

Efficiency supports for homes coming to Charlottetown, Stratford

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Support is on the way for residents of Charlottetown and Stratford who want to make their homes more energy efficient.

The City of Charlottetown and Town of Stratford, in a July 13 release, announced the Switch Programs which will make energy efficiency and renewable energy more financially accessible to homeowners in a bid to combat climate change.

The programs, launching later this month, will provide cost-effective options for residential energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including heat pumps, solar systems and insulation.

Those programs are funded by \$14.1 million from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which was announced in May.

Participants will be offered financing with zero per cent interest up to 15 years on the costs with no up-front costs, noted the release.

Municipalities will pay contractors, and homeowners will pay back their loans from anticipated savings in energy, said the release.

The programs will include the services of what is called an energy coach to help homeowners navigate the process, with energy assessments, project selection, up-to-date rebates federal and provincial and incentives.

Coun. Mitchell Tweel, environment and sustainability committee chair, said he is excited to see the Switch Program in Charlottetown.

“This program will offer residents of our city additional services, opportunities and funding options to make the change to more sustainable technologies which, in turn, will help us meet our carbon reduction targets in the years to come,” he said.

Charlottetown City Council voted to launch the program at its monthly meeting on July 12. Stratford is expected to approve it on July 14 at its next monthly council meeting.

Coun. Darren MacDougall, chair of Stratford’s sustainability committee, is looking forward to watching the uptake from his community.

“This program will provide an opportunity particularly to those residents which may not otherwise have been able to afford these types of upgrades in the past when a zero interest load wasn’t an option. We hope that residents will take a serious look at this program in the coming days and explore options for their property.”