

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM17.35	ACTION			Ward:38
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Eco-Roof Incentive Program Funding for the Proposed Green Roof at 2850 Eglinton Avenue East - by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Michelle Holland

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Michelle Holland, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Director, Environment and Energy Division to approve funding for the green roof at 2850 Eglinton Avenue East at the current incentive level of \$75 per square metre, for an eco-roof that covers 60 percent of the school roof's area, offered by the Eco-Roof Incentive Program, with a one-time exemption to the project funding maximum of \$100,000.

Summary

In June 2015, an application for funding was submitted to the Eco-Roof Incentive Program by the Toronto French Catholic School Board (Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud) for a green roof at 2850 Eglinton Avenue East. The proposed green roof would be installed on a new high school building in Ward 38. The proposed green roof would be 2812 square metres in size, covering approximately 63 percent of the roof.

In September 2015, the application for 2850 Eglinton Avenue East was approved and recommended for funding. Funding was allocated in the amount of \$100,000, which is the maximum amount per project.

If the proposed green roof of 2812 square metres was allowed to exceed the maximum funding amount, it would be eligible for \$210,900 for the entire green roof space, based on the current incentive level of \$75 per square metre.

Green and cool roofs – known together as 'eco-roofs' – help make Toronto more sustainable and better adapted to climate change. Green and cool roofs reduce urban heat and its associated energy use. Green roofs also help manage stormwater runoff, enhance biodiversity, improve air quality, and beautify our city. The implementation of eco-roofs supports businesses and creates jobs in the green industry.

In order to support the adoption of eco-roofs by building owners, the City of Toronto launched the Eco-Roof Incentive Program in 2009. The program offers owners of residential, commercial, industrial and institutional buildings financial incentives to help support the installation of green and cool roofs.

For green roofs, \$75 per square metre is offered to a maximum of \$100,000 per project. Eligible buildings for green roof projects include all existing buildings, new buildings with a gross floor area of less than 2000 square metres and all Toronto School Board buildings.

The Eco-Roof Incentive Program is completely self-sustaining, with funding coming from cash-in-lieu paid to the City under the Green Roof By-law. Under the By-law, some developers may choose to apply for an exemption or variance to the By-law and pay cash-in-lieu of \$200/m² for the required green roof area. When City Council approved the Green Roof By-law in 2009, it directed that any funds collected as cash-in-lieu be made available to the Eco-Roof Incentive Program.

The Eco-Roof Incentive Program is administered by the Environment and Energy Division. The program builds upon the Green Roof Strategy adopted by City Council in 2006 and the Green Roof Pilot Incentive Program, delivered in 2006 and 2007. The Eco-Roof Incentive Program complements the City's Green Roof By-law adopted in 2009 and is a key element of the City's Climate Change Action Plan, aimed at reducing Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

To date, the Eco-Roof Incentive Program has funded 200 projects and established 430,000 square metres of eco-roof space in the City (equivalent to 72 Canadian Football League fields). A total of 444 green roofs currently exist in Toronto, of which 45 have been funded by the Eco-Roof Incentive Program.

This Motion is urgent because the Toronto French Catholic School Board needs City Council's approval in order to sign a construction agreement with the contractor in early April, 2016.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM17.35