



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Update on the Clean Energy Frontier Program

From: Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Date: February 1, 2024

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

This report was prepared at the request of Council at the January 11th, 2024 Council meeting to provide a summary of the services and activities that the Clean Energy Frontier provides to Bruce County. The Clean Energy Frontier is a jointly funded initiative between Bruce Power and Bruce County, which operates in partnership through the Nuclear Innovation Institute.

Background:

The Clean Energy Frontier is a jointly funded partnership between Bruce Power and Bruce County. This project is staffed by, and operates out of the Nuclear Innovation Institute. The creation of the Clean Energy Frontier was structured as a joint project to leverage economic opportunities in the nuclear sector in communities across Bruce, Grey and Huron Counties. The initiative is focused on supporting the expansion and integration of businesses in the nuclear industry supply chain. Since that time over 60 suppliers have expanded their presence in the region.

The partnership between Bruce Power, Bruce County and the Nuclear Innovation Institute has evolved since it was first established in 2016.

There have been several partnership agreements that have evolved over time. Agreements at different times have included other partners such as the Ontario Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI in 2019) and the eventual transition of the staff position being held by the Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII).

In September of 2020 the program was rebranded as the Clean Energy Frontier. The program continues to focus on the regional nuclear industry opportunities and economic growth. It has also developed a broader branding and marketing campaign for the region.

On October 19, 2023, Council authorized the Warden and CAO to enter a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bruce Power and the Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII) related

to staffing and structure for the Clean Energy Frontier Programming. This MOU has been attached to this report for reference.

The 2023 MOU included some changes related to the creation of a Management Committee made up of the Bruce County CAO and a representative of Bruce Power that will approve the workplans for the Clean Energy Frontier program. This change provides Bruce County with the opportunity to provide direction and oversight on the activities that will be undertaken by staff leading the Clean Energy Frontier program.

Under the MOU the Clean Energy Frontier has three different organizational groups with different representation:

- 1) The **Management Committee** (new in the 2023 MOU) is responsible for overall strategic direction, approval of workplans and initial review of reports is comprised of Bruce County's Chief Administrative Officer and Bruce Power's Director of Community, Media Relations, and Economic Development.
- 2) The **Regional Steering Committee**, which currently includes representatives from various organizations includes Bruce County, lower tier municipalities as well as various private and public entities. This group also includes representatives from Grey and Huron counties and various lower tier municipalities. This group is used to communicate the work that is occurring with the Clean Energy Frontier program. The Management committee sets the terms of reference for this committee.
- 3) The **Economic Development Working Group** is an informal group used to solicit input on major initiatives, design collaborative projects and provide relevant updates. The membership of this group includes economic development leaders from Bruce, Grey, Huron and local indigenous communities.

The current MOU is set to terminate on December 31, 2026. The agreement notes the parties may choose to review the terms of the MOU on the anniversary date and make any amendments as required, and as mutually agreed upon. The MOU includes language that the agreement shall remain in effect until 2026, pending annual budget approval. It also provides a clause that each party shall have the right to terminate the MOU by giving at least two months' notice in writing to the other parties at any time. The 2023 MOU is attached for Council's information.

Nuclear Innovation Institute staff who support the Clean Energy Frontier program have prepared a list of activities undertaken as part of the Clean Energy Frontier Program. This list of activities is attached for Council's information.

There will also be a separate delegation from the Clean Energy Frontier at the February 1st, 2024 County Council meeting.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing or legal impacts as a result of this information report.

The annual financial contribution to fund the Clean Energy Frontier program has been approved in the 2024 budget.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

None

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

The Clean Energy Frontier is mentioned as a tactic in the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Report Author:

Jeff Loney, Economic Development Manager

Departmental Approval:

Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer