

# Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

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**Subject:** Prioritization of Climate Resilient Infrastructure Projects

**Memo No:** 2025-M-017

**Date:** January 9, 2025

**Attachment:** None

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## Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-017 as presented;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the prioritization of projects for submission to the Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) as follows:

1. Energy Efficiency Enhancement for Temagami’s Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities.
2. Aquatic Invasive Species Management – Facilities Options Analysis.
3. Waste-to-Energy Feasibility Study for Temagami.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes the CAO to collaborate with CRIS to develop a comprehensive scope of work and coordinate the initiation of the highest-priority project.

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## Executive Summary

This memorandum outlines the prioritization of key municipal infrastructure projects eligible under the Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) program. The proposed projects are:

1. Energy Efficiency Enhancement for Temagami's Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities.
2. Aquatic Invasive Species Management – Facilities Options Analysis.
3. Waste-to-Energy Feasibility Study for Temagami.

The prioritization criteria include potential environmental impact, feasibility, and alignment with Temagami's strategic goals. The recommended priority order emphasizes initiatives that deliver immediate benefits and advance the municipality's climate resilience and sustainability objectives. Approval will enable collaboration with CRIS to leverage expert guidance and technical support for implementation.

## Background

The Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) program, funded by Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada and administered by the Canadian Urban Institute, supports local governments in integrating low-carbon resilience into infrastructure projects. CRIS provides expertise in engineering, planning, and climate science to ensure projects enhance climate resilience.

The CAO submitted Temagami's application to the CRIS program on December 8, 2024. An introductory meeting held on December 18, 2024, confirmed the municipality's eligibility and potential project areas. CRIS provided three project options that align with Temagami's needs and qualify under the program's criteria:

- Population of approximately 30,000 or less.
- Projects involving public infrastructure or housing initiatives.
- Projects requiring Council approval or inclusion in a multi-year capital plan.

Temagami's participation aligns with its commitment to sustainable development and climate readiness.

## **Rationale for Prioritization**

To ensure effective resource utilization and alignment with municipal priorities, the following rationale has been developed for project selection:

1. Energy Efficiency Enhancement for Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities
  - Justification: Reducing energy consumption in these facilities provides substantial cost savings and environmental benefits, directly supporting climate resilience objectives.
  - Impact: Immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and operational costs. Improves service reliability and aligns with sustainability goals.
2. Aquatic Invasive Species Management – Facilities Options Analysis
  - Justification: Managing invasive species preserves local ecosystems, prevents environmental degradation, and maintains biodiversity.
  - Impact: Enhances ecological health and strengthens resilience against climate change impacts on aquatic ecosystems.
3. Waste-to-Energy Feasibility Study
  - Justification: While innovative, this project involves higher complexity and uncertainty in terms of technical and financial feasibility.
  - Impact: Potential for long-term benefits in waste management and renewable energy generation, contributing to circular economy principles.

## **Cost and Funding**

CRIS provides up to \$30,000 for studies, with additional costs to be addressed through external grants or municipal budget allocations.

## Considerations for the Council

To advance the highest-priority project, the following steps are proposed for Council's consideration:

1. Collaborate with CRIS to define a detailed and comprehensive scope of work.
2. Engage subject matter experts with relevant qualifications to guide project development.
3. Coordinate and initiate expert-supported activities, ensuring alignment with CRIS guidelines and municipal goals.

## Conclusion

The Climate Ready Infrastructure Service offers Temagami a strategic opportunity to enhance infrastructure resilience to climate change. Prioritizing the Energy Efficiency Enhancement for Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities delivers immediate environmental and operational benefits while setting a foundation for subsequent initiatives.

Approving this prioritization demonstrates Temagami's commitment to leadership in climate resilience, sustainable development, and environmental stewardship. By focusing on high-impact, actionable initiatives, the municipality reaffirms its dedication to addressing climate challenges effectively while securing long-term benefits for its residents and the local environment.