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Environment and Sustainability Committee  
March 3, 2011

**TO:** Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Phillip Townsend".

Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

**DATE:** January 31, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSP)

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

This report originates from Staff.

**BACKGROUND**

Each municipality that receives federal gas tax transfers under the Canada-Nova Scotia Gas Tax Agreement was required to prepare and provide an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) by 2009-2010. An ICSP is a long-term strategic plan for municipalities. Developed in consultation with members of the community, it identifies goals for sustainability and provides direction for communities as they move into the future.

An amendment to the ICSP required by 2013 is a Climate Change Action Plan.

## DISCUSSION

The 2010 Agreement saw approximately \$24 million of Gas Tax funding provided to the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM).

The HRM Municipal Regional Planning Strategy (Regional Plan) was submitted to meet the ICSP requirements. Consultations with the Infrastructure Secretariat indicate that work initiated under ClimateSMART will meet the Climate Change Action Plan amendment requirements.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat (CNSIS) administers the federal-provincial agreements that provide funding to infrastructure projects in Nova Scotia. The CNSIS helps communities access funds to improve their infrastructure – contributing to healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities.

Clearly, the requirements of an ICSP as a condition of receiving Gas Tax money is a federal strategy to ensure municipalities are progressing towards more sustainable futures.

The purpose of this Information Report is to simply advise the Environment and Sustainability Committee of the linkage with the Committee's work and this important infrastructure funding. Also, it is to share expectations of upcoming work.

It is expected that two things will happen in the future:

1. HRM may receive comments regarding the Regional Plan requiring alignment with ICSP requirements; and
2. During the 5 year Regional Plan review, Environmental Sustainability will take a leading role of importance.

Related to the comments and ICSP alignment, it is staff's expectation that during reviews of the Regional Plan there may be opportunities or requirements for minor adjustments. For example, currently the Regional Plan does not specifically stitch in with ClimateSMART Risk Management Strategy; but the work is done and risk management ongoing, so requirements to align within policy should not be difficult. With ClimateSMART, our work is extensive – some of the work may need to be officially stitched into the Regional Plan. Having Climate Change in the Terms of Reference of this committee is consistent with this requirement. Additionally, Water Resource Management is expecting further work in the future, and current policy under Regional Plan directs staff to carry out envisioned work that would be contemplated in those requirements. Again, that scope of work is consistent with the mandate of the Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Clearly, the Environment and Sustainability Committee's work will contribute to policy and strategy required to meet ICSP requirements. It is expected that there will be some crossover of work between the Committee and the other Standing Committees. As such, some traditional Planning reports will need to come through this committee for comments, direction, information, and/or deliberation.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications resulting from this report.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

There was extensive Community Engagement in the creation of the Regional Plan.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Richard MacLellan, Manager – Sustainable Environment Management Office, 490-6056

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