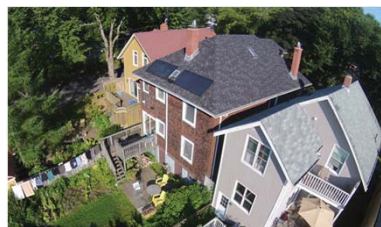# The Halifax Solar City Program

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Presentation to Regional Council
May 31, 2016

Solar City Moving Forward

- March 31, 2015: 3-year program approved by Council
- Objectives:
  - Complete 450 installations/year
  - Administer program on a cost neutral basis to the non-participating tax payer
  - Provide property owners with financing to install solar energy systems that improve their environmental footprint
  - Incorporate 3 solar technologies:
    - Solar Photovoltaic (PV)
    - Solar Air
    - Solar Hot Water

JUNE 15, 2016: Targeted date of launch and registration

What is the same?

- HRM will continue to provide 10-year low interest loans to eligible property owners to install a solar energy technology.
    - Option to repay outstanding LIC balance at any time with no penalty remains
- Avoids the large upfront cost of solar energy installations and pay for them over time
- HRM will continue to provide quality control to participating property owners
- The financing structure remains the same – through a voluntary Local Improvement Charge.
    - A lien is placed on the participating property to ensure repayment to HRM.
- Overall reductions in GHG emissions over current baseline

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What is different?

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- To reach objectives and learn from the pilot, staff has determined that the best program offering is strictly one of financing, allowing for broad solar industry participation
    - Property owners will work independently with solar contractors to complete assessments for review
- Only contract HRM has is with property owner for financing
- Separate contract exists between the property owner and solar contractor

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What is different?

FINANCING MODEL

- Financing rate will be set at 4.75% - now includes administration costs
    - Covers costs of Solar City Program Officer(s), marketing and communications, and quality control
    - Allows for cost recovery even if lower participation than anticipated (500 vs 1350 installations)

COMMUNICATIONS

- Improved marketing & communications plan
- Simplified & streamlined process with online application
- Improved online presence with easy-to-access information and guidelines

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What is different?

MONITORING & REPORTING

- Property owner and solar contractor required to provide access to data collected from installed solar systems
- Annual review of Solar City Program with KPIs
- Monthly reports:
    - Registration, application, installation projects
    - Energy generated and usage reductions
    - GHG reductions
    - Permits issued
    - Project costs and ROI projections
    - Cost neutrality to HRM
    - Feedback surveys from Property Owners

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What is different?

SIMPLIFIED PROCESS

- Online information management system
- Allows for standardized collection of data
- Accessibility to all relevant information and guidelines, templates and documents
- Management of customer accounts for use in permitting and billing
- Ease of reporting on KPIs and outcomes for internal and external stakeholders
- Open contractor selection process allows property owners to engage with local contractors, manufacturers & consultants

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Thank You

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