VILLAGE OF GLENWOOD

Solar Project — Grant Funding Options

Executive Summary for Council | July 8, 2026

PURPOSE

This executive summary presents the grant and incentive funding options currently available to the Village of Glenwood for a municipal solar installation project. It is intended to assist Council in understanding the funding landscape, the urgency of certain application windows, and the recommended next steps for administration.

BACKGROUND

A solar project on municipally-owned facilities offers the Village multiple long-term benefits: reduced electricity costs, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and energy resilience. Glenwood's location in southern Alberta — with over 300 sunny days per year — makes solar one of the strongest return-on-investment energy projects available to small municipalities.

The federal and Alberta grant landscape has shifted materially since 2024. Several major programs have closed permanently. However, two strong programs remain open or reopening shortly, and Glenwood's status as a small municipality and likely first-time applicant to provincial programs creates specific funding advantages.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program	Status	Potential Value
MEG Program (Province of Alberta / MCCAC)	**NEXT: Oct 2026**	Up to $500,000 (30% of project costs + first-time bonus)
Sustainable Municipal Buildings (FCM / Green Municipal Fund)	**✓ OPEN**	Grants + loans; covers feasibility to full retrofit
ATCO Community Energy Fund	**✓ OPEN**	$200,000 pool (2026); community energy projects
Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit (Federal)	**✓ ONGOING**	15% of capital cost for non-taxable entities (to 2034)
Canada Greener Homes Grant / Loan	**✗ CLOSED**	Closed 2024–2025; no replacement announced
Canada Community Energy Fund (CEF)	**✗ CLOSED**	Closed December 31, 2025

KEY PROGRAMS — DETAIL

1. MEG Program — Municipal Electricity Generation (Province of Alberta / MCCAC)

Administered by the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC), the MEG Program provides direct per-watt rebates to Alberta municipalities for grid-connected on-site electricity generation installed on municipally-owned facilities or land. Systems must be 2 kW or greater and compliant with Alberta's Micro-generation Regulation.

Key program terms:

- Maximum rebate: $500,000 per municipality
- Rebate cap: 30% of eligible project costs
- Per-watt rates: $0.85/W (under 10 kW), $0.70/W (10–150 kW), $0.55/W (150 kW–2 MW)
- First-time applicant bonus: $0.20/W additional — Glenwood very likely qualifies
- Applications evaluated first-come, first-served

⚠ **Timing Note — MEG Program**
The current MEG intake closed April 30, 2026. The next window opens October 6 – November 24, 2026.
Administration should prepare an Expression of Interest now and submit promptly at opening.

2. Sustainable Municipal Buildings — FCM Green Municipal Fund (Federal)

The Sustainable Municipal Buildings (SMB) program is administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) through the Green Municipal Fund. It provides grants and loans for energy retrofits of eligible municipally-owned buildings, including solar and geothermal installations, as well as feasibility studies and new high-efficiency building construction.

Eligible buildings include:

- Community and recreation centres, curling rinks, and halls
- Fire halls and public works buildings (as stand-alone projects)
- Multi-purpose buildings serving an administrative and community function

As of February 2026, the SMB program accepts applications year-round on a continuous basis. FCM has indicated that smaller communities, including first-time applicants, can access more supportive funding ratios. This is the most immediately available program for Glenwood.

Apply at: greenmunicipalfund.ca/sustainable-municipal-buildings

3. ATCO Community Energy Fund

ATCO is distributing $200,000 in 2026 to municipalities, schools, not-for-profits, and registered charities within ATCO Gas, ATCO Electric, or ATCO EnPower service territories (which includes Glenwood) for community energy projects. Applications are currently open. While the amounts are smaller, this program is well-suited to a feasibility study or early design work, and can be stacked with other programs.

4. Federal Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit (CT-ITC)

The CT-ITC provides a 15% refundable tax credit on capital costs for non-taxable entities — including municipalities — that invest in solar PV, wind, and energy storage technologies. This credit applies to eligible spending from March 28, 2023 through December 31, 2034, and can meaningfully reduce the net cost of a solar project even where it does not flow as an upfront grant.

Council should direct administration to confirm eligibility with the Village auditor prior to any project approval.

PROGRAMS NOW CLOSED — FOR REFERENCE

The following programs are no longer available to new applicants:

- Canada Greener Homes Grant — Closed 2024
- Canada Greener Homes Loan — Closed October 1, 2025
- Canada Community Energy Fund (CEF) — Closed December 31, 2025

RECOMMENDED ACTION PLAN

Step	Action	Timing
1	Submit inquiry to FCM Green Municipal Fund (Sustainable Municipal Buildings) — year-round intake, no deadline pressure. Request feasibility study funding first to establish project scope and costs.	Immediate — July 2026
2	Apply to ATCO Community Energy Fund — smaller grant well-suited to feasibility study or design costs. Applications currently open for 2026.	Immediate — before funds exhausted
3	Identify the best candidate building(s): Village office, community hall, or public works facility. Consider roof orientation, energy consumption, and ownership status.	July – August 2026
4	Monitor MCCAC for the MEG Program October window (Oct 6 – Nov 24, 2026). As a first-time MCCAC applicant, Glenwood qualifies for the bonus rebate. Prepare an Expression of Interest in advance.	Submit by Oct/Nov 2026
5	Engage Village auditor or a solar contractor to assess eligibility for the 15% Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit on project capital costs.	Prior to project approval

CONSIDERATIONS FOR COUNCIL

Council may wish to direct administration to address the following questions as part of project planning:

- Which Village-owned building is the strongest candidate? Options include the Village office, community hall, and public works facility. The assessment should consider roof orientation, energy load, and building condition.
- Should a feasibility study be commissioned first? A study may itself be grant-eligible under the SMB program and would establish the project scope, costs, and return on investment prior to Council approving capital expenditure.
- Does Council wish to explore a broader Village-wide CEIP program? The Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP) allows municipalities to offer property-tax-financed solar to residents. Nearby Pincher Creek is among the participating municipalities.