



Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM
8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Presentations**
 - A. New Commissioner Introductions and Oath of Office
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the Thursday, May 18, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting
5. **Regular Agenda**
 - A. Sustainability Recognition Program
 - B. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
 - C. Commissioner Appointments for Chair & Vice Chair
6. **Public Comment**

Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
7. **Commission and Staff Comments**
8. **Adjourn**

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met in City Council Chambers on Thursday, May 18, 2023. Chair Boehmke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Nichole Boehmke, Commissioners; Sarah Brass, Sara Goodman, Nick Ruiz, Ted Trenzeluk, Larry Moehring, Todd Kruse

Absent: Kevin Sethre (excused); Brian Barner (unexcused)

3. Presentations

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, April 27, 2023, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Brass to approve the minutes from Thursday, April 27, 2023 as submitted.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

A. Sustainability Recognition Program

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the following PowerPoint slides on the Sustainability Recognition Program to the Commission.

2023 EAC Work Plan

- 2023 EAC Work Plan approved by City Council in February 2023.
- EAC city code duties and how they relate to the work plan.
- Creating a sustainability recognition program for residents and businesses was one of the work plan goals.

Research

- List of 12 other local cities who have created similar programs.

Purpose

- Recognize residents and businesses for taking action.
- Share success with others (environmental and/or cost savings).
- Foster sustainability and environmental friendliness as a community norm.

Sustainability

- Variety of applications and definitions
- Balance of "Three E's"

DRAFT Program Parameters

- Program Name: Sustainable IGH
- Eligible Recipients: IGH residents, businesses, and organizations
- Recognition Award Process:
 - April 1 – April 22 (Earth Day): Promote application
 - April 22 (Earth Day): Deadline
 - April 23 – May 31: Review applications
 - June 1: Notify recipients
 - Late June: Public meeting and public promotions of recipient
- Recognition:
 - Bronze: Submit application and complete 5 program action.
 - Silver: Submit application and complete 10 program actions.
 - Gold: Submit application and complete 15 or more program actions.
- Awards: Awards and funding under review.
 - Award examples:
 - Framed certificate
 - Window cling
 - Sticker
 - Yard sign
 - Digital award
 - Considerations: cost, material, value, displayable, dated
- Recognized actions:
 - Energy (renewable energy, energy efficiency, EVs)
 - Landscape (pollinators, natives, invasives, local food)
 - Water (conservation, quality, invasives)
 - Waste (organics, recycling, reduction)

Next Steps

- Thurs, 5/18: Gather initial EAC feedback.
- Thurs, 6/15: Collect all comments from staff and partner organizations.
- Thurs, 6/22: EAC final review and consideration of the program.
- ~July/Aug: City Council review and consideration.

EAC Feedback

- Requested EAC feedback.

Mrs. Sutherland explained that the program is currently drafted where anyone who submits an application and showcases they have completed enough actions will be recognized. The city would not need to select a winner. Lack of application submissions is a reported program barrier experienced by other communities. This recognition model is meant to encourage more applicants and not turn away those that apply.

The Environmental Advisory Commission shared the following suggestions for staff to consider:

- Consider nomination options.
- Important to request applicants quantify the positive benefits they have experienced from taking their actions.
- City should share positive benefits reported by awardees with the public to motivate others.
- Recognize being within nature and planting vegetation.
- Create recognition wall of awardees.
- Partner with education or medical sectors.
- Platinum recognition saved for projects that deserved special recognition.

- Consider how to add equity into the actions.
- Partner with the community college for potential student volunteers studying landscaping and other related topics.
- Recognize no mow may or native landscaping.
- Recognize litter clean ups.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the following PowerPoint slides on Inver Glen Library Organics Drop-Off to the Commission.

Overview

- Review Dakota County Organics Drop Off Program
- Inver Glen Library Drop-Off

Dakota County Organics Drop Off Program

- 9 drop off sites
- Temporary fenced-in enclosures with organics dumpsters
- Residents bring organics to dumpsters. FREE.
- 9 existing sites
- 9,338 participants, 461 IGH households

Organics Collection Process

Organics Drop Off Map

Program Purpose

- Meet legislative goal, recycle 75% by 2030
- ~30% of trash is organics and no curbside
- MPCA Plan and County stakeholder process

Inver Glen Library Site Map

- Northwest area
- 18 feet (L) x 10 feet (W) x 6 feet (H)

JPA Terms

Timeline

- June/July 2023: Install enclosure
- July 2023: Recruitment, Residential Training Opportunities
- August 2023: Open Site, Open House
- May 31, 2029: JPA termination date

How the EAC can get involved

- Join the program
- Encourage a friend or neighbor to join
- Join a training session
- Join the drop site open house

- Share the city's social media posts
- Help host organics drop site registration tables at city events

Mrs. Sutherland stated there was a record high of Environmental Advisory Commission applications. There was a total of 14 applicants for the EAC, of which 9 selected the EAC as their top choice of commission.

Mrs. Sutherland congratulated Commissioner Boehmke for being reappointed, and Commissioner Brass and Moehring for their terms of service.

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked how many recyclables are being thrown away after they have been collected by waste haulers, and if this is factored into the State and County recycling rates. Mrs. Sutherland stated as long as you are recycling the designated list of recyclables, your recycling is getting recycled. This list is published by Dakota County based on what is recyclable in our local market. The hauler is mandated by state law to recycle all recyclables they collect. Commissioner Goodman noted there is a contamination rate the haulers must stay under, typically around 5%. Commissioner Boehmke said the contamination is a result of people not properly recycling.

Commissioner Ruiz stated he attended the St. Paul ride and drive and provided a summary of the event.

Commissioner Ruiz stated he felt the Bituminous Roadways item should have been reviewed on multiple agendas and should have been reviewed by the city earlier based on the request. Mrs. Sutherland stated the EAC reviewed this item due to the Planning Commission's specific request but that she will discuss process improvement options internally. Commissioner Goodman stated she also felt rushed with a decision based on the amount of information presented.

Commissioner Goodman stated we should continue to discuss the light pollution topic brought to the EAC recently by the resident. Mrs. Sutherland stated this item could be a consideration for the 2024 EAC Work Plan if the Commission chooses.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Ruiz, seconded by Commissioner Goodman to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.



Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: Sustainability Recognition Program

MEETING DATE: June 22, 2023
ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda
CONTACT: Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, 651.604.8511

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to recommend approval of a city sustainability recognition program.

BACKGROUND

On February 13, 2023, the City Council approved the 2023 Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) Work Plan, which includes a goal to develop a sustainability recognition program for IGH residents and businesses. Many cities have created community recognition programs to help recognize community members and businesses for making a positive impact on their community. Sustainability recognition programs are one example of recognition programs created by local governments.

Sustainability recognition programs are created by local governments to recognize community members for their sustainable achievements. They also help foster sustainability and environmentally friendly practices as a norm in the community. Sustainable practices have a wide range of benefits that support ecological, wellbeing, and economic vitality. Sustainability presumes that resources are finite, such as natural or financial resources, and that they should be conserved and used wisely to benefit current and future generations.

The EAC provided initial feedback on the draft program parameters presented at the May 18 EAC meeting. Staff has since incorporated feedback from the EAC, city departments, Chamber of Commerce, Dakota County and Xcel Energy Partners In Energy.

The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to provide final comments on the sustainability recognition program and consider a recommendation for City Council approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

Item is budget neutral.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Program Parameters
2. Draft Resident Application

3. Draft Business Application

Sustainable IGH

PROGRAM NAME	• Sustainable IGH
ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS INCLUDE	• Inver Grove Heights residents, businesses, and organizations
PURPOSE OF PROGRAM	• Recognize residents and businesses for their sustainable achievements. • Foster sustainability as a norm in the community.
RECOGNITION AWARD PROCESS	• April 1 through April 22 (Earth Day): Promote opportunity via: ○ Q2 Insights article ○ City website news flash and webpage ○ Social media posts ○ Environmental e-news article ○ City bulletin boards ○ City events ○ Flyers on city bulletin boards (City Hall, VMCC) ○ Flyers and signs at city events ○ Townsquare NDC4 cable channel announcement ○ VMCC electronic sign board ○ Chamber communication channels • April 22 (Earth Day): Annual application deadline. • April 23 through May 31: Staff (Environmental Specialist/EAC staff liaison) reviews applications for completeness and determines recognition level for each applicant. • First business day of June: Staff notifies recipients of recognition award. Invites new and existing recipients to the final June City Council Meeting. • June City Council Meeting: ○ Mayor and EAC chair recognize new awardees by announcing their name/business and achievements and giving them the award. ○ Staff shares list of existing awardees. ○ Staff takes picture of new awardees with City Council and Environmental Advisory Commission. • After June City Council meeting: Promote awardees via: ○ Q3 Insights article ○ City website news flash and webpage ○ Social media posts ○ Environmental e-news article ○ Request Chamber shares business awardees

RECOGNITION LEVELS	• Bronze recognition: Submit application and complete 5 program action. • Silver recognition: Submit application and complete 10 program actions. • Gold recognition: Submit application and complete 15 or more program actions.
RECONGITION AWARD	Award is currently being discussed. Considerations below have been discussed: • Award should be considered sustainable, based on material, purchase source, and longevity. • Potential award options: ○ Dated certificate printed on recycled content paper. ○ Dated program poster for window printed on recycled content paper. ○ Dated digital program award PNG to share on website and social media. ○ City create poster board at city hall with list of awardees. ○ Gold awardees receive native tree sapling donated by partnership organization. ○ Recognized at city council meeting and via communication channels. See timeline above in the recognition award process section above.
RECOGNIZED ACTIONS	See draft resident and business applications for complete lists of potential actions.
OTHER CITY EXAMPLES	Residents and businesses examples • Eden Prairie, Sustainable Eden Prairie Award • LaCrescent, Sustainable Community Award • Minnetonka, Sustainable Minnetonka Award • Maplewood, Re-Energize Maplewood • St. Louis Park, Climate Champions • St. Louis Park, Evergreen Award • Burnsville, Neighborhood Water Resources Enhancement Grant • Burnsville, Community Builder Award • Hopkins, Community Image Award Residents only examples • Red Wing, Jay McCleary Sustainability Award Businesses only examples • Edina, Green Business Outreach Program • Coon Rapids, Community Sustainably Partnership • Rochester, Green Business Program • Golden Valley, Energy Hero Recognition

SUSTAINABLE IGH APPLICATION

Residents

Please complete this application if you are applying as a resident.

RESIDENTIAL APPLICANT

- First and Last Name:
- Address:
- Phone Number:
- Email Address:

RECOGNITION PROCESS

Select all completed actions below. Applicants will be awarded **Bronze recognition** (at least 5 completed actions), **Silver recognition** (at least 10 completed actions) or **Gold recognition** (at least 15 completed actions). Please follow URL links to additional information about the action.

Energy Actions

- ☐ Use a programmable thermostat.
- ☐ Use LED bulbs for all lighting.
- ☐ Use an [EnergyStar](#) appliance or upgrade to more energy efficient appliances.
- ☐ Complete a [home energy audit](#).
- ☐ Complete actions recommended by your home energy audit or the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#).
- ☐ Participate in an energy savings programs through [Xcel Energy](#) or [Dakota Electric programs](#).
- ☐ Power your property with renewable energy ([solar](#), [wind](#) or [geothermal](#)).
- ☐ Subscribe to [Xcel Energy's Windsource](#) or [Dakota Electric's Wellspring Renewable Energy program](#) to support renewable energy.
- ☐ Subscribe to a [community solar garden](#).
- ☐ Drive an [electric vehicle](#).
- ☐ Install an [electric vehicle charging station](#).
- ☐ Utilize rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products.
- ☐ Own a home certified by a building efficiency standard, such as [LEED](#).
- ☐ Utilize energy efficient, [Dark-Sky compliant](#) new or replacement outdoor lighting fixtures.
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Landscaping Actions

- ☐ Plant a [pollinator garden](#).
- ☐ Landscape with native plants, trees and shrubs.
- ☐ Preserve land with native plant communities.
- ☐ Remove [invasive vegetation](#) from your property.
- ☐ Grow [your own food](#).
- ☐ Donate any surplus produce from your garden to a local food shelf.
- ☐ Teach others how to grow fruits, vegetables and herbs.
- ☐ Buy locally grown plants and produce.

SUSTAINABLE IGH APPLICATION

Residents

- ☐ Use locally made compost in gardens or landscape.
- ☐ Remove [diseased or infested trees](#) from your property.
- ☐ If recommended by a certified arborist, treat ash trees [to prevent](#) emerald ash borer infestations, oak wilt or other tree diseases.
- ☐ Take one or more [Landscaping for Clean Water classes](#).
- ☐ Use a Landscaping for Clean Water grant from Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District to complete a [Landscaping for Clean Water project](#), including rain gardens and more.
- ☐ Build a [rain garden](#) on your property per the City guidelines.
- ☐ Install bird, bat, or bee houses on your property.
- ☐ Plant a [low-maintenance turf lawn](#) with species such as fine fescues, buffalo grass, blue gramma, pussytoes, etc.
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Water Actions

- ☐ Complete a [shoreline preservation project](#) per city guidelines.
- ☐ Participate in the [Master Water Stewards](#) program.
- ☐ Become an [aquatic invasive species detector](#).
- ☐ Follow the city's [Smart Salting guidelines](#) in winter.
- ☐ Attend the city's [Local Stormwater Impacts annual meeting](#).
- ☐ Use [Water-Sense](#) products.
- ☐ Utilize rebates on water-efficient products.
- ☐ Collect rainwater in a [rain barrel](#) or other grey water systems to water your plants and trees.
- ☐ Only [water your lawn](#) if needed before 4 a.m. and 10 a.m. and on an odd/even schedule based on address number.
- ☐ [Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather](#) to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns.
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Waste Abatement Actions

- ☐ **Required for recognition:** Recycle at your home [following these recycling rules](#).
- ☐ Compost organics via a residential [organics drop-off](#) or [at home](#)
- ☐ Use the [Recycling Guide](#) to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items.
- ☐ Participate in a the [Dakota County Recycling Ambassador Program](#).
- ☐ Attend a [city residential special collections event](#) to recycle unwanted items.
- ☐ Join a local [recycling tour](#).
- ☐ Utilize [The Recycling Zone](#) to dispose of hazardous waste, small electronics, recyclables and more.
- ☐ Take home free second-hand products from the [Reuse Zone](#), located at the The Recycling Zone.
- ☐ Make and use [Green Cleaners](#).
- ☐ Participate in a [Community Swap](#).
- ☐ Participate or volunteer at a [Dakota County Fix-It Clinic](#).
- ☐ Reduce [food waste](#) meal planning, storing food properly and more.
- ☐ Prevent [unwanted mail](#).
- ☐ Shop secondhand at [brick-and-mortar stores](#), garage sales or through online outlets such as facebook, nextdoor, craigslist, thredUP and more.
- ☐ Donate or sell gently used goods at a local donation center, garage sale or online outlets.
- ☐ [Rent equipment](#) such as tools, outdoor gear and event supplies instead of buying.

SUSTAINABLE IGH APPLICATION

Residents

- ☐ Adopt an [IGH park](#).
- ☐ Host or organize a cleanup event/day for ponds, parks, natural areas, wetlands, etc.
- ☐ Use reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins.
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

SHARE YOUR SUSTAINABILITY STORY

Please answer at least 1 or more of the following questions based on actions you have completed:

- Describe any financial savings you have experienced or plan to experience overtime from taking your actions:
- Describe any wellbeing benefits you have experienced from taking your actions:
- Describe any environmental benefits of your actions:
- Please share any pictures that help showcase your sustainability accomplishments.

SIGNATURE

By signing and submitting this application, I authorize the City of Inver to publicly share the following information in all City Communication channels: *Applicant First Name and Initial of Last Name, Mailing Address, Actions Completed, Details and Pictures provided in "Share Your Sustainability Story" section*. This information will be publicly shared by the City to highlight your accomplishments and to help inspire others to take sustainable actions.

By signing and submitting this application, I certify that the information I have provided on this application is truthful to the best of my knowledge. I also acknowledge that the City may request additional information to confirm recognition eligibility.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SUSTAINABLE IGH APPLICATION

Businesses and Organizations

Please complete this application if you are applying on behalf of a business or organization.

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION APPLICANT

- Business/Organization Name:
- Employee First and Last Name:
- Employee Title:
- Business/Organization Address:
- Business/Organization Phone Number:
- Business/Organization Email:

RECOGNITION PROCESS

Select all completed actions below. Applicants will be awarded **Bronze recognition** (at least 5 completed actions), **Silver recognition** (at least 10 completed actions) or **Gold recognition** (at least 15 completed actions). Please follow URL links to additional information about the action.

Energy Actions

- ☐ Use a programmable thermostat.
- ☐ Use LED bulbs for all lighting.
- ☐ Use an [EnergyStar](#) appliance or upgrade to more energy efficient appliances.
- ☐ Complete a business energy audit: [Xcel Energy Business Energy Assessment](#), [Xcel Energy Multifamily Building Efficiency Program](#), or [Dakota Electric business energy audit](#).
- ☐ Complete actions recommended in your building energy audit.
- ☐ Participate in an energy savings programs through [Xcel Energy](#) or [Dakota Electric programs](#).
- ☐ Power your property with renewable energy ([solar](#), [wind](#) or [geothermal](#)).
- ☐ Subscribe to [Xcel Energy's Windsource](#) or [Dakota Electric's Wellspring Renewable Energy program](#) to support renewable energy.
- ☐ Subscribe to a [community solar garden](#).
- ☐ Drive an [electric vehicle](#).
- ☐ Install an [electric vehicle charging station\(s\)](#).
- ☐ Utilize rebates on energy efficient or renewable energy powered products.
- ☐ Participate in new construction program offered by [Xcel Energy's New Construction Programs](#) or [Dakota Electric New Construction program](#).
- ☐ Own a building certified by a building efficiency standard, such as [LEED](#).
- ☐ Utilize energy benchmarking software to monitor building energy usage.
- ☐ Utilize energy efficient, [Dark-Sky compliant](#) new or replacement outdoor lighting fixtures.
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Landscaping Actions

- ☐ Plant a [pollinator garden](#).
- ☐ Landscape with native plants, trees and shrubs.

SUSTAINABLE IGH APPLICATION

Businesses and Organizations

- ☐ Preserve land with native plant communities.
- ☐ Remove [invasive vegetation](#) from your property.
- ☐ Sell locally grown plants and produce.
- ☐ Sell locally made compost in gardens or landscape.
- ☐ Remove [diseased trees or infested](#) from your property.
- ☐ If recommended by a certified arborist, treat ash trees [to prevent](#) emerald ash borer infestations, oak wilt or other tree diseases.
- ☐ Take one or more [Landscaping for Clean Water classes](#).
- ☐ Build a [rain garden](#) on your property per the City guidelines.
- ☐ Install bird, bat, or bee houses on your property.
- ☐ Plant and maintain a [low-maintenance turf lawn](#) with species such as fine fescues, buffalo grass, blue gramma, and pussytoes.
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Water Actions

- ☐ Complete a [shoreline preservation project](#) per city guidelines.
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- ☐ Attend the city's [Local Stormwater Impacts annual meeting](#).
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- ☐ Utilize rebates on water-efficient products.
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- ☐ Only [water your lawn](#) if needed before 4 a.m. and 10 a.m. and on an odd/even schedule based on address number.
- ☐ [Leave grass 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches high during hot weather](#) to promote deep root growth and shade the growth crowns.
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Waste Abatement Actions

- ☐ **Required for recognition:** Recycle at your [business](#) or [multifamily property](#) following local recycling rules.
- ☐ Compost organics via [your waste hauler](#).
- ☐ Use the [Recycling Guide](#) to find out where to get rid of hundreds of unwanted items.
- ☐ Participate in a [Very Small Quantity Generator](#) (VSQG) business program, [Dakota County Multifamily Recycling Program](#), or [Dakota County Business Recycling Program](#).
- ☐ [Incorporate sustainability](#) into your business purchasing.
- ☐ Operate a business that promotes reducing, recycling or composting waste.
- ☐ Reduce [food waste](#) by donating eligible food.
- ☐ Prevent [unwanted mail](#).
- ☐ [Shop for used equipment and materials](#) in good working condition from businesses, non-profit organizations and online exchange websites.
- ☐ [Donate or sell](#) gently used goods.
- ☐ [Rent equipment](#) such as tools and event supplies instead of buying.
- ☐ Adopt an [IGH park](#).
- ☐ Offer or sell reusable bags, mugs, and to-go containers, utensils and napkins to customers.
- ☐ Offer customer discount use of reusable bags, mugs, and to-go products.
- ☐ Offer public special recycling opportunities for plastic bags, batteries, or other recyclable materials.
- ☐ Host or organize a cleanup event/day for ponds, parks, natural areas, wetlands, etc.
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

SUSTAINABLE IGH APPLICATION

Businesses and Organizations

☐ Other: _____

SHARE YOUR SUSTAINABILITY STORY

Please answer at least 1 or more of the following questions based on actions you have completed:

- Describe any financial savings you have experienced or plan to experience overtime from taking your actions:
- Describe any wellbeing benefits you have experienced from taking your actions:
- Describe any environmental benefits of your actions:
- Please share any pictures that help showcase your sustainability accomplishments.

SIGNATURE

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By signing and submitting this application, I certify that the information I have provided on this application is truthful to the best of my knowledge. I also acknowledge that the City may request additional information to confirm recognition eligibility.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
(EECBG)**

MEETING DATE: June 22, 2023

ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda

CONTACT: Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, 651.604.8511

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to discuss project options and recommend the use of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG).

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has made \$430 million available for state, local, and tribal governments through the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\) Program](#). Based on population size, the City of Inver Grove Heights is eligible to receive a non-competitive grant award of \$76,160, with no match required, to use towards projects that cut carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use. Grant funds must be applied for by January 31, 2024 and utilized two-years after application approval.

The City submitted a non-binding Pre-Award Information Sheet in April to confirm the City will be requesting funding for a voucher award option. The DOE recommends small local governments with awards less than \$250,000 select the voucher award option which can be used towards equipment and technical assistance services.

Staff have reviewed the list of eligible funding uses and have discussed project options. Staff will review the following projects with the EAC:

1. Complete the city's lighting upgrade project by replacing inefficient bulbs with LEDs at remaining city facilities (Fire Station #3, City Hall, Public Works, and Rich Valley Maintenance Shop).
2. Install a dual-port Level 2 publicly accessible electric vehicle charging station at the VMCC.
3. Replace an existing city fleet vehicle with an electric vehicle at the time of replacement.

FISCAL IMPACT

This item has a positive financial impact to the City as it provides additional funds to invest in environmental efforts.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to discuss project options and recommend the use of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to the City Council.

ATTACHMENTS

None