The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has been the national voice of municipal governments since 1901. With our broad membership network, we foster the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with $550 million to establish the Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF). Created in 2000, this unique program supports partnerships and leveraging of both public and private-sector funding to reach higher standards of air, water and soil quality, and climate protection.

Through GMF, FCM enables leading municipalities to deliver more value for Canadians by minimizing environmental costs and maximizing the environmental and operational performance of assets. This long-term, sustainable source of financing and knowledge continues to help local governments — of all sizes, in all parts of the country — to become more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. And FCM has sustained this success with no new federal investments since 2005.

Representing more than 90 per cent of Canada’s population, and with close to 2,000 member municipalities, FCM is uniquely positioned to deliver GMF. FCM serves as the “eyes and ears on the ground,” working with tremendous knowledge of the municipal sector. It connects directly with community leaders and elected officials, helps them to discover sustainability options that could work locally, and inspires them with compelling case studies from across the country. FCM collaborates with decision-makers, municipal staff and their project partners to support planning initiatives, assess opportunities, help resolve local site-specific challenges, and implement projects.

Our unique model

GMF stands alone in Canada as a revolving, evergreen fund; providing loans and grants on a continuous basis without the need for budgetary replenishment from the federal government. FCM merges its unique GMF program structure with a public policy mandate to support innovation in communities — a priority it shares with the federal government. Because GMF is delivered through FCM, the Fund is uniquely tailored to suit municipal sector needs.
In addition to offering funding for exemplary sustainability projects, FCM inspires innovation by sharing best practices and lessons learned through GMF projects. Through GMF, FCM connects leaders and communities with experts, peers and allies and builds capacity through training, resources and funding.

**Inspiring**
**Helping municipalities move beyond ‘business as usual’**

Throughout its 15-year history, GMF has been the primary source of inspiration for Canada’s municipal sustainability sector. Informed by more than a thousand GMF-funded initiatives, this inspiration comes in many forms: FCM’s Sustainable Communities Conference (SCC) and awards program, webinars, workshops, and publications, such as newsletters, case studies and guidebooks that describe best practices. GMF inspires local sustainability leaders by sharing the approaches implemented, the results achieved and the lessons learned by others facing — and meeting — similar challenges.

**Connecting**
**Finding experts, peers and allies to support local initiatives**

FCM connects people, organizations and networks, creating opportunities for local sustainability leaders to meet, share information and network, both formally and informally, with like-minded people across Canada. The importance of these connections increases in proportion to a project’s level of innovation. Through peer-to-peer learning programs, networking opportunities, and personalized support from GMF staff, FCM links people with the experience, expertise and contacts they need to meet their goals and propel the sustainability agenda forward.

**Capacity building**
**Developing better projects and improve processes**

The first step in every sustainability project is building a business case — laying out the feasibility, advantages and benefits of the project. Through GMF, FCM provides municipalities with the means to design and develop innovative solutions, build their case and improve decision-making processes. Along with funding eligible plans, studies and tests, GMF helps build the decision-making capacity of municipalities through training initiatives and tools. By helping municipalities incorporate, demonstrate and replicate triple bottom line (environmental, economic and social) benefits and results, we foster sound decisions about both current and future projects.

**Funding**
**Bridging the funding gap with innovative financing for sustainability projects**

Sustainability projects often present unique financial challenges for municipalities. Innovative approaches and technologies often appear to cost more than conventional solutions, particularly in the short term. FCM helps municipalities overcome these challenges with loans at the lowest interest rate on the market when combined with grants.

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Feasibility study leads to long-term gains

A 2008 GMF-funded feasibility study helped the City of Kitchener, ON, build a business case for its maintenance facility. The project includes solar and geothermal systems, as well as measures to conserve and recycle water. The city reports that the facility uses 37 per cent less energy, cuts GHG emissions by 211 tonnes, and saves the city $350,000 every year.

GMF’s triple bottom line impact

Municipal officials across Canada increasingly recognize that sustainability projects benefit not only the environment, but also the economy and society at large. For this reason, FCM promotes and measures GMF project impacts using a triple bottom line approach — one that considers criteria from all three areas. The combined and often complementary effects of project benefits lead to tangible improvements at the community level — cleaner water, better municipal services, and more efficient use of resources such as energy.

Steady progress in Yellowknife

A member of the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program for more than 15 years, the City of Yellowknife, NT, has achieved all five PCP milestones — a remarkable accomplishment given the challenges of its remote location in Canada’s far north. The city has launched a new action plan to explore composting, landfill-gas recovery, renewable energy and energy-efficient building retrofits. FCM has supported Yellowknife’s sustainability journey over the years, with GMF funding for nine plans, studies and tests, including the newest plan.
Green Municipal Fund

$500¹ MILLION
Total initial endowment fund

$596 MILLION
Value of fund as of March 31, 2015

$706² MILLION
Total amount of funding approved

Capital projects completed since inception

772 plans, studies and tests completed since inception

- Contributed approximately $576 million to GDP
- Generated over 7,200 person-years of employment
- Increased household income by approximately $330 million

GMF knowledge products produced since inception

790 Case studies
112 Sector-specific publications/collections
87 Award-winning project videos
78 Webinars
36 GMF newsletters

Visit fcm.ca/gmf or call 1-877-997-9926 today and learn how GMF helps municipalities of all sizes reach higher standards of air, water and soil quality, and climate protection.