

Date: April 13, 2022

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
May 11, 2022

Subject

Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Sustainable Communities Award Application for Waste

Recommendation

1. That the City's application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' 2022 Sustainable Communities Awards in the corporate report dated April 13, 2022 entitled "Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Sustainable Communities Award Application for Waste" from the Commissioner of Community Services be endorsed.
2. That a letter of support signed by the Mayor accompany the application attached as Appendix 1 to the report entitled "Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Sustainable Communities Award Application for Waste".

Executive Summary

- The Environment Section of Parks, Forestry, and Environment submitted an application under the waste category for the 2022 Sustainable Communities Awards.
- The 2022 Sustainable Communities Award in the waste category recognizes municipal initiatives that focuses on reducing or diverting solid waste or recovering resources in an innovative manner that could be replicated by other municipalities.
- The City has submitted a project completed as part of the Central Library renovation for consideration.
- The Central Library city-owned items waste diversion project meets the criteria for FCM's 2022 Sustainable Communities Awards.
- FCM requires council approval in order to be eligible for the award. Support is demonstrated in the form of a signed Letter of Support from the Mayor on behalf of Council.

Background

Since 2001, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Sustainable Communities Awards have celebrated sustainability projects that demonstrate environmental responsibility and excellence, and take an integrated approach to yielding social and economic benefits for their communities. The winning projects leverage current and advanced technologies as well as best practices in the area of sustainability and can be replicated and scaled up across Canada to achieve national quality-of-life, sustainability and climate goals. The awards honour the most innovative sustainability and environmental initiatives in five categories:

- Natural Asset Management
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Waste
- Affordable Housing Retrofit
- Community Buildings Retrofit

The City of Mississauga is pursuing an application under the “Waste” category.

Comments

In the “Waste” category, FCM recognizes municipal initiatives that focuses on reducing or diverting solid waste or recovering resources in an innovative manner that could be replicated by other municipalities. The City has submitted a project completed as part of the Central Library renovation for consideration.

As part of our flagship Central Library's major renovation, staff from Library, Space Planning, Procurement, IT and Environment joined together to develop a plan to reduce the amount of city assets that would be sent to landfill – an effort that began in 2020. With a goal of zero-waste in mind, the team worked together to guide the disposition of existing office furniture, bookshelves and other library materials and assets in an environmentally responsible way. This project marks the successful collaboration between several departments to prioritize waste diversion during a major City renovation project – resulting in substantial environmental, community and economic benefits.

In addition to coordinating with internal departments for reuse of City assets, the project leveraged external partnerships to increase the reuse and recycling by donating these materials to not for profit organizations. The commitment and dedication to consider end-of-lifecycle measures of assets exemplified by the individuals and departments involved in this process addressed an often overlooked environmental issue: waste prevention. Working together to leverage each other's skill sets, the project successfully demonstrates the environmental benefits of asset reuse, recycling, and donation for future renovation and construction projects at the City of Mississauga. Through the coordinated efforts in this initiative, it is estimated that 120,064 kg (or 264,696 pounds) of materials was diverted from landfill from Central Library.

Strategic Plan

Through their approach to managing and disposing of surplus assets from Central Library, the project team made significant contributions to the strategic goals supporting the green pillar. The Strategic Plan sets forth three strategic goals for achieving the environmental vision for the City: leading and encouraging environmentally responsible actions; conserving, enhancing and connecting natural environments; and promoting a green culture. Through environmental responsibility and by pursuing a zero-waste approach to managing surplus assets in this project, the team significantly advanced all three of these.

Financial Impact

If the City of Mississauga is the winner of the Sustainable Communities Award, it is expected that staff will be present at the next Sustainable Communities Conference to accept the award. Participation at the conference is eligible for subsidy from FCM, otherwise expenses incurred for participation to be absorbed within operating budget under cost center 24818 Divisional Support Services which has sufficient funding.

Conclusion

The Central Library city-owned items waste diversion project meets the criteria for FCM's 2022 Sustainable Communities Awards. The Environment Section of Parks, Forestry, and Environment submitted an application under the waste category for the 2022 Sustainable Communities Awards. FCM requires council approval in order to be eligible for the award. Support is demonstrated in the form of a signed Letter of Support from the Mayor on behalf of Council (attached as Appendix 1).

Attachments

Appendix 1: Letter of Support

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Robillos", is written over a horizontal line.

Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: Diane Gibson, Environmental Sustainability Supervisor