

Councillor Request Inquiry

16-2018

2018

To answer your question on providing any policies or programs in place related to energy efficiency in all county buildings, I offer the following.

- For all new buildings or major expansions of existing buildings, the County is governed by the Alberta Building Code that requires minimum energy performance for all building elements. Due to the size of our buildings, we are required to comply with energy modelling as part of the building permit process.
- The County has a Municipal Sustainable Buildings policy that aligns with the Alberta Building code for energy use and requires county buildings to be built to a LEED or similar building rating standard. Under this policy, all major systems or equipment have a lifecycle cost review done to understand the long term costs of ownership. When selecting between systems or equipment options, the system with the best value (i.e. community benefit, initial cost, pay back period, cost of maintenance, life expectancy, etc.) is typically selected.
- For existing buildings, the County has a facility lifecycle program that is used to replace aging building infrastructure. This program, when replacing building elements factors in the energy improvements that can be made as existing equipment is replaced with new. Again, when looking at various new technologies or system options, a lifecycle analysis is completed to determine the overall best value for the County.
- Facility Services tracks the municipal building use of electricity, natural gas and thermal heat in our energy management program. Through the program, total energy consumption is tracked and is used to highlight areas of good or poor performance. These metrics are used to review our maintenance operations and where necessary to explore improving a buildings energy efficiency performance through operational or equipment changes. Also through this program area, all municipal electricity and natural gas supply contracts are purchased.
- Within our building maintenance program area, building control systems are in place to control building systems to reduce energy use as well as a lighting program that routinely re-lamps buildings or changes lighting to LED where appropriate. Our routine maintenance and operations ensure all building systems and equipment are operating correctly.

As part of the 2018 budget, funding was approved for a Strategic Energy Management Study to be completed by Facility Services. The study is to review County buildings and develop or update energy efficiency projects planned for the buildings. Study will also develop a framework for the adoption of new technologies including solar, cogeneration, wind etc. This review is to help create priority project areas, funding requirements and create a road map for the reduction of the carbon foot print for municipal buildings that aligns with the provincial leadership action plan objectives. Ultimately, the results of the study will make the County's approach to energy efficiency and adoption of newer technologies more visible to Council and to the community.

The procurement process for the hiring a consultant for the study is now underway with the study anticipated to commence in June with results of the study planned for late fall.