



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: P. Bridal, Chief Administrative Officer **FILE:** 0230-01
DATE: April 4, 2023

FROM: K. Poole, Director, Community Safety, Lands and Administration

SUBJECT: HOMEZERO COLLECTIVE SOCIETY DELEGATION

In October 2020, Council heard a presentation from the HomeZero Collective Society (HomeZero). The delegation outlined a proposal to convert existing homes, preferably on a neighbourhood basis, from natural gas and hydroelectricity to a combination of geo thermal and solar energy. The proposal was based on a non-profit organization funding the upgrades up front, and individual home owners paying the cost of the retrofits back at costs approximating their monthly utility billings.

Following the presentation, Council passed a resolution to provide \$25,000 towards a feasibility study to be funded by the Climate Action Revolving Fund. The additional funding for the feasibility study was provided by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Community Efficiency Financing Program and BC Hydro. At that time, Administration informed Council that the City would not be obligated in any way beyond the funding proposed for the feasibility study and reviewing the results of the study.

At its Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 13, 2023, HomeZero provided Council with an overview of the results of the feasibility study along with their recommended next steps. These included a proposed Program Design Study along with a Pilot Retrofit for 10 to 15 Homes in the Foothills Neighbourhood.

The Program Design Study cost is estimated at \$220,000. HomeZero is seeking \$175,000 from FCM (80%) and \$45,000 from the City (20%). The Pilot Retrofit cost is estimated at \$1 million. HomeZero is seeking \$500,000 from FCM and \$500,000 from the Pilot Homeowners.

Although Administration is supportive of the overall initiative and would recommend Council notify FCM of their support, Administration does not support providing additional funding beyond the \$25,000 that was provided for the initial feasibility study.

Grants from the City to not-for-profits or registered societies are done through the Council Discretionary Grant process. The budget for this program is \$50,000 per year and typically has two intake periods. In 2022, the City received 19 application from community based organizations requesting \$154,215.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council respectfully decline the \$45,000 funding request from the HomeZero Collective Society for the Program Design Study as described in the memorandum titled "HomeZero Collective Society Delegation" dated April 4, 2023 and respectfully submitted by the Director, Community Safety, Lands and Administration.

AND FURTHER that Council authorize the Mayor to provide a letter of support to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for the HomeZero Collective Society's Program Design Study funding application.

Respectfully submitted:



Kevin Poole

Director, Community Safety, Lands and Administration

