

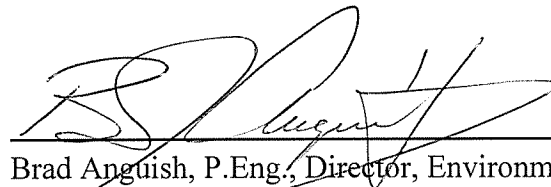


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Halifax Regional Council
October 18, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Brad Anguish, P.Eng., Director, Environmental Management Services

DATE: October 7, 2005

SUBJECT: InNOVAward 2005

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) 2005 AGM - October 6, 2005 - Presentation of InNOVAward

BACKGROUND

The attached Fact Sheet - Municipal InNOVAward provides details about this Nova Scotia Municipal Government - Innovation Award.

Halifax Regional Municipality submitted an application earlier this year for the corporate Sustainable Environment Strategy. A copy of this submission is attached.

DISCUSSION

On October 6, 2005, at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) 2005 fall conference, the Honourable Barry Barnet, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations presented the 2005 InNOVAward to Halifax Regional Municipality.

Councillor Russel Walker, incoming first vice president of the UNSM, accepted the award on behalf of HRM.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

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

ALTERNATIVES

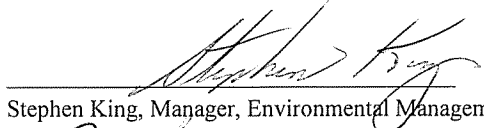
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ATTACHMENTS

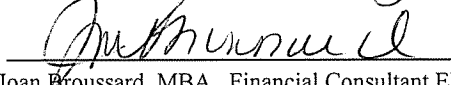
- Municipal InNOVAward Fact Sheet
- Municipal InNOVAward Submission

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

Report Prepared by :


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Financial Review :


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Fact Sheet

Nova Scotia Municipal Government - Innovation Award

What is this award?

The Municipal InNOVAward is an annual award that honours municipalities and villages which demonstrate excellence in the use of innovative approaches in the delivery of municipal programs and services. The award is sponsored by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR) and will be administered by SNSMR with input from the Association of Municipal Administrators (AMA).

Who is eligible?

The award is open to any municipality or village in the Province of Nova Scotia. The municipality or village must apply to be considered for this award.

What type of innovation is eligible?

The term innovation is to be interpreted broadly to include any new, creative approaches for delivering municipal programs and services and includes:

- operating/maintenance programs for municipal services, such as those with respect to:
 - community service facilities,
 - fire protection,
 - police services,
 - roads,
 - recreation,
 - strategic & land use planning,
 - transit,
 - waste disposal,
 - water & wastewater systems, and
- municipal management practices.

How does one apply?

The municipality or village completes and submits the Application Form and an Innovation Description as outlined in the "Application Requirements".



Fact Sheet

What criteria are used to judge an application for the award?

The key criteria used to evaluate an innovation are as follows:

- involves innovative features;
- provides tangible benefits to community residents such as cost savings to taxpayers; and/or local job creation;
- improves efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery;
- makes effective use of non-traditional sources of revenue or financing;
- involves partnership(s).

More details about this and other important information related to the award application process are provided in the material entitled "Application Requirements".

Why enter the Municipal InNOVAward competition?

This award presents an excellent opportunity for municipalities/villages to showcase their innovations to their local residents and those in other jurisdictions. Award winners will have their innovation posted on the SNSMR website and will have the right to use the Municipal InNOVAward logo on all stationery and publications.

When will winner(s) be announced?

Award(s) will be presented at the UNSM (Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities) fall conference. Winner(s) will also be formally acknowledged at the AMA (Association of Municipal Administrators) fall conference.

Where is information about this Award available?

This Fact Sheet, the Application Form and the Application Requirements are available on the Internet, at the Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations (SNSMR) website, under Municipal Services, at www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/awards

If you have questions you can e-mail your question to apaton@gov.ns.ca or call 424-7492.

**Municipal InNova Award
2005 Application
Halifax Regional Municipality**

“Sustainable Environment Strategy - HRM”

Executive Summary

Based on the importance citizens have placed on a clean, healthy environment, Halifax Regional Municipality has taken a strategic planning approach towards environmental sustainability. This includes a variety of collaborative partnerships; leading edge environmental projects; and innovative funding that has greatly minimized financial impacts to HRM tax payers and all part of an overall **Sustainable Environment Strategy**.

Reason/ Impetus for the Innovation

Halifax Regional Municipality has organized its services around four major corporate themes, being:

- Excellence in Governance
- Safe Communities
- Excellence in Service Delivery
- Healthy, Sustainable, Vibrant Community

In the 2004 Annual Report in the message from the CAO, it states that the future of HRM will be built on innovation and creativity.... The Message from Mayor Peter Kelly included references to improving the quality of life for HRM residents today and tomorrow.

Residents want a prosperous, vibrant, liveable region and one with a healthy environment with clean air, land, water and energy use.

In a nutshell, innovative and creative approaches were needed towards quality of life environmental improvements through the healthy, sustainable, vibrant community theme.

Funding also needed to be found. In municipal budgeting, there are many competing priorities and it can often be difficult to secure money for new environmental initiatives. Innovative approaches were required to find funding sources and opportunities.

Maximizing all available resources would be essential as well, therefore, efforts towards collaborative partnerships with both the private and public sectors needed to be strategically managed and put in place. We needed everyone pulling together towards a common goal and purpose - healthy environment.

An overall science based approach towards environmental sustainability would be required to manage the process and set the direction. A systems based framework was desirable.

In summary, we needed money, helping hands, and a plan to put HRM on the road to environmental sustainability.

Description of the Innovation

The Plan - A major component of the Sustainable Environment Strategy included a **Corporate**

Sustainability Analysis. Utilizing a customized version of The Natural Step (TNS) whole systems methodology, a high level corporate wide Sustainability Analysis was completed in 2004. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities provided 50% cost sharing through the Green Municipal Enabling Funds.

The Analysis provided a snapshot on HRM's sustainability gaps, opportunities and present status. Twelve high level corporate wide recommendations were brought forth.

Priorities - The corporate Environmental Initiatives Group (EIG) reviewed the twelve recommendations and recommended three as immediate priorities. These being:

- Green Corporate Culture
- Green Buildings
- Green Procurement

In 2005 related green activities to date include initiatives such as the following:

- Green Roof Symposium
- Green Procurement Workshops, Protocols and Guide Booklet
- LEED (Green Building) Certification Review
- Pilot Project - E-learning opportunities in Sustainability
- New local chapter of the Canada Green Buildings Council

Staff from various Provincial and Federal departments have participated in these initiatives, along with private sector companies, NGO's and the academic community. Information sharing and exchange has been very helpful.

The Money - One of the most significant enablers helping HRM move forward with its, "Healthy, Sustainable, Vibrant Community" corporate theme has been the establishment of the **Sustainable Community (Green) Reserve** in 2004.

This reserve was created through preferred interest rate borrowing (20 million dollars) towards the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project from the FCM Green Municipal Investment Fund. The interest differential (approximately 3.1-3.3 , million over 10 years) is being reinvested in priority green projects directly linked to the Healthy, Sustainable, Vibrant Community theme and which are incremental to existing budgets and programs. There is no net financial impact on HRM tax payers, and important green initiatives are moving forward and being completed.

Sustainable Community Reserve Project Examples Include:

| | |
|---|---|
| District Energy Concept | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involves hospitals, universities, Port Authority, DND, HRM, Province, Federal Government, and others• GHG Reduction/ Energy Security |
| Commuter Trip Reduction Programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GHG reduction, encourage public transportation alternatives to personal vehicle use, etc. |
| Bio-Fuels Initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GHG reduction, metro buses, ferries, corporate fleet and buildings |

| | |
|--|--|
| Reduced Idling Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed at unnecessary idling • Community based as well as corporate program • Partners also include NRCan, NS Energy, Climate Change Centre, and others |
| Energy-Environment Roundtables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous stakeholders, all three levels of government, Utilities, etc. • Environment/ Energy/ Economy links |
| TNS Whole Systems Methodology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science based systems approach to sustainability • Partnered with the FCM |
| Emission Reduction (Buses) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized catalytic converters for older buses • Major emission reductions |
| P₂ at Source | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive P₂ public education and awareness aimed at preventing pollution (P₂) at source |
| Sustainable and Alternative Transportation Programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example projects include, safe bike links from Mcdonald Bridge |

The Partners - The planning, funding and actual environmental sustainability projects each have involved a network of collaborative partnerships bringing together all three levels of government, private sector, community, NGO's, academia, etc.

These synergies have helped maximize and engage the various local resources towards environmental and related community health benefits for HRM citizens, businesses and visitors.

How the Innovation Related to the Awards Category

This strategic planning approach to environmental sustainability:

- Puts in place an overall strategic plan following a systems based approach to sustainability
- Addresses key environmental issues that are very important to residents, businesses and others
- Provides for an innovative approach to funding that has greatly minimized any financial impacts on local tax payers
- Brought together private and public sector partners towards common goals and objectives
- Information learned in HRM can be easily transferred to other Nova Scotia Municipalities
- Has enhanced the corporate knowledge base on sustainability
- Provides for much needed new environmental initiatives through an innovative funding approach

Challenges Faced and Overcome

The public desire and political will towards a healthy, sustainable, vibrant community was there.

The biggest challenges included formulating a strategic plan, finding money and engaging partners and citizens.

We believe through creative problem solving and a collaborative stewardship approach, we have met these as described earlier in this application.

The on going challenge will be to stay on the road to sustainability, measure and record performance, keep the partners and community engaged and continue to build on present successes and achievements.

It is an exciting challenge that brings great benefits to the overall community, now and for the future.

On-line Information

Information on HRM's sustainable environment initiatives is available on-line at: www.halifax.ca and follow the Naturally Green and/ or environmental links.

Stephen King
Manager-Environmental Performance
Sustainable Environment Management Office