

Item 10.3.2

iMatter Youth is a youth-driven climate change organization – founded by a 13-year-old in 2007 – dedicated to amplifying the voice of the youngest generation and empowering youth to hold their communities accountable for ending the climate crisis within their lifetimes. iMatter youth leaders are leading campaigns in their cities in an effort to shift the national climate conversation from “is it real?” to “why would we risk our children’s and grandchildren’s future?” iMatter Halifax youth leaders presented a Youth Climate Report Card with a grade of C+ to the Halifax Regional Municipality next year, as well as a proposal for a Youth Advisory Committee to be reinstated. iMatter Halifax is also now working with the Climate Reality Project Canada’s Halifax Community Climate Hub.

iMatter Halifax will be presenting a proposal to the Environment and Sustainability Committee to **ban the use of plastic bags** in Halifax Regional Municipality. In light of the debacle with lack of a buyer for Nova Scotian plastics, and the increased knowledge that plastic is completely unsustainable, we will be providing the economic, environmental, scientific, and social reasons for which a ban is necessary. We, young people in Halifax, with backing from other student and youth organizations, want Halifax to be a leader in sustainability. We will be presenting successful examples of plastic bag bans, even within the realm of HRM as well as solutions to possible objections to a ban like programs of paying it forward for low-income areas to be given reusable bags.

We will also be presenting a draft update on HRM’s previous Waste Management grade of A+ on the Climate Report Card if the plastics had to be sent to landfill to demonstrate the drastic impact it would have on our diversion rate.