



## Staff Report

**Meeting Date:** May 20, 2026

**To:** County Council

**Report Number:** PDPW-2026-14

**Title:** Tree Funding Opportunity

**Author:** Kerri Snoddy, Manager, Waste Management & Sustainability

**Approved by:** Sheridan Graham, CAO/Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

**Recommendation:** Whereas Peterborough County has adopted a Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan which identifies the importance of seeking opportunities to naturalize properties by planting native plants and trees;

Be it resolved that Peterborough County Council acknowledges that Peterborough County is applying for a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative for a residential tree giveaway program; and

That Peterborough County also recognizes that the lifetime contribution from the Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative will not exceed \$10 million for tree planting within our municipality, inclusive of a maximum contribution of \$1 million for infrastructure activity costs, and that if approved this project will be counted towards that limit; and

That staff be directed to reach out to each Township Council to provide a template and request a resolution of support before June 30, 2026.

---



## Council Report

### **Overview**

There is an opportunity to apply for the Green Municipal Fund Tree Planting funding as part of the Growing Canada's Community Canopies Initiative, for a program where the County could provide free tree giveaways to residents in 2027 and 2028 to plant on their own private property. To apply for the funding, the application requires a resolution of support from County Council, and from each Township Council.

### **Background and Analysis**

On April 22, 2026 County Council endorsed the Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan. The proposed tree giveaway project identified in this report directly supports initiatives within the plan.

Staff are seeking Council approval to apply for the Green Municipal Fund Tree Planting funding as part of the Growing Canada's Community Canopies Initiative, for a program where the County could provide free tree giveaways to residents to plant on their own private property. Staff are currently preparing an application which will include details on the type and quantity of trees selected (all native species suited to thrive within the County), planting plans and details. Through initial cost estimates this program could fund the planting of around 2000-3000 trees.

The application is due June 30<sup>th</sup>, and we will require resolutions from each Township Council, supporting the program to be able to provide the trees to residents in each Township. The application will outline the significant tree loss that Peterborough County has experienced due to recent extreme weather events (Derecho-2022, Ice Storm-2025), and the opportunity to give back to our residents.

The project objectives are as follows:

- Increasing Peterborough County's Tree Canopy and Long-Term Carbon Storage
- Reducing Vulnerability to Heat Impacts



## Council Report

- Supporting Additional Storm Water Management Through Interception and Infiltration
- Providing Equitable Access to Address Canopy Inequality
- Climate Resilience and Supporting Biodiversity
- Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing of Residents

The project is proposed to include the following:

- A web page will be created on Peterborough County's website with information on the tree giveaway program
- Details on the program including tree species available with specifications (size, growing conditions etc.), maintenance requirements, and any additional required details will be available on the web page
- A form will be created for residents to register to select a tree (species), choose an event with an address and a pickup time, and sign a maintenance contract which ensures that they will maintain the tree according to the instructions
- Event locations will be chosen within each Township in spring or fall
- Events will run over two seasons in 2027 and 2028
- The nursery will drop off trees the morning of the events
- When residents attend the event to pick up their tree, they will be provided with an information package which will include details on (species, maintenance, planting instructions, etc.)
- Residents will also be able to identify through the website and form if they are not physically capable of attending an event or planting a tree, and our staff will set up an appointment with them utilizing our seasonal staff to deliver and plant the tree on the resident's property.



## Council Report

### **Financial Impact**

The County's total contribution to this project would be \$25,000, with the Green Municipal Fund potentially matching the amount, for a total project budget of \$50,000. \$25,000 is the minimum municipal contribution to be eligible for funding. If the funding application is successful, this will be incorporated into the 2027 and 2028 budgets.

### **Anticipated Impacts on Local and/or First Nations Communities**

The County cannot provide trees to residents in any township, unless we receive a Council resolution of support from that township for this program.

### **In consultation with:**

1. Rod Porter, General Manager Operations
2. Bryan Robinson, Director Planning, Development & Public Works

### **Attachments**

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Snoddy, Manager, Waste Management & Sustainability

## Council Report

### MISSION

Peterborough County is an upper tier municipal government serving residents, visitors, and eight townships to meet the needs of our community, in consultation with First Nations. The County provides paramedic services (emergency and community); public works and land use planning services as well as partnered services including public health, economic development and tourism, municipal long-term care, social and children's services, and housing support.

### VISION

Working together with our townships and service delivery partners to provide high quality municipal services to our communities.

