Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) is a new initiative of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Green Municipal Fund (GMF). CEF supports municipalities at all stages of the journey in assessing feasibility, designing, implementing, scaling up and evaluating financing programs for home energy upgrades that have triple-bottom line benefits.

CEF focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energy as a driver for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. Specifically, it unlocks new approaches to financing energy upgrades in existing homes within the low-rise residential sector (e.g., Property Assessed Clean Energy financing, on-bill, third party lending). This call for applications provides grants for studies to be undertaken by municipalities to:

- Explore the feasibility of financing for home energy upgrades
- Design new financing programs for home energy upgrades
- Evaluate existing initiatives

GMF will provide grants for up to 80 per cent of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$175,000. The application intake window is June 30 to October 30, 2020.





Based on initial conversations with FCM staff, the City of Kelowna is currently at the Feasibility Study stage, where CEF funded studies will explore and assess options for a financing program for home energy upgrades. This may include:

- A baseline assessment of a community's housing stock and energy upgrade potential
- An analysis of how financing may address homeowner barriers to energy efficiency and/or renewable energy upgrades or existing efficiency programs
- An evaluation of available financing models within the context of municipal law
- Engagement with key municipal and external stakeholders on shared goals for a local financing initiative.²

¹ Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). 2020. Presentation (September 15, 2020): Learn how GMF's Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) study grants can benefit your community.

² Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). 2020. Community Efficiency Financing: Application Guide (Feasibility, program design and evaluation studies. Retrieved from: <u>https://fcm.ca/en/programs/green-municipal-fund/community-efficiency-financing</u>.