



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM2.11	ACTION			Ward: All
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HELP is On The Way: Eligibility Criteria for the Home Energy Loan Program - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Alejandra Bravo

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Alejandra Bravo, recommends that:

1. City Council waive Bylaw 587-2022 with respect to the individual owing \$2.62.
2. City Council request the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services to report to the March 20, 2023 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee with a process to allow any other applicants who are ineligible for the Home Energy Loan Program because of a minor and since rectified late payment to apply for the Home Energy Loan Program and to notify applicants that they are eligible.
3. City Council request the City Manager to review the eligibility requirements for the Home Energy Loan Program to allowing residents who have a minor late payment to apply as part of the report to the March 20, 2023 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

Summary

The City of Toronto's Home Energy Loan Program is intended to assist homeowners in completing home improvements that reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and improve their home's sustainability. The Home Energy Loan Program loan can be applied to a wide range of home improvements including: heat pumps; window replacements; insulation upgrades; high efficiency water heaters and air conditioners; toilet replacements; solar panels; and Electric Vehicle charging stations. It is an important part of meeting our TransformTO goals.

The City of Toronto's TransformTO initiative which has an ambitious target of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. For existing private homes, the target is to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half, from 2008.

However the program can be restrictive which reduces the maximum potential benefit. Under Bylaw 587-2022, eligibility is subject to the applicant not having any late payments on property taxes, utility bills, or other City fees or charges for the past 3 years irrespective of the amount.

This can lead an unforeseen situation where some residents who made tiny errors in payments are being unintentionally excluded. One example of this is a resident in Ward 14 who applied for the Home Energy Loan Program and was denied because of two late property tax payments – one of \$2.00 and one of \$0.62 totaling \$2.62. The resident long ago paid the outstanding balance but he is still ineligible for the Home Energy Loan Program. It should be noted that for discrepancies under \$1.00 the City does not send notices.

Background Information (City Council)

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