

# **The City of Saint John receives 2008 Federation of Canadian Municipalities- CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Award**

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The City of Saint John has been awarded a 2008 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Award in the Energy category for The City of Saint John Municipal Energy Efficiency Program (MEEP). The award was announced at an Awards Ceremony held on Saturday, May 31st during FCM's 71st Annual Conference and Municipal Expo in Quebec City.

The City of Saint John is the only award winner in the Energy category, one of eight categories of awards. Winners were chosen out of 56 municipal government submissions received by the FCM. Saint John Mayor Ivan Court, who is also the New Brunswick representative on the FCM National Board of Directors, was in attendance in Quebec City Saturday evening to receive the award on behalf of The City.

As of 2007, the City-adopted MEEP procedures have resulted in the current annual savings of \$1.24M, 10M kWh, 5792 CO2 tons and 320000L of fuel from 1996 to 2007 – in other words – The City of Saint John has reduced its ecological footprint by 17%. Cumulative savings since 1996 total \$5.1M.

“This award is a tremendous honour for The City of Saint John and speaks to how we are working toward developing sustainability practices that will provide all City departments with clear direction and a code of conduct when making decisions that affect our City and its resources,” said Mayor Ivan Court. “One of our community goals in The City of Saint John’s Vision 2015 is environmental responsibility, and The City is setting the standard and taking full responsibility to ensure municipal operations are efficient and responsible.”

“We use the best technology to create our own solutions and are willing to challenge ourselves in our role as environmental stewards,” said Samir Yammine, Energy Manager for The City. “Departments understand their role in sustainability, are eager to continue working together, and are committed to implementing new sustainable initiatives.”

“On behalf of FCM, I want to congratulate the City of Saint John for winning a 2008 Sustainable Community Award in Energy,” said the President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Winnipeg Councillor Gord Steeves. “Along with winners in other categories, the City of

Saint John's Municipal Energy Efficiency Program is contributing creative and practical solutions to some of the critical issues of the environment and sustainable development that governments all over the world face today."

The City of Saint John adopted MEEP as its environmental and fiscal code in 1996, pre-empting Kyoto. The implementation followed the first comprehensive annual analysis of energy consumption and related costs of municipal operations. The program has been quietly working for 10 years to meet its main objective: reduce municipal operations energy consumption by 25% by 2011.

By implementing environmentally responsible operating practices, The City of Saint John's continued reduced energy usage will reduce total emissions and improve air quality and overall health. MEEP supports the efforts of other citizen and environmentally focused organizations that are working with the same intent, that is, to become even more environmentally responsible. The City of Saint John MEEP, along with the other winning submissions, will be featured in the 2008 Sustainable Community Awards video which will be launched at the Awards Ceremony, as well as in the 2000-2008 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards DVD which will be available in September 2008.

*Since 2000, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Green Municipal Fund (GMF) and CH2M Hill have been recognizing municipal governments across Canada with Sustainable Community Awards for leadership in environmental excellence and innovation in service delivery.*