



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 11.2.2
Halifax Regional Council
September 14, 2021

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: **Original Signed**

Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair, Environment & Sustainability Standing
Committee

DATE: September 2, 2021

SUBJECT: **Plastic Pollution Resolution**

ORIGIN

September 2, 2021 meeting of the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee, Item 12.2.1.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The *Administrative Order 1, The Procedures of the Council Administrative Order*, Schedule 5, section 1 (1) provides:

1. (1) Subject to subsection 1A, the purpose of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee is to provide advice to the Council relating to the Environment and Sustainability including Solid Waste Resources, energy security and sustainable parks, forests (urban and rural) and open spaces and water resource management.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Suspend the Rules of Procedure under section 17 of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order; and
2. Endorse the Plastics Resolution as outlined in Attachment 1 of Request for Consideration form dated September 2, 2021.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee received a request for consideration form dated September 2, 2021 from Councillor Mancini at their September 2, 2021 meeting respecting Plastic Pollution Resolution.

Joshua Judah, Senior Solicitor noted that as provided for in section 4(2) of Administrative Order One, section 17 of Administrative Order One may be suspended by Standing Committee by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Members present and voting.

The Standing Committee passed the motion to suspend the rules of procedure under section 17 of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order One.

Then, the Standing Committee approved the recommendation as outlined in section 2 of the "Recommendation" portion of this report.

For further information on the background of this item, refer to the request for consideration form dated September 2, 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are not outlined.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration is not outlined.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Meeting held on September 2, 2021 was livestreamed and video recordings are available at Halifax.ca.

The agenda and reports of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca, and draft minutes of the meeting will be made available on Halifax.ca.

Standing Committee meetings are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Standing Committee for up to five minutes at the end of each meeting during Public Participation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications are not outlined at this time.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives are not outlined.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – A request for consideration form from Councillor Mancini dated September 2, 2021 with attached *DRAFT municipal resolution in favour of federal action to manage plastics*

If the report is released to the public, a copy can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk, 902.490.6517

Attachment 1



P.O. Box 1749
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Item No. 12.2.1

Request for Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Meeting: September 2, 2021		
Subject: Plastic Pollution Resolution		
Motion for Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to Consider: That the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend Regional Council to endorse the Plastics Resolution as outlined in Attachment 1 of this Request for Consideration form.		
Reason: Plastic pollution is recognized by the Government of Canada, as well as governments and scientists around the world, as damaging to the environment. Canada lacks a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing the growing problem of plastic pollution, and the majority of plastics produced are not currently suitable for reuse or recycling. Some 8,000 tonnes of Canadian plastic waste end up in landfills, incinerators, or the natural environment every day. Municipalities are in the position of managing the end of life of products that are not adequately managed by the producers that put them on the market. This would be an investment in the circular economy and create jobs.		
Outcome Sought: Support the resolution to address the crisis of plastic pollution in our environment.		
<i>Councillor Tony Mancini</i>	<i>District 6</i>	

Attachment 1

DRAFT municipal resolution in favour of federal action to manage plastics

WHEREAS plastic pollution is recognized by the Government of Canada, as well as governments and scientists around the world, as damaging to the environment;

Whereas Canada lacks a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to addressing the growing problem of plastic pollution;

Whereas global annual production of plastic products is expected to double in the next decade, to 800 million tonnes in 2030;

Whereas some 40 per cent of plastic production generates “single-use” items that are used once and thrown away, which runs counter to the principles of a circular economy;

Whereas the majority of plastics produced are not currently suitable for reuse or recycling and some 8,000 tonnes of Canadian plastic waste end up in landfills, incinerators or the natural environment every day;

Whereas municipalities are in the position of managing the end of life of products that are not adequately managed by the producers that put them on the market;

AND whereas investing in the circular economy creates jobs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council:

- 1. Endorse the integrated management plan for plastics proposed by the federal government, which includes:**
 - a. Banning six single-use items: checkout bags, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, certain takeout containers and straws**
 - b. Establishing a minimum requirement for recycled plastic content in new plastic products.**
- 2. Ask the federal government to implement these important regulations as soon as possible and, in any case, no later than the end of the year.**
- 3. Urge the federal government to establish a registry that publicly reports on:**
 - a. Descriptions of the plastic manufactured items put on the market each year in Canada**
 - b. A list of chemicals found in each product**
 - c. The amount of plastic that enters the waste stream in Canada each year, broken down by how and where the waste is processed (e.g. landfill,**

incineration/waste-to-energy, recycling, domestic vs. export)

- 4. Further urge the government to establish a framework for the adoption of Extended Producer Responsibility regulation across the country to ensure producers are responsible for the full lifecycle of the products they put on the market in Canada;**
- 5. Further urge the federal government to set a national recycling target for plastic products;**
- 6. And, finally, urge the federal government to work with municipalities to explore, with a view to investing in, reuse systems to replace single-use plastic products.**

March 2021