

Renewable Energy Funding for Schools

On July 31, 2009, the Ministry of Education released Memorandum 2009:SB31 which outlines the *Renewable Energy Funding for Schools* program and requests business case proposals. The Minister of Energy and Infrastructure has provided a \$50 million investment to install renewable energy technologies at school board facilities for heating, cooling or generating electricity.

Bluewater District School Board was allowed to submit a total of three business cases for renewable energy funding projects. Business cases were developed and submitted for the following:

- **Holland Chatsworth Central School:** **Ground Source Heat Pumps (Geothermal)**
- **Alexandra Community School (new):** **Photovoltaic and Solar Water Heating**
- **Grey Highlands Secondary School:** **Photovoltaic and Solar Water Heating**

On March 25, 2010 a letter was received from the Capital Programs Branch advising that the Board had received conditional approval for the Alexandra and Grey Highlands proposals. As with all projects granted a conditional approval, a feasibility study was required for these projects. Final approvals would be based on the feasibility study, as well as the merits of other projects. Feasibility studies were completed with the assistance of a consulting engineer and selected vendors, and sent off to the Ministry.

On July 19, 2010, notification was received from the Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister confirming the governments funding support for the following projects, under the *Renewable Energy Funding for Schools* program:

- **Alexandra Community School (new):** **10kW solar photovoltaic - \$163,200**
- **Grey Highlands Secondary School:** **10kW solar photovoltaic - \$183,600**

The Plant Department is currently working towards signing project agreements, and making plans for the installation of these two solar photovoltaic systems. All projects must be complete by August 31, 2011.

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Business Committee
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For further information, please contact:
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