2. THAT Municipal Top-Up Option 3 – 12 rebates for \$13,200, as outlined in Attachment 4 of the report dated June 10, 2021 from Councillor Meghan Lahti and Councillor Amy Lubik regarding Municipal Support for the CleanBC Better Homes Program, be endorsed.
3. THAT the report dated June 10, 2021 from Councillor Meghan Lahti and Councillor Amy Lubik regarding Municipal Support for the CleanBC Better Homes Program be received for information.

Financial Implications

Supporting Option 1 for a municipal top-up and supporting the GPR will incur a cost of \$25,400 as outlined in the table below. This amount includes the rebate top-up budget and a budget for local promotion of both programs.

Port Moody Funding	Funding Item
\$2,000	Estimated Group Purchase Rebate (GPR) Communications Support Budget
\$20,400	Top-Up Rebate Budget
\$3,000	Estimated Top-Up Communications Support Budget
\$25,400	Total Estimated Budget required

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

Pending Council endorsement, staff would develop and carry out appropriate communication strategies to support the municipal top-up and GPR.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

The development of a CleanBC Better Homes municipal top-up rebate and participation in the GPR program aligns with the following 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan Objectives:

- broaden the City's sustainability programs; and
- provide leadership in climate change by thinking globally and acting locally.

Attachment(s)

1. CleanBC Rebates, Community Energy Coach Presentation.
2. Draft CleanBC Port Moody Municipal Top-Up Rebate Options Staff Presentation.
3. Better Homes BC, Home Rebates.
4. Memo, Community Development Department, Policy Planning Division, Dated April 13, 2021.

Report Authors

Councillor Meghan Lahti
Chair, Climate Action Committee

Councillor Amy Lubik
Vice-Chair, Climate Action Committee