



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Item No. 4
Halifax Regional Council
June 21, 2016

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Councillor Jennifer Watts
Chair, Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

DATE: June 10, 2016

SUBJECT: Community Energy Plan Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Motion from the June 9, 2016 meeting of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 4 of the Terms of Reference of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee which states that the Committee "shall (a) promote and enable a variety of energy choices for residents of the municipality; (b) promote and enable sustainable and renewable sources of energy in the Municipality; (c) promote the achievement of the Municipality's greenhouse emission reduction commitments; and (e) promote ways to maximize the Municipality's capital dollars through co-location of utilities and coordination of projects"

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee received a staff report in regard to an update on the Community Energy Plan at its June 9, 2016 meeting. The Committee passed a motion to forward the report to Regional Council for information.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee is comprised of six elected officials. Meetings are held in public unless otherwise indicated and the agenda and materials are posted to the HRM website.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Staff report dated May 10, 2016.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant, 902-490-6732



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Attachment 1
Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
June 9, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner and Director, Planning and Development

DATE: May 10 2016

SUBJECT: Community Energy Plan Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, September 10, 2014, Progress Report on HRM's Community Energy Plan Update.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Purpose of Municipal Planning Strategy, 228.

228 The purpose of a municipal planning strategy is to provide statements of policy to guide the development and management of the Municipality and, to further this purpose, to establish

(a) policies that address problems and opportunities concerning the development of land and the effects of the development;

(b) policies to provide a framework for the environmental, social and economic development within the Municipality;

(c) policies that are reasonably consistent with the intent of statements of provincial interest; and

(d) specify programs and actions necessary for implementing the municipal planning strategy.

BACKGROUND

During the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) meeting of September 10, 2014, Energy & Environment submitted an information report titled "Progress Report on HRM's Community Energy Plan Update". This report followed the January 9, 2014 presentation to ESSC titled "The Community Energy Plan Revision Project" and the November 13, 2013 ESSC Information Report titled "Update Community Energy Plan Revision, Desired Outcomes".

The Community Energy Plan (CEP) update will focus on targeted actions the municipality and community stakeholders can take within the two to five years to improve the sustainability of the Municipality's community energy, which includes both the production and use of energy. Actions will focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives as well as a strong educational effort to increase energy literacy among residents.

DISCUSSION

HRM's CEP is a Priorities Plan within the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy. The CEP was first adopted in 2007 and resulted in significant progress towards increased energy efficiency and renewable energy within the municipality. Staff began the process of revising the CEP in 2013, with the following community engagement completed through 2014:

- Online survey for businesses, Winter 2013
- Phone survey for businesses, June 2014
- Targeted session with the Canadian Green Building Council Atlantic Chapter, March 10, 2014
- Targeted session with the Clean Foundation and Ecology Action Centre, May 8, 2014
- Engagement panels at the Solar Fiesta for Solar City, Dartmouth Sportsplex, March 1, 2014
- Engagement panels at the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market, May 3, 2014
- Engagement panels at the Alderney Landing Farmers' Market. Dartmouth, May 17, 2014
- Engagement panels at the Renewable Energy Conference, WTCC, April 15-16, 2014
- Engagement through HRM's Shape Your City website, March-July 2014

Due to significant staff changes in the Energy & Environment group, as well as competing priorities, the revised CEP document was not submitted for adoption in a timely fashion after the engagement efforts concluded. Further, the revised document required modifications to include short term, tangible actions by HRM and community stakeholders.

For these reasons, staff plans to re-engage key stakeholders to agree on actions, timelines and responsibilities for inclusion in the CEP during spring and summer 2016. In addition, staff will re-engage residents through the Shape Your City website. Shape Your City was used in the previous engagement effort in 2014.

Timeline for CEP Update:

- June/July 2016 – Engage key stakeholders and residents, with a focus on targeted actions, roles and responsibilities to include in the revised CEP.
- August 2016 – Rewrite the CEP to include the results of the 2014 and 2016 engagement efforts.
- September 2016 – Submit Revised CEP to the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee for consideration during their September 8 2016 meeting.
- October 2016 – Adoption of the revised CEP by Regional Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Work on the Community Energy Plan, primarily staff time, is funded through Operating Account D935 (Energy & Environment).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was conducted to inform the CEP update in 2014 and is planned again for spring and summer 2016. Engagement was and will be conducted in accordance with HRM's Community Engagement Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Original Signed
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