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Halifax Solar City Program Update and Recommendation

Environment and Sustainability
Standing Committee
July 07, 2021

Program Basics

- Solar energy options
 - Solar hot water
 - Solar hot air
 - Solar electric (photovoltaic)
- Eligible property owners include
 - Residential
 - Not for profits
 - Places of Worship
 - Co-ops
 - Charities
- Open to the market



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Financing Basics

- Fixed at 4.75% for 10 years
- Property must be in good financial standing with the municipality
- Flexible payment terms
- Financing placed on property, **not** property owner
- Rebates available



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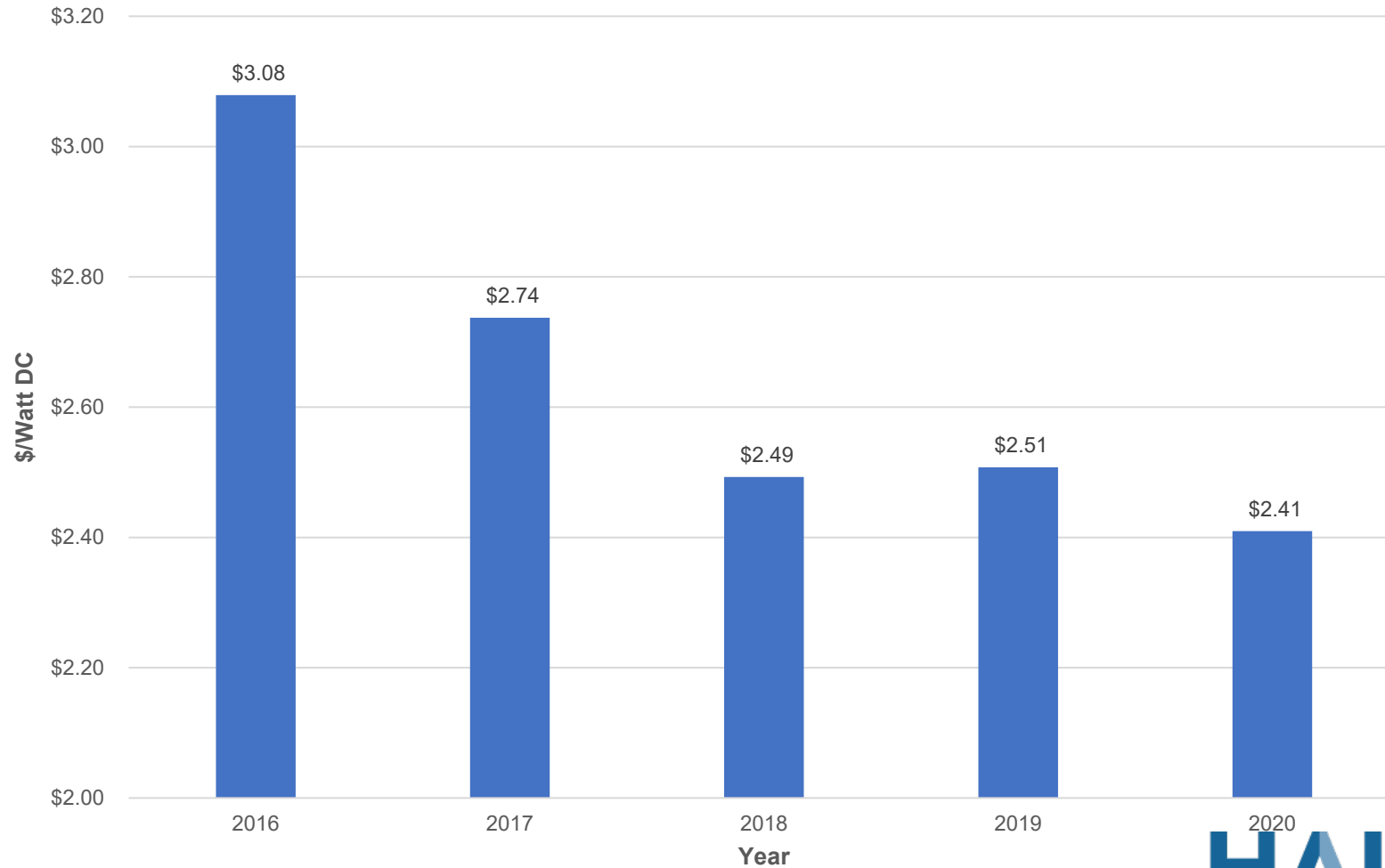
Key Performance Indicators

- Total # of executed agreements
 - 553
- Total value of approved systems
 - \$14 million
- GHG reduction annually
 - 4,100 tonnes of eCO₂
- Total capacity installed in HRM
 - 9.3 MW (5 MW from Solar City)



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Solar Electric Pricing Trend



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Additional Successes

- Increased solar adoption
- Several non-residential participants
- Key stakeholder in FCM's CEF advisory group
- Selected by FCM as one of the top 20 projects funded by GMF in its first 20 years



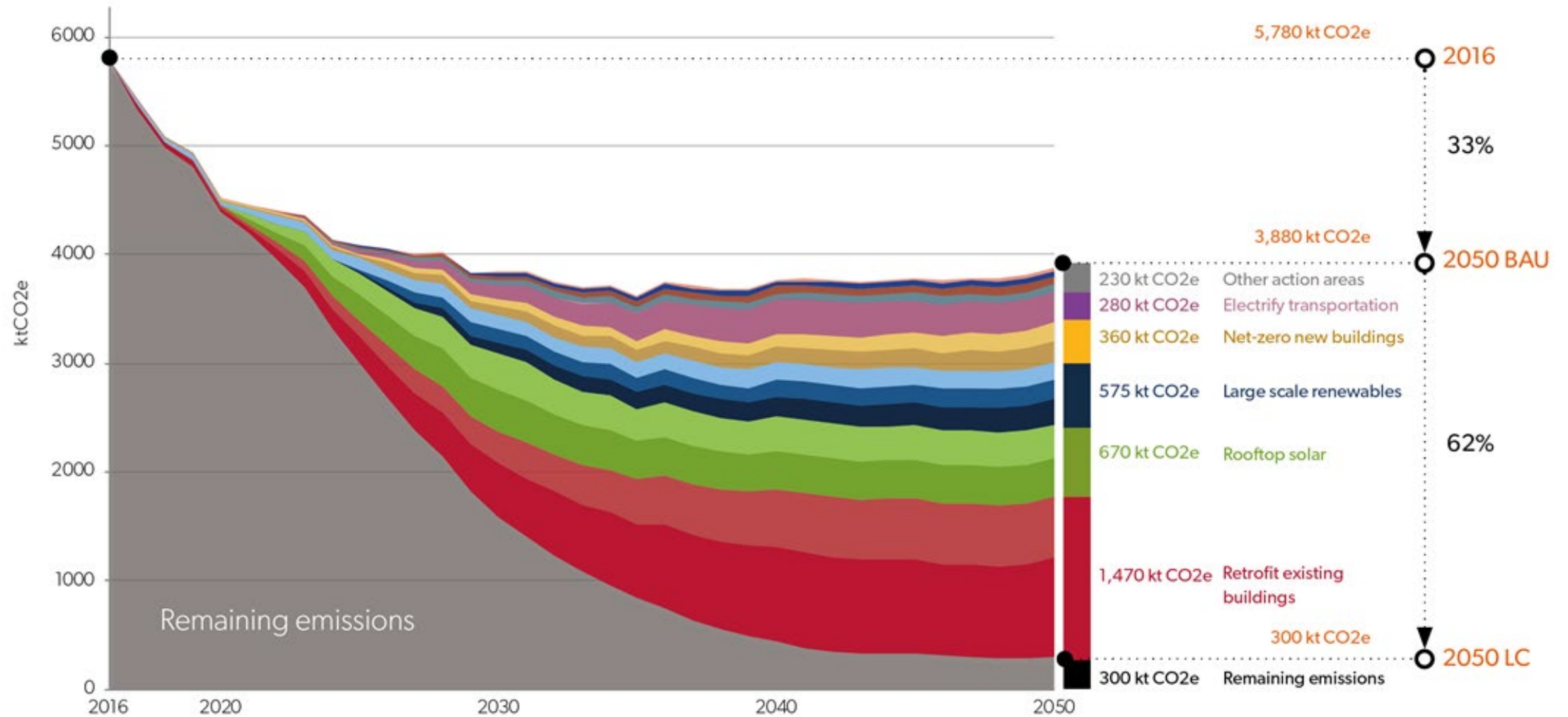
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HalifACT

Acting on
Climate
Together

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The Reduction Required



Retrofit, Renewables & Resilience (R3) Program Objectives

- Achieve 50% reduction in energy demand for existing buildings
- These measures can include:
 - envelope upgrades
 - mechanical upgrades
 - onsite renewables and resiliency measures
- Collaborate with existing programs
- Design for flexibility



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Opportunity & Challenge

Strong base

- Efficiency Nova Scotia
- Clean Energy Financing
- Solar City Program

But not enough... we need:

- Expand financing
- Expand upgrade offerings
- One-window approach

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Financing & Equity Considerations

- Working in parallel to this pilot project
- Applied for an FCM grant to:
 - Conduct a Program Evaluation Study of the Solar City Program
 - Hire experts to assist in designing the new program to:
 - Consider equitable access for all residents
 - Assess options for loan product competitiveness
 - Ensure ability to scale program to meet HalifACT targets
 - Develop minimum requirements for third-party lenders or utilities to offer financing

The R3 Design Team

- Team of 10 – municipal staff, industry experts, non-profit organizations
- Meeting weekly – need to move to implementation quickly
- Collective impact approach and prototyping – need to be able to adapt the program often
- Received provincial support for the R3 Design Team

Navigator

- Act as general contractor
- Provide one-on-one advice and expertise
- Manage subcontractors
- Coordinate retrofit work
- Manage rebates and financing



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Let's Prototype!

Recommendation:

- Approve the inclusion of additional energy measures beyond solar as part of the deep energy retrofit program
- Approve the deep energy retrofit pilot program which could incur up to \$3.5M of expenditures, to be fully recoverable from the participating property owners, and operate in the same manner as the Solar City Program

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Thank You

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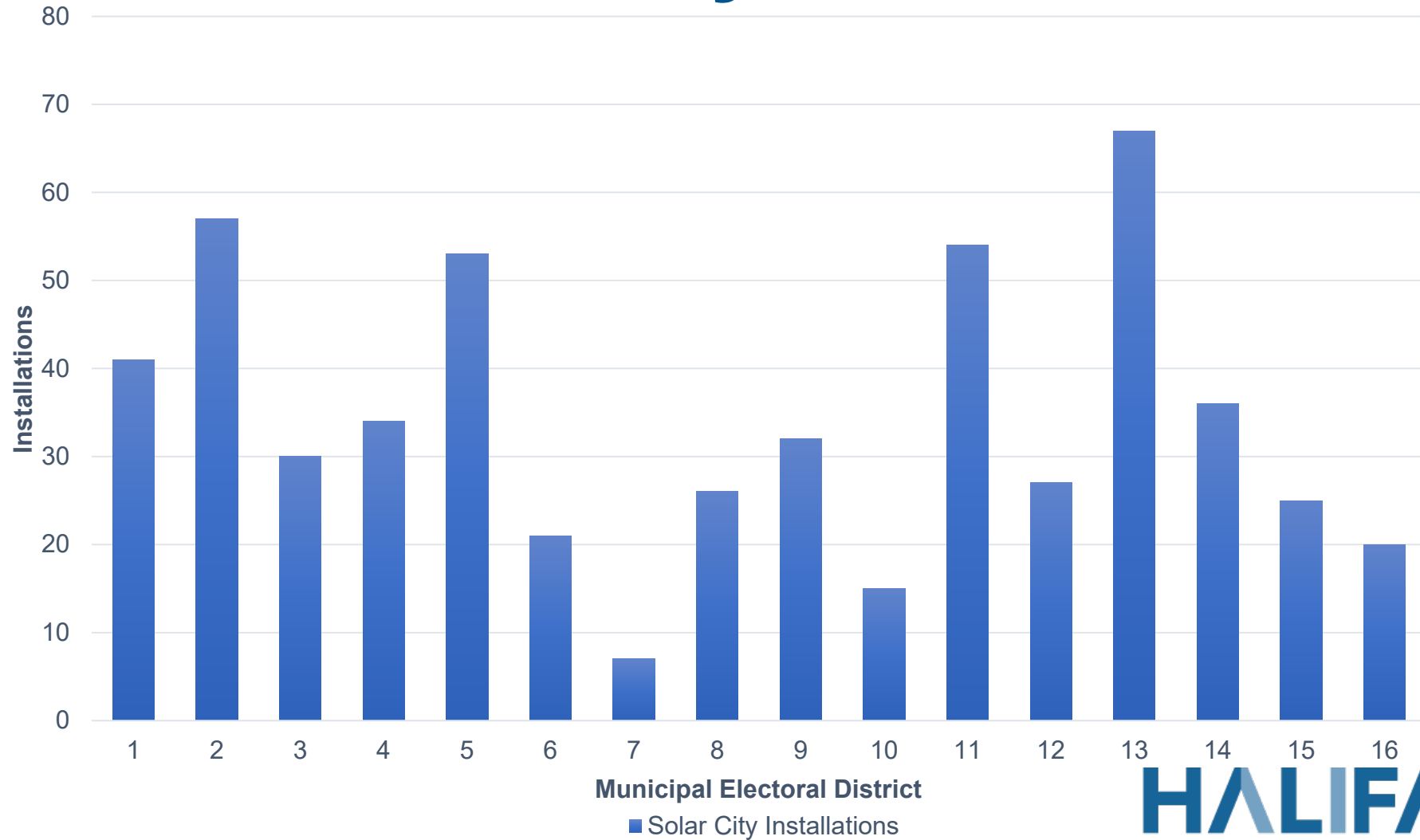
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Systems Installed by District



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