

**AGENDA # G.13**  
**Scio Township Board of Trustees**  
**Community Energy Management (CEM) Grant Application**

**FOR MEETING DATE OF:** March 19, 2024

**PREPARED ON:** 3/14/24

**PREPARED BY:** Will Hathaway

**SUBMITTED BY:** Planning

**ITEM TYPE:** Possible Action

**SUGGESTED ACTION:** Approve the Township to submit an application for a CEM grant for further energy efficiency improvements to Township facilities.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2022, the township used a Community Energy Management Grant for an energy audit, retro-commissioning of township hall HVAC systems, assessing two HVAC replacement options and an LED lighting upgrade. At that time, we did not consider a geo-exchange system for an HVAC system. Currently the Inflation Reduction Act's 30% direct pay incentive makes a geo-exchange option worth assessing in addition to updating the costs of the other options. The three HVAC units, due for replacement, were installed in 1999. They have exceeded their expected useful life. The existing system is energy inefficient and does not provide the required minimum ventilation air. The ductwork is also near the end of its useful life. The Scio Township Hall is a hub of activity for the township, including hosting trustee and committee meetings, voting, planning, and houses most township staff.

Scio Township's **Environmental Sustainability Task Force (ESTF)** produced an Environmental Sustainability Climate Plan (ESCAP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the township and to communicate to residents within the township resources that available to reduce emissions. As municipalities are all facing the challenge of decarbonization, Scio Township Hall HVAC replacement will serve as a model for other communities on how to identify, assess options, and transition to renewable power. In addition, Scio Township Hall will better serve as a local resilience center with the HVAC improvements providing improved system controls and required ventilation.

**Project Goals:**

- Produce a report that evaluates HVAC replacement options including first and operational costs, energy efficiency, GHG reductions, and occupant health and comfort. This report will be made available to other municipalities through Michigan Green Communities network and Ann Arbor/Washtenaw 2030 District.
- Select, engineer, and install a high efficiency, low emission, HVAC replacement system for Scio Township Hall. This grant will partially fund the HVAC system installation for the Meeting Hall. The Township will complete that installation and the remaining 2 HVAC unit replacement with their own funds.
- This effort to upgrade Scio Township Hall's HVAC system is in alignment with the Township's

ESCAP plan, with Energy Building, and Infrastructure as one of seven focus areas. This project was deemed of the highest priority by a cross section of Scio Township leadership.

- Scio Township Hall has the potential to become a climate resiliency hub for residents, particularly after the planned HVAC upgrades are complete.
- The project will have a min. construction land-fill waste diversion of 75% as a project requirement.

### **Project Tasks/Timeline/Milestones**

**Develop energy plans, policies, and/or ordinances:** An HVAC replacement plan options report and recommendation will be generated to guide the Board of Trustee's decision on the system replacement choice. The report will be share with the public and through the 2030 District and Michigan Green Communities.

**Perform energy efficiency upgrades:** Scio Township Hall will replace three roof top HVAC units with low emission, energy efficient, systems. The meeting hall unit replacement will be completed using primarily grant funds. An RFP will be issued by the township for engineering and installation of the new systems in two phases. The RFP will include requirements for recycling, Build America, Buy American, Davis-Bacon etc.

### **Host energy-related community engagement opportunities:**

**Event 1:** Scio Township will include energy efficiency and renewable energy information at the Solar-Park Restoration workshop that will engage the community on energy efficiency, on-site solar, native landscaping, and the status of Scio's Solar zoning ordinance (currently under development).

**Event 2:** Scio Township 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sustainability Fair. A community-wide event to be held at Meijer's in conjunction with the Michigan Electric Automobile Association. This is a hands-on tabling event that highlights action-oriented strategies for each of the 7 ESCAP areas and updates the community on the plan's progress. Multiple collaborators include advocacy groups, Scio commissions, county departments, local businesses, and farmers.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Environmental Sustainability Task Force Recommends approval.

**MODEL MOTION:** To authorize the Township to apply for a Community Energy Management Grant of \$100,000.