

MIC REPORT

Report To: Municipal Innovation Council (MIC)
Report From: Chair, Municipal Innovation Council
Subject: MIC 2024 Project CloseOut Report

The Municipal Innovation Council (MIC) was established in 2020 when eight municipalities in the County of Bruce came together to find savings, efficiencies and deliver services better to their residents - all with the goal of building smarter, stronger, more resilient communities.

Over the past five years, MIC ran projects like topographical mapping, fleet electrification, the Food Cycler program aimed at reducing household waste, training over 200 municipal employees to enhance their skills, support for attainable housing initiatives, comprehensive IT services review, the innovative Smart Beach project to improve beach safety, and the Simply Brilliant Idea program which encouraged creative solutions from member municipalities. The **Impact Report (2020-2025)** provides a comprehensive overview of the impressive accomplishments of the MIC.

At its meeting on December 2, 2024, the MIC passed a motion to dissolve the Municipal Innovation Council by March 31, 2025. The following highlights 2024 achievements and planned winddown activities.

Smart Beach – Phase 1 in Kincardine

The equipment provider for Smart Beach is still in various stages of development for the expansion of some aspect of the program. MIC has met with SwimSmart and Kincardine staff to determine what next steps are required to realize the next step of the work.

Smart Beach – Phase 2 in Saugeen Shores

Phase 2 of Smart Beach, focused on Saugeen Shores is currently in the scoping stage between Smart Beach researchers, Georgian College and Saugeen Shores. The project oversight and implementation will transition to the collaboration as outlined between the three partners.

Joint IT Steering Committee

The oversight of the Joint IT Steering Committee will transition to Bruce County to provide administrative support to the group.

Fleet Electrification

MIC and Georgian College have completed and summarized the province wide fleet electrification survey. From 444 municipalities in Ontario, 63 responses to the survey were

received. There was a significant response from Central, Southern and Eastern Ontario including some from Northern Ontario. The overall responses were very supportive of municipal fleet electrification. The survey results were presented to the Municipal Fleet group.

Financials

The Town of Saugeen Shores as the treasurer for the MIC will be calculating a return of surplus funds to the partner municipalities. Those funds will be calculated based on the 2023 reserve balance, 2024 surplus and the 2025 expenses (no member contributions were made in 2025). As per the 2022-2025 Memorandum of Agreement, each participating municipality provided an annual financial contribution of a base rate of \$12,000 plus \$2.50 per household as determined by the 2016 Statistics Canada Census of Population (except for Bruce County which had a flat rate). The return calculation will be a proportional entitlement based on the proportional annual contributions of each partner. Brockton's reimbursement will be based on their 2023 contribution.

Attachments

Appendix A: 2020-2025 Municipal Innovation Council Impact Report