

## Chapter 2. Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Interim report on stakeholder and open house comments received from June 2 – June 12, 2013

Please note that these working documents do not represent final policy recommendations until endorsed by CDAC.

**INTRODUCTION** Protection of water, land and air is a significant component of this Plan. The natural environment is one of the defining features of HRM, with its extensive coastline, lakes, rivers and vast forested areas. Citizens have indicated that anticipating the potential effects of climate change and protection of the natural environment are key priorities for preserving quality of life, community identity, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. The natural environment also provides many ecological and economic benefits to the residents of HRM. Environmental stewardship requires the collaboration of all levels of government and the community.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Promote an approach to environmental management and economic development that supports a sustainable future through cooperation with other levels of government, government agencies, residents, and non-governmental organizations;
2. Foster a greenbelting management approach which integrates preservation of lands of ecological, cultural and environmental significance; lands suited for renewable resource extraction; and lands suited for parks, trails and corridors which provide recreational and educational opportunities;
3. Adopt development practices that sustain air, land, water and groundwater resources; and
4. Conserve energy and respond to climate change.

PROPOSED POLICY CHANGE	COMMUNITY FEEDBACK	STAFF RESPONSE (no response indicated means Staff believe the proposed Regional Plan addresses this adequately or issues were previously answered.)	CDAC Direction
1. Greenbelting	1. Stop using the term; raises unrealistic expectations.	Greenbelting is being addressed as a community design issue through creation of a network of connected open spaces. Implementation will be carried out through the Greenbelting and open spaces Priorities Plan as well as community plans.	
	2. Deferring Green belting implementation to a Priority Plan does not slow urban sprawl		
	3. Include Halifax Mainland Common (urban forest) in Greenbelt		
	4. Provide a definition of Green Belting and formally incorporate the concept in the Regional Plan		
	5. The greenbelting plan is not defined as it is implemented in other cities. Define what it is and when it will be implemented		
	6. Apply an actual green belt around the urban serviced area		
	7. Develop a clearly mapped greenbelt where development does not occur		
	8. Protecting our HRM wilderness heritage		
	9. Significant environmental features should include old growth forests		
	10. Map a greenbelt that protects significant, connected natural areas and zone it greenbelt and prohibit development on these areas		

	11. I don't understand the rationale that the RP+5 is a review not a re-write. That has been used as an excuse not to change things, but the policy itself states in G-12 that the plan will be reviewed every year to gauge whether it is meeting its objectives. HRM is 10% off with its growth target of 50% suburban development. This is not considered a big deal, but it will cost taxpayers \$670 million. How could this not mean that HRM needs a new tool to reach its targets? That's what the HRM Alliance presented with greenbelting, nothing radical, not changing growth targets, just helping getting to where HRM wants to be.		
	12. Deal more firmly with Developers who have bought land speculatively and in areas needed for greenbelt. Expropriation where necessary should be used.		
	13. Map a greenbelt that connects areas and stop development		
	14. Need to link greenbelting and land; Include a parkland dedication to HRM; Public good for open space –shouldn't be developers' responsibility; Flexibility in policy readjustment; "GREENBELTING" – the term is inflammatory		
	15. Link GB to parkland dedication (& automatically go to HRM) not to be maintained privately as a liability to developer; Open space - Land seen as a public good and there should benefit	The Greenbelting Priorities Plan will explore a variety of land ownership options for protected open spaces.	
	16. Linear greenbelting okay, can tie to watercourse buffers and parkland. Refine to be given to HRM credit/dedication; Benefit: connectivity		
	17. Implement an actual greenbelt; Benefit: public buy-in and awareness		
	18. Transfer greenbelt land ownership to HRM after it's developed; Benefit: cost management, less tax, affordability		
2. Parks	19. Acquire lands for BMBCL Regional Park	To be addressed in Active Transportation Plan	
	20. Trails toolbox desired for community groups' implementation	To be addressed in Active Transportation Plan	
	21. Consult Community Trails Groups for accuracy of Trails on Map 3	To be addressed in Active Transportation Plan	
	22. Trail Building standards desired		
	23. Create Blue Mountain/Birch Cove Lakes Park		
	24. Create the regional parks network we were promised with an annual budget to buy the land		
	25. Create a sufficiently large annual budget for land acquisition		
	26. PARKLAND at 10% is a CASH GRAB! We don't see it accruing to benefit of development; No parkland in your HRM business parks; Burden		
3. Watercourse Buffers	27. Leave in the domain of the Provincial and Federal Govts.	The HRM Charter (Section 229) requires Municipal Planning Strategies address environmental issues and allows for protection of environmentally sensitive areas including watercourse buffers.	
	28. Increase to 30m setback	To be addressed in secondary plans	
	29. Change buffer to 30m		
	30. HRM ownership of all 30m buffers		
	31. Increase Policy E-16 to 30m		
	32. Buffer to all wetlands = 30m		
	33. The buffer is 20m; some water supply sources have a 30.5m buffer from a watercourse; the benefit of which would consistency between Municipal and Provincial laws		

	34. Change year reference in Policy E-19 from 2013 to 1996		
4. Wetlands	35. You don't have jurisdiction over wetlands E-15 Wetland policy Not HRM issue but provincial; Policy not needed	The HRM Charter (Section 229) requires Municipal Planning strategies address environmental protection and allows for storm water management policies including wetlands.	
5. Urban Forest Master Plan	36. Educate all of us of the value of our trees		
	37. Change Policy E-15 to include all wetlands ; not just 2000m <sup>2</sup> or greater		
6. Tree Retention By-law	38. Implement an HRM wide tree retention plan		
7. Climate Change	39. Ensure piped services can adequately handle proposed increase in residential units (in-filling)		
	40. Climate change appears to have been lost from the 2006 Regional Plan	Policy E-26 states the Climate Risk Management Strategy will guide corporate priority actions. Progress is taking place on the Community Energy Plan.	
	41. Climate Change is important		
8. Water (General)	42. Policy S-12(r) No net phosphorous increase performance standard too onerous. Study process of stormwater management may be unattainable (see also Ch.2)	Staff agree; Policy S-12(r) deleted. The upcoming Storm Water Management By-law is to address stormwater quality and quantity.	
	43. use an integrated approach to stormwater management		
	44. Clarity on infrastructure used around riparian buffers & open space		
	45. promote septic tank compost systems		
	46. Add septic tank pump-out requirement to Policy SU-21		
	47. Implement groundwater testing		
	48. No development in water supply areas		
	49. Ensure watershed balance		
	50. Mandatory septic tank pump-out		
	51. Expansion of water quality testing program		
	52. Water monitoring		
	53. Implement watershed study recommendations	Watershed study recommendations are to be addressed at the secondary Planning Stage.	
	54. Reinstigate the HRM lake water quality monitoring program	Policy E-25 addresses the requirement for a storm water quality monitoring protocol to assess if specific water quality objectives for watershed are being met.	
	55. Floodplain mapping for all watercourses		
	56. Significant water features need to be defined		
	57. Development approvals are being granted without meeting sufficiency of groundwater requirements		
	58. Implement an integrated stormwater management plan		
	59. Consider allowing wastewater treatment system infrastructure in riparian buffers where 50% is under the allowable conservation design unit ratios		
	60. Do not allow resource extraction (forestry/mining/quarries) in areas where potable water is extracted.		
	61. Daylight the Sawmill River (Downtown Dartmouth, Shubie Canal)		
	62. Surcharge on development that will have a negative impact on the environment		
	63. New development should cover hard and soft costs. Include capital cost charges		
	64. Map accuracy of water routes questioned		
9. Emissions Reduction	65. Where did the policy go?		
	66. Adopt a "no idling" policy for HRM facilities (as a minimum)		
10. General	67. Landscape developments appropriately		

