

THE CITY OF EDMONTON
BYLAW 20678
CLEAN ENERGY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TAX BYLAW

WHEREAS:

Council, pursuant to Section 390.3 of the Act, wishes to pass a Clean Energy Improvement Program Tax Bylaw to establish a Clean Energy Improvement Program;

The financing for this Program may be done through the use of Working Capital, or a borrowing up to a maximum of \$20,000,000.00, to fund the Program, which will be repaid by way of a Clean Energy Improvement Tax imposed against the benefitting properties to the maximum amounts established in the Clean Energy Improvement Agreements;

Pursuant to Section 252(2) of the Act, a borrowing made by a municipality to pay for the costs associated with Clean Energy Improvements does not count against the debt limit of a municipality;

A Clean Energy Improvement Program is a tax financing tool designed to fund Clean Energy Improvements that will increase energy efficiency or renewable energy on eligible private properties; and

Alberta Municipal Services Corporation has been appointed the Program Administrator in accordance with the *Clean Energy Improvements Regulation*, Alta Reg 212/2018;

THEREFORE, Edmonton City Council enacts:

PART I - PURPOSE, DEFINITIONS, AND INTERPRETATION

PURPOSE	1	The purpose of this bylaw is to establish a clean energy improvement program in accordance with Part 10, Division 6.1 of the Act, to set out the Program financing mechanism, to set the terms and conditions of that Program, and to authorize the levying of a tax on the tax roll for properties taking part in the Program.
DEFINITIONS	2	In this bylaw:

- (a) “**Act**” means the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26;
- (b) “**Administration Fee**” means an administration fee as defined in Section 1(a) of the Regulations, which shall be 1.575% of the costs of the Eligible Costs of the Clean Energy Improvements, and is not to exceed 5% of the capital cost of the improvement, in a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement;
- (c) “**City**” means The City of Edmonton;
- (d) “**City Manager**” means the City’s chief administrative officer and any authorized delegate;
- (e) “**Clean Energy Improvement**” means a clean energy improvement as defined in Section 390.1 of the Act;
- (f) “**Clean Energy Improvement Agreement**” means an agreement entered into between the City and an Owner in accordance with Section 390.4 of the Act;
- (g) “**Clean Energy Improvement Tax**” means a tax intended to repay the cost of a Clean Energy Improvement in accordance with Division 6.1 of Part 10 the Act;
- (h) “**Designated Industrial Property**” means designated industrial property as defined in Section 284(1)(f.01) of the Act;
- (i) “**Eligible Costs**” means the cost of the Clean Energy Improvement including the capital cost of the improvement, the labor, professional services, and any incidental costs.
- (j) “**Mayor**” means the City’s chief elected official as defined in Section (1)(1)(d) of the Act;
- (k) “**Net-Zero**” means a building that generates as much energy as it consumes on an annual basis;
- (l) “**Owner**” means the owner of Property in the City that is applying to take part in the Program;

- (m) **“Program”** means a clean energy improvement program established and operating under the terms of Division 6.1 of the Act;
- (n) **“Program Administrator”** means Alberta Municipal Services Corporation as appointed in accordance with the Regulations;
- (o) **“Property”** means the property on which an Owner is applying to affix a Clean Energy Improvement;
- (p) **“Regulations”** means the *Clean Energy Improvements Regulation*, Alta Reg 212/2018; and
- (q) **“Working Capital”** means the City's short-term investment vehicles, such as money market or short-term bond funds, which are commonly employed for managing the City's daily operational needs and short-term obligations.

RULES FOR INTERPRETATION

3 The marginal notes and headings in this bylaw are for ease of reference only.

PART II - CREATION OF THE PROGRAM

IMPLEMENTATION

- 4 (1) The City, through the City Manager, shall implement a Program on the terms and conditions outlined in this Bylaw.
- (2) The City Manager may delegate any authority under this bylaw.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

- 5 (1) The City shall enter into an agreement, pursuant to Section 6 of the Regulations, to have the Program Administrator act as the program administrator of the Program for the City.
- (2) The City Manager shall have the authority to approve and enter into the agreement with the Program Administrator.
- (3) When exercising duties under the Program, the Program Administrator shall not act as an agent of the City.

AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CLEAN ENERGY IMPROVEMENT

6 The City Manager shall have the authority to approve and enter into a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement with an Owner.

AGREEMENT

PART III - REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY

ELIGIBLE PROPERTY

- 7 (1) Any property located in the City and classified, pursuant to Section 297 of the Act, as:
- (a) residential;
 - (b) non-residential; or
 - (c) farmland;
- may be eligible to take part in the Program.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), manufactured homes, mobile homes and Designated Industrial Property are not eligible for a Clean Energy Improvement.

ELIGIBLE CLEAN ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

- 8 (1) The City Manager may establish a list of Clean Energy Improvements which are eligible to be financed through a Clean Energy Improvement Tax, in accordance with the Regulations.
- (2) The City Manager shall provide the listing outlined in subsection (1) to the Program Administrator.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) a Clean Energy Improvement will only qualify for tax financing if there is an intention to permanently affix the Clean Energy Improvement to the Property.

APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

- 9 (1) An Owner may apply to the Program Administrator to seek tax financing to install Clean Energy Improvements to a Property.
- (2) The Program Administrator may recommend to the City that a Property should be eligible for tax financing based on the criteria in the Act, the Regulations, and this Bylaw.
- (3) An application under subsection (1) will not be acceptable unless:
- (a) the application includes a request for financing at least three different Clean Energy Improvements; or

- (b) the Property will become Net-Zero with only one or two Clean Energy Improvements; or
- (c) the Property has previously participated in the Program and the application is seeking only one or two additional Clean Energy Improvements;

from the list provided to the Program Administrator under Section 8(2).

PART IV - CLEAN ENERGY IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENTS

REQUEST TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT

- 10 (1) Once the Program Administrator has recommended that a Property is eligible to participate in the Program, the Owner may request that the City Manager approve and enter into a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement.
- (2) A recommendation by the Program Administrator does not require the City Manager to enter into a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement.

AGREEMENT LIMITS

- 11 (1) The City Manager shall not enter into a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement with an Owner if the value of the capital costs of undertaking all Clean Energy Improvements on the Property, is less than \$3,000.
- (2) The City Manager may enter into a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement with an Owner up to the following maximum financing amounts available to finance any Eligible Costs of undertaking all Clean Energy Improvements on the Property:
 - (a) \$50,000 for properties classed as residential;
 - (b) \$1,000,000 for properties classed as non-residential; or
 - (c) \$300,000 for properties classed as farmland.
- (3) For clarity, the maximum permitted financing for a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement as defined by (2) is reduced by the value of any existing Clean Energy Improvement Tax owing on the Property.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, if a Property has more than one classification for the purposes of taxation pursuant to Section

297 of the Act, the class of the Property shall be determined by whichever class of the Property forms the majority of the Property.

- 12 (1) The City shall not enter into a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement when:
 - (a) the Owner is currently in tax arrears on the Property;
 - (b) The Owner has fallen into tax arrears at any time within the previous five years on either the Property, or any other property they owned;
 - (c) there is an existing Clean Energy Improvement Agreement in place for that Property and the costs for that agreement have not been placed on the tax roll;
 - (d) the costs under a proposed Clean Energy Improvement Agreement shall cause the City to exceed the amount of borrowing authorized under this bylaw;
 - (e) an Owner is in bankruptcy or receivership;
 - (f) the Property is going through foreclosure;
 - (g) the Property is the subject of some form of litigation;
 - (h) the Owner is involved in significant litigation with the City;
 - (i) there are development compliance issues or safety code issues associated with the Property;
 - (j) the Program Administrator has not approved an Owner's application for a Clean Energy Improvement in accordance with this Bylaw and the Regulations;
 - (k) The Owner has not confirmed that mortgagors have approved participation in the Program;
 - (l) There is a dispute with the Owner about whether the Owner is abiding by the terms of any other grant of financial assistance that the Owner has received from any level of government.; or

- (m) the Owner of the Property does not otherwise meet any of the requirements under this Bylaw, the Act, or the Regulation.
- (2) The City Manager may exercise discretion to refuse to have the City enter into a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement when:
- (a) an entity related to the Owner is in bankruptcy, or receivership;
 - (b) the Owner owns any interest in another property that is going through foreclosure;
 - (c) an entity related to the Owner owns any interest in a property going through foreclosure;
 - (d) there appears to be limited equity in the Property;
 - (e) the Program would be better serviced by approving a different Clean Energy Improvement Agreement on a different property; or
 - (f) in their sole discretion, pursuant to Section 10(3) of the Regulations, feels that there is any other reason to refuse to enter into a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement.

**CONTENTS OF A
CLEAN ENERGY
IMPROVEMENT
AGREEMENT**

- 13 (1) A Clean Energy Improvement Agreement shall set out:
- (a) the annual and total amount of the Clean Energy Improvement Tax to be paid by the Owner;
 - (b) the term of the Clean Energy Improvement Tax for each Clean Energy Improvement, which shall be based on the probable lifetime of each Clean Energy Improvement as determined by the Program Administrator, to a maximum of 25 years;
 - (c) the conditions required for the Clean Energy Improvement Tax to become payable;
 - (d) that the Clean Energy Improvement Tax will be collectible when imposed by the City;
 - (e) the interest rate set for the Clean Energy Improvement

Tax, which interest rate shall be the actual rate of any borrowing by the City, or the prevailing borrowing rate, to a maximum rate of 9%;

- (f) the Administration Fee;
 - (g) the estimated date of completion for each Clean Energy Improvement;
 - (h) the estimated cost of each Clean Energy Improvement;
 - (i) the manner in which a cost overrun or underrun is to be dealt with if the actual costs of the Clean Energy Improvement differs from the estimated cost;
 - (j) that the costs of each Clean Energy Improvement may be revised if the City refinances the debt;
 - (k) that the Owner is required to append the Clean Energy Improvement Agreement to any contract of sale for the Property; and
 - (l) any additional requirements of the Act, Regulations, this Bylaw or Program.
- (2) The failure to append a Clean Energy Improvement Agreement to a contract of sale by the Owner does not invalidate the Clean Energy Improvement Agreement and shall not affect the imposition of a Clean Energy Improvement Tax.

PART V - CLEAN ENERGY IMPROVEMENT TAX

IMPOSITION OF THE TAX

- 14 (1) The City Manager is hereby authorized to impose a Clean Energy Improvement Tax in respect of each Clean Energy Improvement made to a Property to the tax roll of the Property to raise revenue to pay the outstanding costs related to the Clean Energy Improvements as outlined in the Clean Energy Improvement Agreement.
- (2) The following costs shall be included in the calculation of the Clean Energy Improvement Tax:

- (a) the Eligible Costs;
 - (b) the Administration Fee;
 - (c) the cost of financing the Clean Energy Improvements;
and
 - (d) any other incidental costs to the undertaking of the Clean Energy Improvement and to facilitate the repayments of the outstanding costs.
- (3) The Clean Energy Improvement Agreement shall include a breakdown of the costs outlined in subsection (2).
- 15 (1) Once the City has authorized full payment for any Clean Energy Improvement to the Owner or a contractor, the Clean Energy Improvement Tax shall be imposed for the tax relating to that payment on the tax roll of the Property when annual tax notices are next sent to the Property pursuant to Section 333 of the Act.
- (2) For clarity of (1), where full payment of any Clean Energy Improvement occurs after February 28 of any given year, the resultant Clean Energy Improvement Tax will be imposed on the tax roll of the property, and will appear on the annual tax notice in the following year.
- (3) A Clean Energy Improvement Tax shall be displayed as a separate item on any tax notices.
- (4) The Clean Energy Improvement Tax shall be charged yearly in accordance with the Clean Energy Improvement Agreement.

PART VI - PROGRAM FINANCING AND BORROWING

**PROGRAM
FINANCING**

- 16 (1) The Program may be funded from the use of Working Capital of the Municipality, borrowings made by the municipality, or a combination of borrowings and Working Capital.
- (2) Separate borrowing bylaws may be passed to fund the Program in accordance with the terms of this Bylaw.

**AUTHORIZED
BORROWING**

- 17 That for the purpose of the Program, up to the maximum sum of \$20,000,000.00 may be borrowed, through separate borrowing bylaws, by way of debenture on the credit and security of the City at large or such other security as requested by the lender. Any borrowed amounts plus interest is to be collected by way of Clean Energy Improvement Tax.
- 18 (1) Any debentures shall be payable in lawful money of Canada and shall bear interest during the currency of the debentures, at a rate not exceeding nine per cent (9%) per annum or such a lower rate as can be obtained from the lender, payable semi-annually.
- (2) Any debentures shall be issued for a term not exceeding 25 years, which term shall be based on the probable lifetime of the Clean Energy Improvement as determined by the Program Administrator.
- 19 During the currency of any debentures, there shall be raised annually for payment of the Owners' cost and interest thereon, by Clean Energy Improvement Tax, the respective sums calculated in the Owners Clean Energy Improvement Agreements.

PART VII - COMING INTO FORCE

**COMING INTO
FORCE**

- 20 This Bylaw shall come into force on the date it is passed and signed.

Read a first time this 12th day of February 2024;

Read a second time

Read a third time

SIGNED AND PASSED

THE CITY OF EDMONTON

MAYOR

CITY CLERK