Report HDR-SS-01-14

To: Chair and Members of the Social Services Committee
From: Rick Moore, Housing Manager
Meeting Date: December 11, 2013
Subject: Social Housing Energy Saving Initiatives
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution SSC07-14; Endorsed by County Council January 9, 2014 per Resolution CC09-14;

Recommendation(s)

**THAT** Report HDR-SS-01-14 regarding the implementation of energy efficient measures for County housing buildings be received for information.

Background

**Washing Machines Converted to Cold Water Washing Only**

As a result of a discussion at the November 13, 2013 Social Services Committee meeting regarding energy savings possibilities, Housing has reviewed various possibilities. It was determined that with Housing covering the costs of electrical, water and sewer utilities that we could improve savings by converting washing machines in the larger adult apartment buildings to cold water cycles only. A survey was conducted to determine the buildings that had multiple washing machines as it is a duty of the landlord to supply hot water services to all tenants. Therefore smaller buildings with only one washer on each floor could not be converted. Buildings with multiple washing machines were selected to offer cold water washing to help save on hot water heating costs. To encourage the use of cold water washing the fee per wash was lowered from $2.00 to $1.00 per wash. There are eight adult buildings throughout the County that could have washers converted. Communities selected are: three locations in Owen Sound, Hanover, Durham, Meaford, Thornbury and Markdale. Technicians have completed the conversions and cold water washing at the selected sites began on October 25, 2013. Tenants will be encouraged to wash their cloths using cold water to help lower the cost of heating the water.
Energy Efficient Lighting Retrofits

Grey County Housing has partnered with hydro suppliers throughout Grey County who are offering lighting retrofits for small business. The program is offered to smaller adult buildings with a lower kilowatt usage. There are thirteen buildings that qualify for the Save on Energy – Small Business Lighting Program. The retrofits will replace ballast and supply energy efficient bulbs in common areas and mechanical rooms throughout the building. Existing T-12 bulbs will be replaced with T-8 bulbs that will produce a cost savings of $20.00 per year per bulb. The program sponsored by Hydro One has approved five housing locations for the retrofits. All retrofit costs are covered by the program except for 50 McNab Street in Chatsworth where Housing will cost share $488.00 towards the project. Other locations that have qualified for the retrofits are: 248 Queen St. – Durham, 315 Bruce St. – Durham, 248 7th Avenue East – Owen Sound and 490 7th Avenue East - Owen Sound. The total amount of future capital budget savings for retrofit work completed is $4941.00. Estimated savings in hydro costs yearly will be $1887.00.

Housing will continue to partner with the other hydro utility suppliers to implement retrofit and energy efficiency programming as they become available.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

Capital and Operational Budgets will be impacted in a positive manner as there will be retrofit construction savings along with hydro savings as the result of reduced kilowatt usage.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

The above initiatives demonstrate leadership in responsible environmental management practices and energy use by partnering with other agencies.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rick Moore
Housing Manager

Director Sign Off: Rod Wyatt, Director of Housing