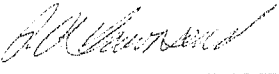




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Environment & Sustainability Committee
February 3, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure & Asset Management

DATE: December 29, 2010

SUBJECT: Community Solar Project

ORIGIN

November 2, 2010, Regional Council: Community Solar Project

October 25, Energy and Underground Services Committee: Community Solar Project

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Environment & Sustainability Committee recommend to Regional Council to:

1. Accept the results of the community consultation efforts and conclude that: residents support this project and further work on this project requires on-going industry consultation;
2. Direct staff to investigate and apply for the funding, grants, loans, and rebates required to proceed with a financially viable community solar project: and
3. Accept the principles and conditions used to develop a financially viable business model, as outlined on page six of this report.

BACKGROUND

On November 2, 2010, Regional Council directed staff to:

1. Continue to explore the potential financial, administrative, environmental and local economic impacts of a community solar project, and update Council as required;
2. Hold public engagement sessions to gauge residents' feedback on the uptake of a voluntary pilot program for solar hot water installations; and
3. Request the Province of Nova Scotia amend the HRM Charter to enable security of financing of energy conservation or environmental improvement of a property via lien authority.

DISCUSSION

1. **Continue to explore the potential financial, administrative, environmental and local economic impacts of a community solar project, and update Council as required:**

Ongoing:

Initial economic impact figures:

- 48,000 person-hour project;
- 30-40 jobs;
- \$300-\$700 annual energy savings per resident;
- \$500,000 of wealth currently leaving HRM for foreign energy will remain locally.

Initial environmental impact figures:

- 2,000 tonnes of GHG's displaced annually.

Initial Administrative Impacts:

- Staff is modeling the project as requiring a Project Manager, a Project Administrator, an Accountant, and an Administrative Assistant;
- additionally, depending on how the Quality Assurance elements are met – QA may be contracted in or contracted out; and
- all costs of the project are built into the financial/business model and paid for by the user-pay project, not general operating overhead.

2. **Hold public engagement sessions to gauge residents' feedback on the uptake of a voluntary pilot program for solar hot water installations:**

Completed:

The uptake and the feedback on the Solar City project has been overwhelmingly positive.

Staff initially expected the sign up of 500 to 700 residents to be a challenging effort. Recognizing that there were 800 solar hot water installations in all of Canada last year, it was expected that aiming to get registration close to that number was going to be a

challenge. It was expected that following the initial consultations prior to the holidays, staff would open up Pre-Screen Registration to start quantifying interest and continue consultations after the holidays to push awareness and interest. The response from HRM residents was highly positive.

Consultation efforts yielded approximately the following figures:

- 250 residents at Cole Harbour Place;
- 120 residents at Sackville Heights;
- 200 residents at St Marys Boat Club;
- 100 residents at Alderney Library;
- 150 residents at Captain William Spry;
- Over 5000 unique hits at www.halifax.ca/solarcity prior to December 15th;
- 200 e-mails to solarcity@halifax.ca prior to December 15th;
- numerous phone calls and face to face discussions;
- extensive media coverage.

Ultimately, within 48 hours of the registration date on December 15th, there were over 1000 residents indicating interest. By December 29th, there were over 1500. It is anticipated that staff will cease accepting names at 2000. The reasons staff has continued accepting additional names are:

1. it is expected that by the time the project is initiated, some people may have changed interest;
2. upon technical evaluation, some homes may not be suitable;
3. the additional names would go into the future queue for following projects; and
4. it's unknown how many residents want to finance themselves.

A copy of the presentation given to the public can be seen at:

<http://www.halifax.ca/solarcity/documents/SolarPresentationforPublicConsultation3.pdf>

Residents of HRM made a profound statement with this level of interest. Staff interpret that clearly, residents in HRM want renewable energy and want a simple way to access it.

One key change came forth during the consultations. As a result of the simplicity offered, many residents are not interested in the payment scheme, but would like HRM to take care of the contracting and rebates. This changes our modeling to 700 homes on payment scheme and 300 using self-financing.

Industry Consultation

On December 9, 2010, staff held a consultation for industry at the Dartmouth Alderney Library. Approximately 60 members of the industry attended. The discussion was constructive and positive.

The essential elements of the discussion are the need for HRM to hold a solicitation that:

- Achieves economies of scale, efficient and effective project and contract management and mitigates risk and liability; and
- Provides benefit to local industry.

A very key premise in the project is that a single award of 20 installs in a neighbourhood will be less expensive than awarding 20 individual installations. We need this efficiency for the project to make financial sense. It will also enable a learning curve that will help industry move from the current Canadian standard of 48 hours per installation to the German standard of 22 hours.

Staff committed to further industry consultation as this project develops and prior to a solicitation.

The consensus feedback from industry has been strongly supportive. There are vendors that are concerned with not having opportunity from this project, but the overwhelming response was supportive. Several vendors have indicated that HRM's development of this pilot program has greatly increased the public's awareness and appetite for solar hot water, with many seeing a significant increase in business from residents not wanting to wait. HRM has advocated partnerships and collaborations. Attached in the appendix are letters of comment (either for or against the program) from industry.

Other Consultation

In addition to Industry and Community consultation, staff conducted consultation with other stakeholders such as:

- Nova Scotia Community College
- Environmental Services Association of Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Homebuilders Association
- Halifax Chamber of Commerce
- Fusion

Staff will continue to consult and collaborate with our Provincial counterparts on our progress, findings and questions. There has been significant interest in the concept of this pilot program from other municipalities across Canada, wanting to replicate the program or elements of it – in particular the use of the property tax system to finance energy improvements. Over the last two years, several jurisdictions in Canada have invested heavily into researching this concept, but have not yet launched programs. Support for this initiative is strong.

3. Request the Province of Nova Scotia amend the HRM Charter to enable security of financing of energy conservation or environmental improvement of a property via lien authority:

This is completed. The Province passed an enabling legislation during the fall legislature session. The press release of the legislation can be seen at: www.halifax.ca/solarcity/documents/ProvincialRelease.pdf. This was a very significant milestone, as it removes the only legal impediment to project implementation. It also makes Nova Scotia the first jurisdiction in Canada to pass such legislation. Ontario and British Columbia are interested in implementing similar amendments.

The current Conceptual Timeline for the project is:

- ✓ November 2010: Regional Council directs staff to look at the project;
- ✓ December 2010: Consultation, Legislation;
- ✓ February 2011: Staff present results of Consultation, initial Business Model and seek approval to seek funding;
- May 2011: Staff confirm grants, rebates, loans, etc. and seek approval to issue solicitation;
- August 2011: Regional Council award contracts to vendors and approves updated Business Model;
- September 2011: Suitable installations commence and homeowners sign agreements;
- Fall 2011: Installations commence; and
- Winter 11/12: Installations completed.

There are several key decision points for Regional Council:

- February 2011: Approve business model principles and look at public feedback: Go/No Go decision;
- May 2011: Look at business model and funding: Go/No Go decision;
- August 2011: Solicitation Awards – Go/No Go decision (if solicitation does not meet efficiencies outlined in the Business Model).

Staff would suggest that May and August 2011 are really the most stringent approvals. This stage is still in concept phase.

Recent Questions:

In the past several weeks, the following questions have emerged:

Impact on Assessment and Assessment Caps?

Province of Nova Scotia Property Valuations Services Corp confirmed that there is currently no direct impact on assessment caps. HRM Legal might seek further clarification and/or support from the Province.

Need to sign residents up so early?

In order to detail a business model and ensure that taxpayers are not at risk and get information for potential funding partners, quantitative sign up interest is required. Bearing in mind that in the past year there were 800 installations in all of Canada and only 200 of those in Nova Scotia, achieving close to 2000 interested residents is remarkable. It sends a clear message to the Provincial and Federal environmental or energy program managers. With this, we are able to confidently model a 1000 home project.

The data acquired regarding heating methods, quantities, etc., will enable accurate benefit modelling. This data is very important to have to support funding applications and stating benefits. For example, currently there are different rebate offers related to people having electric hot water tanks or oil fuelled. This data is important when creating the business model to ensure the project is financially sustainable and not a burden to HRM.

First come, first serve?

This method was briefly discussed at Regional Council on November 2nd as appearing the most administratively effective and equitable manner for sign up. Staff will monitor distribution of sign up with Regional Council, to manage efforts for future initiatives.

Cost to the Municipality?

The premise of the modeling for this project is that it is cost neutral or slightly positive to HRM, and is envisioned to contribute to the Energy Efficiency Reserve.

Are we competing against Private Business?

No. There are no private businesses offering to bundle rebates or arranging low interest financing and contracting for renewable energy projects. This project fits within the parameters of a Community Energy Plan, a Federal government stipulation for municipal funding that assists Federal government progress on energy and environment agenda by using the abilities of the Municipalities. The Community Energy Plan will be updated in 2012. This project would be very similar to efforts to incubate Wind Energy or District Energy in HRM. While HRM is the first, there will be other municipal projects across Canada following our model.

Principles for developing a viable HRM Financial and Business Model:

- User Pay;
- no costs borne by general taxpayer;
- financially self-sustaining;
- priced such that there is a reasonable contribution to either the Energy Efficiency or Sustainable Communities Reserve to act as seed money for future projects;
- priced such that the energy savings justify the homeowner's annual payment over a reasonable and acceptable term;
- overhead/administrative costs are fully recovered. This will likely include a Project Manager, a Project Administrator, an Accountant, an Administrative Assistant, and a Quality Assurance function;
- HRM is successful in an application to the FCM Green Municipal Fund for \$5 million low interest loan and an additional grant, or comparable, from another funding agency;
- HRM is successful in securing minimum grants and rebates required to provide a viable business model; and
- the supply price received from vendors is within the range needed to make the program financially viable.

The project is being established in a similar concept to the Energy and Underground Services Reserve and Sustainable Communities Reserve, which have enabled significant HRM progress in corporate Energy and Environmental initiatives without impact on the general tax rate.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

To date, costs for consultation efforts (approximately \$2,000) have come from SEMO Cost Center D935, plus approximately 200 staff hours (from existing budget envelopes – no overtime).

Costs to complete the Recommendations listed in this report, will continue to be funded from existing Operating Cost Centres and budgets, generally consisting of man-hours. This will include approximately \$15,000 of specific and specialized technical advice and guidance to assist HRM Energy Auditor in validation of business model and energy saving figures.

As the project proceeds, any other budget implications will be identified in future reports.

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 has been extensive community engagement on this project as per the discussion section.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Environment & Sustainability Committee may wish to direct staff for other information prior to sending the recommendation to Council; or
2. The Environment & Sustainability Committee may wish to direct staff to cease investigating this project.

ATTACHMENTS

Summary of Comments from Residents Signing Up
Letters received to Date

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 SEMO, 490-6056



Financial Approval by: Cathie O'Toole, CGA, Director of Finance, 490-6308

Community Solar Project – Comments from Applicants

have lived overseas and this program is a long time coming - it truly makes a considerable difference for one's power bill. I hope the city sees fit to help out its citizens as this could be a win-win situation for all concerned. Thanks.

amazing idea - Halifax could be a leader

Very forward thinking. Great job, HRM!

Very excited about this initiative

Good project.

I think this is great!

I have currently only 1/2 tank of oil due for a fill up shortly I am also a single person in the home but plan on selling in a few years so water consumption will increase at that time. I am very interested in this project and hope to participate - it's a great idea!

I think this is a fantastic way to help with the upfront capital costs associated with a project of this type. Very excited to see many people make the switch sooner than they would otherwise be able to.

Great initiative towards a greener city

I think this is a great idea. I hope this takes off in Halifax. Good job!

Would prefer financing method as you have proposed.

Very much looking forward to GREEN energy ! Great initiative & very forward thing for HRM as a municipality.

Great program to make it possible for the average household to participate in this, so important for our environment, green initiative!

Looking for additional information.

great idea

This program is awesome!

great leadership HRM!!!

great idea

I am very interested in beginning the process of turning my house into a "Green" home. This would go a long way to helping with the process.

Looking forward to hearing more on how this program will work. We are very interested in using solar power any way that we can.

I am very interested in this program. After attending your public meeting, I feel this program would be a great fit for my home. I also have a great south facing roof.

this this is great!

We think this is an amazing initiative and would love to be a part of it. It is a progressive initiative. Kudos to HRM.

We want to see it happen - make it so!

This seems like a fantastic initiative. I am excited to be involved and hope it expands to include other forms of solar use in the future

I believe HRM is doing a wonderful thing. Alternative ways to heat our homes is important, not only in the present, but for our future generations. Clean energy is the way to go. I worked for several years with Hydro Production at NSP and firmly believe in clean energy. Thank you for allowing residents to participate in this wonderful program.

I think this is a step in the right direction for us. We need to start thinking of alternative methods and now is the time. Keep it up.

Please sign me up

I think this is a fabulous opportunity for HRM residents and look forward to the possibility of participating in this program.

I believe HRM is doing a wonderful thing. Alternative ways to heat our homes is important, not only in the present, but for our future generations. Clean energy is the way to go. I worked for several years with Hydro Production at NSP and firmly believe in clean energy. Thank you for allowing residents to participate in this wonderful program.

Water: Figures from home in Ottawa. Moved to Summit June 15, 2010. Summit figures = June 15 - Oct 6 = 35 m³ (higher than Ottawa due to garden use). Electricity: Figures from Ottawa. Excluding cost of rental hot water heater. June 15 - Oct 19 = 2216 kWh. Almost the same as Ottawa. Oil: Last year's cost to previous owner. So far this year: June 15 - Dec 7 = 331 litres @ \$247. Propane: Small amount for fireplace. Last year's cost to previous owner. So far this year: 52.7 litres @ \$52. Natural Gas: Used in Ottawa. Prefer program to alternative participation. Our home has a hip roof. Tree partially blocks south slope. West slope = no obstructions, lots of solar gain = most suitable probably. Great idea - I wish you success!

We are very excited at this opportunity- we have a large family with two children in diapers and a south facing roof. This would be perfect for us. We would not otherwise be able to afford solar.

You may already have a form on file for me. I did not get a confirmation on completion of my earlier attempt.

I have been interested in solar hot water for a long time and this may be the best way for me to afford this.

Server difficulty in signing up upgrade computer capacity.

great program !

Halifax is head and shoulders above the rest of Canada and USA for that matter - great work!!

Thank you

Great initiative. Curious if it'll be cost effective - there're just two of us. In any event, it will be environmentally sound.

We do not use oil in the summer months; this program is exactly what we were thinking of doing to ensure we have hot water all year round.

We have a large home and would like to have this green feature.

Excellent!

Water and electricity usage figures are estimates based on billing to date -- we purchased our home in July, and the house had previously been unoccupied for approx. six months.

I think this is an incredibly innovative program and would like to participate. We have been considering adding solar energy but thought at this point it might be too expensive. We would

It's a great initiative. A chance for home owners to go green.

We have always wanted solar panels to supplement our heating/water costs. Thank you HRM for the innovative idea!

We are very interested in making a difference! We attended one of your public sessions and was very impressed by the HRM presentation, and applaud you for taking on this initiative. We hope we are selected to take part.

We are extremely interested in this program. We think it is a fantastic idea! Petra

This is a good start - a way to make solar accessible to those who might not otherwise afford it. And great that HRM is trying to be at the forefront of sustainability.

Thanks to the city for this project!

I think this is a very good incentive and hope that it will become a permanent alternative choice for anyone buying an old or new home in the HRM. Thank you!

We think this is a wonderful program. We the initiative taken by HRM is commendable. Thank you for this oppourtunity.

This is a great oppertunity to actually make the step to go Solar. We build our house a year ago with teh thoughts to add solar in the future. The roof is perfectly suitable for solar as it is facing south without obstructions.

very good

I like the concept of HRM running this type of program. The first time I submitted this, I got a time out error (line 85). Times 2, 3, 5-15 a connection error. The 4th time I got a white screen. The 16th time I

got a white screen with Service Unavailable.

Wonderful!!

This is a great opportunity to actually make the step to go Solar. We build our house a year ago with the thoughts to add solar in the future. The roof is perfectly suitable for solar as it is facing south without obstructions.

I love this GREEN initiative, and willing to participate as one of the first 500 solarcity customers.

Very interested !

I think it is fantastic the city is taking this initiative. I think a lot of citizens are interested in doing their part but are not sure how to go about it effectively.

I think my house is ideally suited to this type of installation. I have wanted to place solar panels on my roof for some time, but could not determine the best option. I am hoping this bulk program will simplify the process.

We appreciate being considered to participate in the program.

Fantastic initiative from HRM! Let's use the power nature has given us to make our community better!

I am very pleased with this green initiative! We need more of this forward thinking in HRM!!

This is a very important initiative as it sends a clear message to the federal government that residents of Halifax are concerned about climate change and thus, seeking alternative solutions to reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

We are in favor of finding alternate energy solutions for our home. We have completed the energy audit and made upgrades based on their recommendations.

Super Program!

We are extremely excited about this project. We have wanted to invest in solar heating but as a newer home buyer it was not an option yet. This project would give us the opportunity to do something great for the environment and save money.

This is a resubmission. We spent 45 minutes after 10:00am and ended up sending you an email. We got the password part wrong and were not sure if you received the application so we are resending it.

***** THE ROOF OF THE HOUSE IS SOUTH FACING. WHEN WE BUILT THE HOUSE WE INSTALLED INSULATED COPPER PIPE FROM THE ROOF TO THE UTILITY ROOM FOR POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE SOLAR HOT WATER EXPANSION.

Excellent Program: can't wait! Dreadful problems with submission of information. I've been trying for 40 minutes.

This is such a great idea. We are very excited and have always been interested in pursuing alternative energy sources for our house.

- possibly interested in participating with own method of financing...

This is a great program! I've been interested for solar water heating since we moved to Halifax a year ago. I'm eager to participate in the program and share the excitement through the community.

Are the solar panels made in this country?

I think this program is a FANTASTIC idea. I really hope we can be a part of expanding solar energy usage in the HRM.

Fantastic initiative from HRM! Let's use the power nature has given us to make our community better!

Excellent initiative. Anything to bring peoples attention to the importance of energy efficiency and sustainable lifestyles.

We are very excited about the creation of this program. Our house is a great candidate, as it is passive solar construction facing due south w/out obstruction. It is also R2000 compliant. Our heat source is electric hydronic in-floor radiant heat.

This is an exciting step towards greening our communities. I hope that the program moves forward.

Note that I answered the question about spare room next to my furnace as yes, but I believe this question is because you require an additional hot water tank for this project. I currently have a seperate hot water tank complete with a seperate burner. Also, I may be interested in proceeding with my own financing depending on the final quoted price.

Thanks Ron

We are extremely excited about this project. We have want to invest in solar heating but as a newer home buyer it was not a option yet. This project would give a the oppunitiy to do something great for the environment and save money.

This is a fanstastic opportunity!!!

Great idea!

Thanks!

Sound great.

We would love to be a part of this amazing opportunity, and believe it is a great step to becoming a cleaner city.

This is my 21st attempt. First attempt shortly after 10 am. (Should have gone in shortly after my office mate John Czenze who did successfully submit) Connection keeps timing out.

Great initiative! Very interested in solar heating.

We are extremely interested in this program. We think it is a fantastic idea! Petra

If own financing required i would look at it but is not preferred route

I've been attempting to submit since 10:05am.

I think it is a brilliant idea. I am very excited that our city is offering such a program. I understand that starting such a program will have its difficulties. It may take a few years before it runs efficiently. Eventually, when hundreds of homes have solar hot water, our city can be proud of the accomplishment.

Form submitting webpage is in need of upgrade to handle the traffic. i have been trying to submit for an hour.

This is a great oppertunity to actually make the step to go Solar. We build our house a year ago with teh thoughts to add solar in the future. The roof is perfectly suitable for solar as it is facing south without obstructions.

We are very excited about this and have been thinking about solar for some time now. This is a great opportunity!

Good luck with Council and with the Industry. This is a great initiative.

The figures I gave are based on the year up to Sept 2010.I am recently retired and moved Sept 01/10 to a bigger house which I am renovating into 3 units.In my previous home I worked to improve the energy loss over 27yrs and left with a score of 68 very good for a 110 year house. The medical students who lived with me in my former home did not use the clothes or dishwasher or clothes dryer. This affects my total amounts above. I also used the bath water as grey water for the plants and garden. I can't do this now due to physical restrictions. In my present home I will have multiple families living here with all drawing on hot water re: cooking, bathing, clothes washer, dish water clothes dryer etc. I have a perfect roof line for panels, - south and west without building or tree interference. I want to participate in this programme because it is a good investment in the environment and financially over time even if one sells or dies the benefit will continue for the next families.

The roof of the house is south facing. When we built the house we installed insulated copper pipe fom the roof to the utility room for possibility of future solar hot water expansion

Great initiative, I prefer to ammortize cost over period of time to be included with property taxes

We live in Lawrencetown and fly my husband back and forth to the oil rigs in Alberta for work. It sucks, obviously, and costs us personally \$17,000 annually in flights. Please make Halifax the Solar City. Bring some pride to the region. Give us work.

Excellent Idea - Eager to participate

Great Idea, but heard property tax will be increased. Anyone willing to reduce consumption and help the environment should not be taxed extra

It's a great opportunity to reduce our Carbon footprint while saving money on heating bills.

Wonderful program we are very excited to participate. This will put HRM on the map. Congrats to staff to thought of this.

I believe many residence would pay up front if the info and suppliers/contractors were checked and approved.

Primary heat source is wood. 4 cords per year

I have been interested in solar power for a long time now. I believe this is a ground breaking move on the city's part and I would love to be part of it. We have a southwest exposure and use the sun to warm our house in the winter via big windows. We also have to work at keeping the sun out in the summer to try and keep the house cool. I think this is an ideal spot to use solar energy.

I love the idea of attaching energy efficiency improvements to the house instead of the person. It removes the barrier people have where they resist making investments in improvements in case they sell their house before breaking even.

I also use about \$600 a year for wood, because my heating system is a combination of my woodstove, and heat taken from my hot water heater and circulated through the house by means of an air recirculator.

It is a great program as it provides the opportunity for taxpayers to use solar power in their houses without the startup costs. Spreading the costs out over the property taxes gives the taxpayers this opportunity that they may not have otherwise.

Very excited about efficiency programs and looking forward to participating!

Great initiative - Very interested in participating!!!

The last question on the "Alternative Participation in Program" is confusing. I am interested in the program with the standard financing but I am also interested in financing options on my own. Perhaps this should be a check box that gives the user an option.

willing but depending on the costs

Interested in making our house more green.

This concept is GREAT step forward - using Halifax's capacity to arrange the financing so that such green improvements are paid as a property tax surcharge...

I am excited about the potential this has to lower costs by using renewable energy.

I am interested, but depends if my lot is suitable, also the way my roof is sloped might be a problem? I think this kind of technology is something EVERYBODY should have, not only to lessen our dependance on oil and other fuels, but to save consumers money over time. My opinion is this is something the Province should be involved with also, besides just giving a small incentive(\$500)but they should be helping with the funding for these systems to make the future of our province a better place. It seems abitious for the HRM to take on the responsibilty, but if this program is a success it would be a good role model for the rest of Canada. A few questions, what is the quality of workmanship of the selected installers? Are they the lowest bidder or are they also selected on past customer satisfaction and will they be around in the future, and not some fly by night who will get the "contract" by HRM to do the work, then fold when the program money is over? Thank You for considering my for this program

We are excited about the possibility of participating! Thanks for making this program available. We'd like to be able to say we could participate with our own financing, but would not be able to do so at this time.

I think this is a great opportunity, one which I would not be able to finance myself, without the assistance of this program. Thank you for the opportunity.

I think this a excellent idea and forward thinking on HRM's part. Being single and having electricity as the only means for heating the home is quite expensive and trying at times. I have been researching solar and wind power as a method to take some power off the grid but of course finance can be a problem. This is a great incentive for all interested. It is also a great contribution for those looking to go green and do their part in preserving the environment.

I think this and other green environmental choices are very important for the city and it's residents to pursue.

I'm very excited to move my water heating costs off the oil furnace boiler. This would allow me to reduce my oil costs drastically. Without the financing program, I probably will not go forward.

I'm very excited to move my water heating costs off the oil furnace boiler. This would allow me to reduce my oil costs drastically. Without the financing program, I probably will not go forward.

It's a great opportunity to reduce our Carbon footprint while saving money on heating bills.

I do not know the water/electric/oil usage to any accurate degree. We just bought this house a week ago and have a new member of the family living with us (2 mo. old) so I can't predict what our usage will be.

look forward to the success of this great initiative

Sounds like a great idea.

excited by the project, after our energy assessment this is the last area to help reduce our carbon footprint, I have been trying to get this submitted since 10 am on the dot and guess you are swamped with folks hope it gets through Tony

BRAVO!

Hello I have been caught in the black hole of on-line apps..I started at 10.05Am with this app only to submit and get nowhere after various tries I got a confirmation code of KpRF and then submit and nowhere again So I, I'll try once again...

It's a great opportunity to reduce our Carbon footprint while saving money on heating bills.

look forward to the success of this great initiative

My house is 5 years old, completely heated by electricity. I have roughed-in for future solar heating. Piping to the attic and installed in-floor piping in concrete (basement). I could not finish the project due to funds.

I think it is a great idea. I am interested in learning more about other uses of solar energy in the community.

It's a great opportunity to reduce our Carbon footprint while saving money on heating bills.

This program is an excellent idea. I commend HRM for taking it on.

Very good!

Great program . Tax method of payment is a graet option.

Numbers presented were extrapolated for a 12 month period for comparison purposes. This is a brand new home and it has been occupied since February 3, 2010. Actual numbers as provided by NSP and Halifax Water are as follow:

My husband and I are both excited about the possibilities in this program, particularly since our home has full south orientation and is already passive solar.

Very excited about program. Use wood 4 cord for space heat - oil mostly for hot water. In thinking about this, I thought you may have a team doing 'drive-by' preliminary assessments of those who registered. We have a large tree in our front yard that may need to be removed depending upon the optimal location of the solar panels on our roof. I have discussed this with my wife and if required, we would remove this tree.

Electric and water are calculated by the month. This is the second time entering the info. I was reassured at the meeting that the web site would not have any issues yet I can not submit my info

Much better program than the convention centre.

I am thrilled to see Halifax Council stand firmly behind eco-friendly heating alternatives. This program appears to take all the trouble out of the purchase and installation for the homeowner. Well Done!

I have recently purchased my house and therefore I do not have 12 months of bills yet, so the figures of the water and electricity consumption above are interpolated from the the bills I have.

I think that this is a great idea. I wish you every success in this project.

It's a great opportunity to reduce our Carbon footprint while saving money on heating bills.

I have some passive solar now and think reduceing the carbon footprint is a good idea .

good program

Great Idea for HRM.

Great Idea for HRM.

It's a great opportunity to reduce our Carbon footprint while saving money on heating bills.

Absolutely fantastic! Thank you for this wonderful environmentally conscious initiative.

Appears to be an excellent, well thought out initiative. (3rd try to send this)

This is a fantastic opportunity for myself and my family but moreso for the families of HRM. I am glad to see the municipality taking the initiative on this and helping make our community a little greener.

I think this is a great initiative that helps the community to be able to afford to have a positive affect on the environment.

Great initiative!!

Want to participate.

Want to participate.

Great Program!

I think this is a great step in the right direction to free ourselves from fossel fuels.

Submitting for second time. Unsure if initial form was accepted due to timeout messages from your website.

I'm really excited about this project. I've acted as an ambassador for it and have brought several people to the sessions. I think my house would be perfect and could be the "poster child" for this project!

We are very interested in participating in this program. We are proud that HRM is encouraging and supporting it's community in energy conservation.

I am not sure what the Alternative Participation question means. WE are interested in being part of the group where there is no up front cost, and we pay thru our taxes. We are thrilled that HRM is taking on this initiative to walk the talk of being more sustainable when it comes to energy consumption. Congrats.

Excellent program. A good contribution to fighting global warming.

I feel as though this program is very helpful for people who are trying to reduce their carbon footprint and for the province as a whole, I have already created a solar pop can heater which supplies free heat to my house and have assisted my neighbours in doing the same, I would love to be able to replace my oil fired hot water heating with a solar powered one and the

third try to send this form

This looks like a fantastic program. Thank You for putting it on.

We are interested in this program because of the eco friendly advantage and the savings it may produce overtime. The opportunity to be involved in this pilot program.

I believe this is a huge step in the right direction for the environment and for saving cost on energy home used. Congratulation to HRM for this forward thinking.

May be for the financing once we see the numbers.

We are really excited about the prospect of using solar energy. Our family is trying to become more effiecent and environmentally aware. This is a step in the right direction!

Single family dwelling.

As a non-profit housing co-operative this is an ideal way for us to contain our costs for members. Maintenance uses our capital and we cannot afford projects such as this. Great idea and will prove that solar can work in NS

Oil removed May 2010

I think this is a great green initiative by the forward thinkers in HRM. The citizens of HRM are already recycling leaders. With this initiative citizens of HRM will set an example for the rest of Canada if not the World on the use of emerging green technologies.

Love it. Hope it proceeds

Great incentive!

Very interested in participating; how much weight will be applied to the "Alternative Participation in Program" question? I didn't want to say 'no' if it ruled me out. As a resident, I would love to know the evaluation criteria being used to accept or reject applications -- would be nice to see on the website at the appropriate time. Really encouraged that City staff are taking the initiative to make this program happen.

having hrM help with financing through the tax bill is enabling me to take part in the program. I have looked at this for 5 years now but was never able to do it financially. Also, the above electric consumption is for hot water and lights. We heat our home with 90% wood heat and I do not use a dryer for clothes and we have a counter top oven for cooking rather than a traditional stove. I really hope that council pass this project I believe it can help a lot of people as well as the environment.

We are really interested in this project!!!

My family is really interested in this program as we believe in a green and environmentally friendly environment and look forward to being selected to participate in this program

I live in an area of the North End (West St) that is under going gentrification. The older homes hold much appeal for younger professionals like me, but the energy efficiency is less

This program would be ideal for us because we have always thought solar panels would work very well on our house because of where it is located. But like everyone else we just never seem to be able to come up with the money to do it.

I have been considering installing solar panels since I bought my house in 2007. This program would help me be better able to budget for them.

There is a small amount of space near, not next to, the water heater (next to furnace).

I think this a great green program and nice to see HRM leading the way.

I think this is a great initiative and I hope I may be able to participate. The house has been renovated recently and has an environmental efficiency rating of 67%. Also the heat system is a heat pump with back up electric coils. I use propane for water heating and my kitchen stove.

I am all for a Greener Community.....

This is a set of flats. The number of persons includes tenants in the upstairs flat. There are two hot water heaters. The downstairs flat is heated primarily by wood with a forced air oil

Great initiative.

Very interesting program and would like to be a part of it. Thank you

Interested in payment by Property Taxes. Very interested in this project.

Very good idea - leading edge - I hope it is successful.

I think it is a good idea I am south facing so I think my house would be a good location.

I'm wondering if it is feasible for us to invest in this program since there is just the two of us living here now. When we found out what our water consumption was, it included 4 people living here.

I think this is a wonderful initiative for HRM to undertake and will send a positive signal to Canada and the world of our collective desire to work together in protecting our environment. Note that my indication above to consider self-financing is predicated on wanting first to consider all options, including the proposed HRM option. Thanks.

Seems like a wonderful way to increase use of solar energy. I'm excited about it.

I'm excited about this program. I recently installed a Cansolair solar heater on the side of my house. I have a south facing aspect with no trees or other things to obstruct the sunlight as I am on a small hill. Although I said no above, depending on costs, I might be interested in doing my own financing.

This is a great program to help the people of HRM, and our environment. Solar power has been an interest of mine, but it has always been too costly. This is a good option to start with hotwater only. Thanks for resparking my interest.

Tried to sign up since 10AM. Website issues. 2 people living in house starting January 30.

My husband tried to submit this form at 10 a.m. with no success as your web site hung up several times on him (Geoff Brown). I am trying again on his behalf but would request consideration be given to your obvious technical difficulties when determining "first come first served".

Look forward to being involved.

We share hot water heating between 2 apartments and this would be a valuable way for us to get our oil costs down.

water and electricity includes cost of meter rental

water before taxes

Great initiative by HRM.

My primary source is electricity, but I use a wood stove through the winter months to help with the electricity bills, however the wood stove is getting harder (physically) so I am looking for another

option.

Three times i tried to provide varafication numberand never succeeded.I have no sound so i could not hear it.I hope you understand.I will try again if you don't receive this is why. Sincerely Eveett & Betty Petrie

3rd attempt trying to submit.

I am so EXCITED about this pilot! PICK US please! We also have already installed an alternative form of heating - electric heat pumps and have seen a dramatic reduction in our oil consumption. (and a cooresponding increase in our electricity) We would like to reduce our greenhouse footprint further!

Will there be an option later on to include solar power for electricity?

Would love to access greener heat/lights/water etc. Thanks for this initiative.

would be an asset for low and fixed income persons

good program to trial the benefits of solar hot water

i hope that i qualify - i am not sure about getting alt financing.

Stupid form will not go through, tried several times since 10 AM !!!!!

We really want to do this! Most of our house now has radiant in-floor heat (hot water), fueled by oil, and we really want to switch over to solar.

A superb idea that will make it affordable and environment friendly project

This may be a duplicate... We aer very excited about alternative sources of energy including PV and wind.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Halifax to be a leader in innovative financing for renewable energy in Canada. GO!!! The industry needs to buck up and get over itself.

I am a committed to living with as little impact on this planet as possible. I am a single parent with an annual salary of \$35,000. So saving the environment and money make sense. HRM is a committed to being a green city and I am willing to do my share and be a partner in the solar city project and commit my money, time and personal energy. Thank you for the opportunity!

this is a GREAT intitiative

I think this is an excellent way for Nova Scotia to take the lead in spreading green power solutions to HRM residents and to show the rest of Canada and the world that we really want to do our bit for reducing green house gas emissions.

We welcome this initiative. Our house is in an ideal sunny location. In spite of heat pump use, electrical bills are high. We anticipate that savings with solar power will offset the cost of installation. Thank you for this offer.

I think we need to make options available to consumers so we can eventually make it cost effective for all Nova Scotians to maximize energy efficiency.

I really like the thought of using savings to pay for the upgrades

I'm very interested in this project to help save money and to try living green. I do have one complaint and that is that Nova Scotia Power is not very helpful in gathering the information. I was told it was on my bill and they would not add it up for me or give me any dollar figure. They should be more helpful to their clients.

ref the last question;I favour the property tax method of the financing for the solar program;however if not selected than the answer would be yes to my own financing.

Great to see this program up and running again. I hope it sends a message to all. Though it will not cure the ills of our over consumption of the planets resources, it is step in the right direction. Thanks.

I think this is a fantastic opportunity for HRM. I would love to participate.

I tried earlier,

This is a sign of forward thinking. I hope it catches on.

Like the idea of financing through savings

I just heard of this program by speaking with Reg Rankin.I am currently unemployed,so financing right now is not an option.I am interested in paying through property taxes, is this possible?

I am so proud to live in HRM with a programs like this!! Keep up the good work!!

We believe this a worthwhile project to pursue in an attempt to mitigate our carbon footprint.

With respect to the question of alternate funding i would like to know more of the conditions that would apply for "own financing"

Please be advised, due to the high volume and disconnect for online application, we have also completed a hard copy, in office, timed at 11:05am, dated, Dec 15, 2010

We would like to participate in the program with the municipality's property tax payment plan.

I tried to submit earlier and your system had failed - I hope this will go through. I believe all costs provided are before taxes. We moved this year so our figures are partially for our older home and partially for our new home. Our new home is R2000 and we are doing what we can to be more efficient. We could not afford solar panels at the time and hoped there would be a program or rebate we could participate in . Our home is southern exposure and we have a conduit prepared to be solar ready. We have a large, very active family, and we hope that solar panels will help us to further reduce our costs and our reliance on electrically heated water. We are told it could make a huge difference for our home given its southern exposure.

As a family of four with 2 children we spend consume a lot of hot waterand we believe this would be a good opportunity to become less reliant on non sustainable resources. our home is south facing and woukld be a good candidate for this program.

Great initiative - want to learn more and keen to take part!

Great use of HRM resources

Please be advised, due to high volume and disconnect for online application, we have also made a hard copy application, in office, timed 11:05am, dated, Dec 15, 2010

I am looking forward to participating in this program.

I've wanted solar panels on my house for years. This is an awesome program and very timely. I hope very much to be accepted.

My household is delighted that you're offering this pilot project. It would be a stretch for us to have solar panels without the kind of financing the city is offering, but if selected for alternative participation we would try to find a way to make it work. I think this is hugely forward-thinking of the city, and I hope to see lots more similar initiatives. Let's have a green roof pilot project next!

I think it's a great idea. I would want nothing more than a world with green energy only, so let's see what we can do.

Good for us since we are retired and are on a fixed income.

Looking forward to finding out what this program can do to help reduce my heating costs.

great idea

We are interested in program depending on impact of installed system in residence, i.e., routing of system, equipment space requirements, interface with oil fired system, etc. and final capital cost.

Single working person low income, in own home. Heat with pellet stove (there is no section on the form for pellets.. amount about \$500.00/ per yr.) Electric as aux when necessary. Energy conscious, so usage amount may be low ... 10/30/2009 - 10/29/2010: \$594.00 Water htr is in unheated basement. thx. *First submission attempt at 10:14 am Wed Dec 15.

I think this is an excellent opportunity for HRM homeowners to both save money and help the environment at the same time; I would not have the financial means to finance this on my own.

I am a LEED Architect with a living green roof, I'm familiar with these solar hot water systems as I designed the one for the new Farmers Market and I am very encouraged by HRM's Solar initiative

I think this is a wonderful program and very pleased that HRM is looking into green alternatives, hopefully this program takes off!!

This sounds like a great program. I hope it flies.

I think this is great and am looking forward to seeing if this is something that our house is suited for and that would be beneficial to us.

My family and I think this program is a great way for those of us who would like to reduce our carbon footprint in a cost effective way.

When building our new home, energy efficiency was a concern, the cost of solar products made it almost impossible to have installed under our mortgage.

I am very interested in the program

Great program.

Great!

Great idea. I would have done it sooner however the initial outlay is really high and you have offered an option to pay it gradually...

I would like to put \$2,000 downpayment and rest through taxes. The cost for power usage is before taxes. Thanks for this opportunity.

Great program and it is a great way to get people to do than just thinking about energy use. Action will lead to more action.

Alternative participation in financing possible if there are incentives to justify.

This is a great program giving a very attractive incentive to those of us who want to reduce our carbon footprint by using solar, to stop delaying and take action.

awesome program..... obviously more hurdles to overcome if financing is not available.

I think it is fantastic!

I think this program is a great idea. However, I think the homeowner should be free to choose the installer based on a list of qualified ones from HRM. HRM would still do the design and verify it's installed correctly. After installation is verified ok.

I have infloor radian heat and would like to use the solar panels for that as well as heating domestic water. I think the program is a great idea. The sun doesn't cost anything and its always there, better than burning oil,etc.

I tried earlier but the site was down. I think this is a great idea. It's nice to see the city take leadership because the federal government doesn't care. Way to go. Thanks

Looking forward to the pre screening results :)

I think this is a great initiative that will allow homeowners to finance their purchase through the property tax billing

Excellent idea especially for a household such as ours that is totally dependant on electricity.

This is a very useful plan. It is good to see HRM encouraging energy efficiency at the household level by means of this type of financial incentive.

I think this is a good idea. We heat our house with hot water in-floor(electric). We find this to be very expensive for the results we get from the floor heat. Any improvement to this system would make a great difference to our monthly costs. We also heat our domestic water with oil. We use a propane fire place, two wood pellet stoves, forced air furnace ans electric base board. As you can see, we have quite the variety of sources in our house. Our house faces south and we catch alot of sunlight through our windows, which we find helps alot with daytime heating. If we can be considered for this program,

I am sure it would be very beneficial to us and HRM.

Our natural gas bill is measured by gigajoule, not litres.

As I am 100% electric, I am very interested in some sort of green effort to reduce my consumption of elec

I would prefer the method of financing previously discussed through the program.

I think this is a wonderful opportunity for home owners. We love our older home very much and any opportunity to make it more energy efficient and environmentally friendly is greatly appreciated.

This is the very forward thinking and would love to be involved. Good Job!!!

I was already interested in going solar for hot water (as I have an oil boiler and in the summer this is a poor way to heat water) and have a perfect unobstructed south facing home. The solar city program couldn't have come at a better time.

We are very excited to be a part of this program. We would consider participating with our own method of financing if it is within our grasp...we would need more information to be sure.

I believe the initiative has great potential if it is administered well. A real need exists to create and maintain programs that are both beneficial for the environment and self-sustainable.

Excellent idea. Hope the programme goes well.

Solar hot water has been on my "to do" list for some time, this opportunity is what I have been waiting for.

Very interested in this program from an environmental and cost-efficiently. We have great southern sun exposure and pitch offers maximum exposure.

We are very interested in using a cleaner, more environmentally natural source of service.

Third attempt to submit...first two kept timing out so don't know if they went through or not. Anyway...great idea. Like the ability to utilize tax bills as a funding methodology as it will free up additional personal resources to invest in additional solar installations at the same time (pool heater, radiant floor heat, etc.) while the tax plan covers the basic hot water.

I totally agree that this is a very interesting program, and I am interested in participating/

More marketing of this project will enhance interest. I've spoken with a dozen people about this and 1 other person was aware this was even going on

My understanding of the last question is that NO means we wouldn't be accessing government grants. We would participate with the government grants.

I apologize if you have already received an application from us but I could not tell if it went through or not. We may be able to finance the program on our own depending on our circumstances at the time of install and also if it determines our eligibility for the program.

I am very excited to take advantage of the opportunity to make our home a green home with the addition of solar hot water. This is an option that we would not be able to afford without this program.

I am very much enthused about this HRM initiative. My roof has the ideal pitch and orientation for this project. Over the last 8 years, I have maintained detailed statistics on both my power and water consumption. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you. B. Lafontaine Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Hi, My house is actually an old home split into upper/lower flats. Each unit has it's own water heater. I would explore the system supplying pre-heat to both units. Each household has 2 people. I don't have access to tenant electricity bills - electricity represents one unit. Water volume represents the whole building. Oil usage represents the whole building.

Excellent initiative.

Very interested please have someone call us with more details.

It is nice to see HRM being so active towards finding sustainable solutions fo real issues.

In response to the last questiun - perhaps - I'd have to have more details to determine if it was feasible. I am very interested in the project and look forward to hearing back.

I think that this program is a fabulous idea. I would consider photovoltaic and wind as well, were it feasible in some way.

Am very interested in utilizing the solar energy to help reduce carbon footprint and costs. I applaud programs that reach out to the community to help them do so. Would like to know that there is not a monopoly on contractors services.

THis is a 2 unit building (6009/11). I tried entering the imformation at 10:00 but the system was overloaded.

This is a 2 unit building (1631/33). Water is heated with electricity for one unit and oil for the other. I tried submitting this info at 10:00 this am but the system was overloaded.

This is a 2 unit building (6170/72). I tried submitting this info at 10:00 this am but there was a system overload.

Bring it on.

Excellent idea that I fully support. If "Alternative Participation", then please clarify if we still receive the Halifax mass discount for panel purchases, etc. Please enable new homes, e.g. 1 month old, or 2 months old, etc to be added under age of home. Mine is 2,5 months old, which equals 0.2 years. Also, newer homes have a "Solar Ready" option upon construction, which more homeowners take advantage of. Maybe ask if the house is already solar ready if new construction. My house is solar ready.

reimbersment will determine the final outcome of this project.

I have been researching this myslef and the cost was to great upfront, wanting to put the solar on my

house was too high..HRM offering it on a montly cost is fantastic and it will assist with the enviornment at the same time..Making HRM a step ahead of getting greener. :)

We are very interested in making our house as energy efficient as possible and have recently completed a substantial energy retrofit (which accounts for our numbers above). We would like to fully eliminate the need for oil consumption in our house. We have a wood stove and use it for some heating.

I am hoping that the project extends to rural communities east of the metro area as oftentimes we are excluded due to our distance from Halifax/Dartmouth.

This is an idea whose time has come. Bravo to the city for taking the lead.

Great idea.

I think that Halifax is making a very smart decision offering this program. This initiative shows a progressive committment to change.

Great program!

Great concept. Our main home heating is an in-floor hot water electrically heated system -- perfect for adapting to solar.

I applaud the city's initiative in offering this program.

This is a wonderful program especially for those of us who could not otherwise afford to capitalize on the more energy efficient options that are availabe

I think that this will help reduce the consumption of fosel fuels, thereby helping the environment.

I have to check the oil bill at home.

We are one of 18 brand new houses with various occupant demographics, so there will be great comparative data. All have the same heating and hot water systems.

a very good program

whether or not to do own finaning would depend on available rebates or other financial assistance for seniors on gtd income suppl.(GIS)

Great Program would love to participate, think this is the right direction to help our environment

I think this program is an excellent example of how government can encourage green energy initiatives without burdening the taxpayer. Well done and thank you.

Great forward-thinking program!!

Thank you!!

I think that this is a great opportunity and a true example of forward thinking by HRM.

This program represents a positive step in the right direction for our government to take. Bravo Zulu

Thank you for this opportunity to participate. I attempted to sign up at least twice immediately following 10:00 hrs am however your site was swamped

Financial aspect is critical to this program. Using the savings from lower energy consumption to pay for the capital and operating costs of the solar system.

This initiative sounds potentially interesting and useful.

Excellent energy initiative on part of the city

I submitted the form earlier today but am not sure it got through. Great initiative on the part of HRM.

This is my second submission. The first time, which was just after 10am asked for the verification code and when I entered it and pressed ok, the screen then went blank. I do not know whether it went through or not. If so then my apologies for resubmitting. If not then I hope I am not disadvantaged because of technical difficulties.

I may be able to swing my own financing if that is necessary - however it would be hard.

I would prefer to do the project through the voluntary tax increase, however, I would be willing to consider participating in the program using another method of financing as I feel it is a worthwhile project

I'm not in a position to self-finance without some difficulty but am ideally suited to increasing property taxes for the period necessary to cover installation/equipment cost.

This is an absolutely great program, hopefully it will be extended to a wider group after the pilot is completed. I attended the information session and found it to be excellent. Great Idea, Great time to do it.

Totally in favour of this initiative for many reasons. Absolutely couldn't afford this without your program and hope it will be available to many more households than the pilot as I tried right at 10 am to sign up and gave up in frustration two hours later.

great idea!

Appears to be a worthwhile project and worth an investment.

We think this is a wonderful program and the initiative taken by HRM is commendable. Thank you for this opportunity.

Julian Boyle is my hero.

Excellent program in theory. Would participate with own method of financing if financial circumstances were different

I think the program is fantastic and far over due, I have always been interested in such power saving/producing systems however haven't the financial backing for such installs. I think the payment plan through the property tax is a good idea and feel many people will be interested in the program. I had a heat pump installed in the planning of my home and the added expense forced us to sacrifice other perks however was a great move and have no regrets. With a family of five I am always on the lookout

for ways to cut waste. Great Program! Chris Beazley

We just put the gas in and we want to do the solar but it would be a year or two. All should be excepted. If people are interested in a change for the better we could be the leaders in Canada like we were when we recycled!!

i am an engineer extremely interested in the performance of solar, wind and ground source heat pumps. I am retiring in 2011 so this is particularly attractive. I will be available to provide user input

I think this is a great start to what we need to do, I would also like to see small windmills used in the next phase if there is one.

I think this a great opportunity and if it would be financed privately for around the same price I would definitely consider looking at it. Thanks

Great initiative. We own an organic espresso bar and are always looking toward green products and fair or direct trade merchandise. We compost and recycle at home and are very excited about this program. The more people get involved, the more affordable it becomes for all of us.

1. Water usage slightly less in Fall 2009 because of water main bypass during upgrade at the street.

I attended 1 of the sessions for this program and read the information as to what information you required and it clearly stated that for natural gas you required the annual dollar amount of gas consumed and the Giga Joules. What do I see on your form but liters! I am at work and do not have access to this information so I have put in the information it was indicated you would be looking for. It does not inspire a lot of confidence in a program when you can't even get the screening process right.

great idea, hope it can expand.

I think and feel that this is a great program and only hope that it will after this extend to going full solar to reduce overall heating costs. Great presentation on the 13th of Dec as well.

I think this excellent ideal and would love to help in making my part in making hrn greener and to help achieving the goal of being the first solar city!

This is the 4th time that I have attempted to submit my application. Not sure if the first 3 attempts were successful or not.

Excellent program, anything to reduce dependence on traditional fuel sources.

Hi, My wife and I are very interested in Hot Water Solar heating. We have plans to install but do not have the capital at this point, so the HRM alternative is perfect for us. Thanks Leonard

Should be a Federal and Provincially supported initiative for municipalities.

Maybe...

Finally, I am pleased to see that HRM is moving towards green technology.

Very interested. This is my second attempt to register on the web.

Great Idea! My roof faces "due south" and has a 6/12 pitch. Very energy efficient house (ICF), and I keep excellent records on consumption.

We like the idea of cutting back on our carbon footprint.

1. We need to know the exact conditions of payment through taxes. Is there a premium on the payments or is it the actual amount calculated including discounts/grants available divided by 5 (if 5 years is allotted to pay it out)? 2. Is it anticipated that after 5 years the amount saved in fuel or electricity to heat our domestic water will have covered the cost of this installation? That was not stated very clearly at the presentation. 3. OR is it possible that after spending \$8000, the payback will take 20 years ... or never?

We are really interested in this project. We have already installed a ductless heat pump to cut our heating bill and this would be a great opportunity to reduce our energy consumption even further in a way that is relatively painless.

I just want to mention that the numbers provided for water, electricity, and oil use are from 2009 and based on 1 individual living in the house. My husband and I bought the house in February of 2010, but have not been living there as we are doing extensive renovations. We do not know the amount of litres of oil because the bill we received from the previous owner does not provide that information.

I think this program is a great. I had solar once before and it made a big difference in my electric bill. I hope to be a part of this wonderful program.

This may be a duplicate form. After reading the website, I wasn't 100% sure my 1st application went through. Please ignore this one if it did.

I am primarily interested in what you have to offer in financing but would keep my options open with my own method of financing. Also, I think this program shows good initiative by the HRM and would be interested in it for heating applications as well.

house hold includes 2 disabled people. barely able to meet existing bills. desperately need help. i am very interested in energy conservation and alternate energy sources. i have wished to install this type of system for years, however i cannot afford the up front costs.

I do also use wood for heating , about 4 cord per year .

Great idea; we'd like to take part.

Very important for government to provide alternative financing for homeowners as there are huge wins all around but homeowners are already faced with rising costs and taxes and cannot easily rationalise this needed improvement.

I filled this form in about 6 times between 10-10:30 am and was bumped out each time in sending. Not fun!

I think it is a great idea. I wonder if there is flexibility with regards to installation modifications. The option I would consider is to use the solar to supplement my space heating(Hydroelectric boiler) in the winter/spring with domestic hot water in the summer/fall period.

This is a great program

Very interested

I am very interested and might be interested in the alternate method of financing but would like to see the alternate costs. Propane was for extra heat as we had a 95 year old living with us until August

Awesome program and opportunity!! Kudoos.

I am a single mom and am DESPERATELY needing help with my hot water cost. The hot water bills seem ridiculous for two people. Most of my oil is used for hot water heat only! I am EXTREMELY interested in solar heat. Please help!

Unable to contact propane company for number of pounds used.

I think this a great opportunity to make my home more eco-friendly

Excellent Program idea, hope I get in ...

One might think that from the level of interest might spur local business to offer similar bulk installation plans.

This past July we moved into our new construction from an apartment, so our previous 12 months of electricity consumption is likely rather useless. The values I have entered (7302kWh @ \$1041.60) is a calculation of our only electricity bill in the new house (Aug. 4th - Oct. 4th) multiplied by 6, to give us a value for 12 months. We are extremely interested in this program so hopefully this won't effect our application. It may also be valuable to note that our main source of heat is a wood stove, augmented with electric baseboard.

I think it's about time some serious incentives from some level of government were offered to entice people to invest in these sorts of technologies. I think much more "bang for the buck" (ie greenhouse gas emissions reductions) will be realized than trying to get people to install CFL bulbs in their house.

We are interested in finding out whether or not it will be cost effective!

Our oil barrel was starting to show its wear this past spring so we took it out, we now have a furnace but no oil. We put in an electric hot water heater which has seen our electric bills go up quite significantly (we have 3 teenagers). We also have a wood hot water boiler to heat the house, unfortunately this only works well when we are home. Should we leave for a few days there is no alternative way to heat the house. We would be very interested in solar heating.

I am very interested if this drops my dependence on electricity for heating hot water. Our oil is used to heat the house.

This project is much needed and an excellent plan! It is a great first step!

It looks to be worthwhile.

I have been wanting to go solar since buying my home 8 years ago.

I like that the city is making this affordable for people by having a buy-in with property taxes.

Installation of solar panels on our house would cost less than other houses because we already have some of the necessary items:

I am very interested. I use wood heat and I had in floor pex tubing put in but never hooked it to a heater. We have lots of room for appliances. We also have electric heat but never use it. On well water

Any economical saving would be appreciated.

Really looking forward in being part of great way to be responsible in drop green house gases

I believe that house orientation to the sun and blockages should be surveyed for use of solar panels.

Very excited about it!

I'm excited about this program and extremely interested in participating.

Fourth time trying, never got the "thanks" screen yet

WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT LOCATION TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF SOLAR TECHNOLOGY.

This is an excellent project, hopefully it will go forward.

We built our house 6 years ago and wanted to do this then but could not afford the additional cost. (This program will make payments manageable.) We did plan for solar panels in the future and connected roof to basement with pvc piping to allow for necessary wiring and water flow. This was to assist with retro fit.

We have a newer house but our costs are high. We would be interested in trying to help the environment as well as as bottom line with power and oil.

Tried to apply earlier today but application did not appear to go through. Apologies if this is received twice.

With uncertain future availability of oil, the need to utilize alternative energy sources and to protect our sensitive environment solar energy is not only an obvious choice but a necessity. I have looked at solar energy in the last couple of years and feel that improvements to technology for solar heating for domestic hot water as well as the potential for space heating is at the point where we should take the step to go solar.

Our main source of heating is wood. Our house roof is perfectly suited for solar heat-large south-facing with 60 degree pitch.

I think it is great, would love to see something done with wind power as well

I think that this is a very interesting idea, hopefully we will be chosen to participate in this program.

This is one of the most progressive projects HRM has introduced since we've been home owners.

Congratulations for doing something forward thinking. In future, could the program be expanded to include small household wind turbines. New systems are becoming available that are quiet, smaller and more efficient.

Would be willing to put up some money to lower any additional tax.

I would be interested in the program if I could pay for the program through my taxes over a fixed period of time.

I am quite enthused by this HRM initiative.

I feel my home is perfectly suited for this system. I have considered installing one in the past, but have not been able to determine which system would be best. This initiative will help with selection and design. I currently reduce my hot water consumption by doing laundry in cold water. However I have two pre-teen children who will place greater demands on my need for hot water as they grow. Having a solar system will help reduce the impact of this growing demand.

I think it is a very good idea to have a program like this to help those people who are interested in Going Green, but cannot afford it.

I have a keen interest in alternative energy for my home. I am eager to participate in this program as it would provide me with the opportunity to use an alternate means of heating my water, other than the conventional coal fired electrical utility I currently use. The property tax alternative makes this affordable for my family to purchase a solar heating system. Thank you for this opportunity HRM.

I think this is a great program. We installed solar panels about 15 years ago, but have had a problems with the panels for the past 5 years and now it is not working so needs to be replaced and of course updated.

Great Idea!

Sounds like a great program, hope it is made available to everyone who wants it.

We just went through the Energy refit program and upgraded insulation, replaced picture window and shower heads. Also, our son moved out a year ago so we were spending much more then on water and electricity. I like this suggested program so far!

This would be a wonderful opportunity for us to move to a greener future.

Great Program makes it more affordable for all.

Very creative program. Looking forward to participating

I am a strong supporter of sustainable energy sources and I think that this forward, future focused project is highly beneficial.

This is a wonderful opportunity for homeowners to participate in "going green". I would like to see a section in the questionnaire regarding wood heat cost and consumption. Burning wood also contributes to greenhouse gases!!

I think it is progressive and the right step forward for future power generation.

Excellent Initiative!

Attended the meeting at Cole Harbour Place found it very interesting and hoping a start to a greener

future

Terrific program. Our home is ideally suited and we intend to go solar but this program will enable us to move ahead more quickly.

This is a fantastic program and I really hope it is successful. I have two rental properties that I would be interested in having included in this program as well.

This is a fantastic program and I really hope it is successful. I have two rental properties that I would be interested in having included in this program as well.

I would love to have a more energy efficient home, but we can't afford the starting costs and investment associated with renovations.

A great Idea.

Brilliant program and provides REAL incentive for improving energy efficiency. We recently installed an indirect water heating tank with two elements with the idea to purchase thermal water panels in the near future.

i thing its great that hrm are willing to go green

I am so proud that HRM is doing this.

I think this is a great program. I believe we should try and do everything we can to cut down on the amount of fuel we use everyday and this is certainly a good start. Not quite sure what the cost would be if I was only offered the alternative participation in this program so I can't say for sure if I could afford to do it by taking out a bank loan (ie interest plus #of months)

This is a very exciting and innovative program. Great way to use the FCM funding opportunity. This breaks down the barrier that has prevented many people from doing this - the payback on investment is too long. The result will be a significant GHG emission reduction. Great work by HRM staff to come up with this program.

I have a south facing roof. I believe in conservation and this program is an excellent program. I would be willing to have others visit my place to see the installation and value of the approach if desired. I do have water and power data but am out of NS this week and need to provide it upon my return. Pls don't penalize me because I am on the road with work by excluding me because I am missing some of the data just at this time. I can get the info. Thanks Shane O'Neil

Uncertain whether would be able or willing to use alternative financing, but willing to consider it if that is the only option available. I think this is a wonderful program.

I think this is a great program. It reduces greenhouse gasses, saves consumers money that can be spent in other parts of our economy besides Big Oil. Thank you.

When we were building this house we had it situated on the lot to take the best advantage of solar gain. We had always planned in the future when we could afford it to incorporate a solar hot water or energy system into the house. This is a great initiative from HRM and shows a dedicated commitment to the enviroment.

I would prefer to use the property tax initiative to fund the solar project. I have tried to send my application numerous times earlier today, starting at 10.10am.

I also burn a couple of cords of wood.

I'm so pleased that the city is taking this initiative... It will make 500 homes in Halifax more energy efficient, and also more affordable to live in!

First Name * David

Great Program - It should be on everyone's agenda to participate.

I think it's fabulous that the city is taking this on. I've been wanting to use solar / wind for years but it's a little overwhelming to research and costly to implement. Having the city take care of a lot of the details will make it easier for so many.

This is a fantastic program. I am really pleased that Halifax is taking the lead on this project. Please note when considering our application that our actual energy charges in 2011 will be significantly higher as our house was vacant for 4 months from November 2009-March 2010 so the billing from NS Power during these months was much lower than during a normal winter. Many thanks.

I think this is a wonderful project to be carried out by our city. It will go a long way in cutting costs to the homeowner as well as environmentally friendly. Keep up your great ideas HRM.

Sounds like a great program. We've been thinking of installing hot water solar panels for years. Start up costs have been holding us back. Our house has an electric hot water boiler for in floor heat as well as a normal electric domestic hot water heater.

Not sure that the savings are there in my case, But would like to see payback & return on investment.

We are very interested in the program and how we can finance it through our property tax.

Last year I installed a pellet stove to offset my oil bill. In the last year I have also spent \$1000.00 on pellets. Prior to the pellet stove I was spending \$3000.00 a year for oil.

Now this is progress.

There is currently limited space for another water heater / but I am willing to modify my bathroom to accommodate one. I am in a mini home in a mobile park - and we pay for our water in our lot rent. I believe my lot would have the proper exposure for sun. I have been proved to me last year just how much the hot water takes in power - I was on my own in my house for 6 months - and the power consumption dropped from 75.8 a two month period with my son at home to 35.8 then down again to 13.8 with me as the sole user- he has moved back home....

We sold existing home last Jan, moved into an older rental for 9 months and have only recently moved into our new home. It is not completely finished yet but we are working toward it. I had originally planned to put 2 panels in as stated in our original building plans and so registered with conserve NS. Cost overrun will prevent this so a plan like above would greatly be appreciated. I am running a 20 kw Argo boiler for our radiant heat system. Home is situated to take advantage of south facing panels. thks Dave

I went through all this yesterday and kept getting "server empty"

I filled this out Wed Dec 15th but not sure if it actually went through so I'm doing it again.

Sounds like a positive program. We would like to get all information on financing methods.

I have good clear southern exposure on a second story roof with easy hatch access. House is up to date with plumbing and wiring. There is an easy follow chase wall to run plumbing from roof to basement location. We would be an ideal candidate for this system and hope to be able to gain some cost savings with my growing family and needs they require.

I would very much like to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible. Keeping the earth sustainable for my descendants is of utmost importance

We are very excited about the possibility of having solar panels. We had been considering it for some time but received different quotes up to \$10,000! I think it is great that HRM is considering this pilot project. What a green step for the community & to possibly be able to finance through the tax system is a great idea & may make it more available to those who might not have the total up front. The oil total is an estimate - the oil co's computer system is down.

We currently use a pellet stove as our main heating source. I previously had solar back in the 1980's and the panels were extremely large but system was great. We are happy that you have made this very positive move and hope to be able to participate ...also would like to see if rain collection is a viable way to get additional water for washing clothes and toilet use... Thank you Rhonda Fotheringham

I think this is a fantastic idea and the city should be proud of this initiative!

We were on oil heat until 2 years ago and converted to an electric boiler and electric hot water. Our electric consumption was very high so we installed a small heatpump and three wall mounted heads. We did not take advantage of any programs to undertake this work. When we installed our hot water tank, we did so in a way that it could easily be converted to solar. Our house is facing south west on a hill across from Lake William so we have uninterrupted exposure to the sun.

There should be a way of using excess power generated by this system.

Before I participate I would like to know as much about it as possible. Please send me some information. I have an apartment attached to the house I would like to place the apt on hot water solar as I would have to put hot water baseboard heaters in there to cut down the cost

Excellent plan and should be offered to "all" home owners in HRM.

I think this is a step in the right direction to improve our energy resources

I am very interested in joining this program. I pay my taxes through the bank on a weekly basis and by adding a few extra dollars per week this would make the change very easy. I hope I can be involved in the program.

I am a mechanical engineer, very ready and willing to participate in this program. I will do so with my own financing if necessary. Please include me! Also- we do not use well water - we are on a cistern, and catch rainwater. Excellent system.

looks like a good idea as figures are going to be based on today's energy costs; these costs will most likely increase significantly over time.

In 2009 I installed an energy efficient hot water furnace and a superstore hot water heater, and in June 2010 I installed a mini split heat pump. These are providing substantial energy savings but I would like to achieve more.

Great idea. I really hope it makes its way through and benefits the whole city. It will make for great marketing for HRM and Nova Scotia as well.

Interested in obtaining more information on set-up, costs, etc. It's a great initiative and a good way to assist people who normally might not have the resources to look into this on their own (even though it will still be personally funded).

FYI my gas and oil consumption is lower this year than in previous years - not sure why this is our situation has not changed. We used 1149.50 litres in oil last year (\$815.95) and 343.40 litres of propane (\$324.48). As to my thoughts on the program - I would love to use the sun's energy to lower our monthly bills and also to be using a renewable, environmentally sound energy source as much as possible. Also if this works out for us we may consider financing by our own method when we know more about the options. Thank you.

Excellent idea! I have long considered doing this but I've not wanted to undertake the program as an individual consumer.

Would love an opportunity to be "green" and reduce our footprint to whatever degree we can.

Would like to cut back on the use of oil and get on the green side of life.

this is great I have already installed solar pipes to attic and built house to have roof facing south.

A program long overdue! I'm sure it will be well oversubscribed, and I for one have been looking for a way for years to finance solar hot water heating at the house. Donna Gabriel

Burn seven cords of wood for heat only, house is about 3,200 square feet of finished space

the above consumptions are actual consumptions for

I am very interested and excited by the program. Even though my house is 55 years old, I did a major renovation on my house (over 100K) 2 years ago to make it more energy efficient. I followed energy guide lines. It was completely gutted 2x6 walls, new windows, doors, siding, converted to electric heat ect ect. I have the perfect house for this program. I have room for the extra equipment in my dry well insulated basement. I invite you to come and tour my house. Thank You and I look forward to hearing from you! Robert Blackburn

Great! Hope it is successful!

great fore thought well done

This is a great idea, but it should, I would think, have some level of federal Gov't subsidy to encourage participation and ease the burden on the consumer (i.e. like either a rebate or no-cost financing, etc)

I've been thinking about solar panels for a while but have done nothing about it, so this is an opp to do something. I think that we really must do what we can to reduce use of fossil fuels, and I'm not happy with the new page/nsp biomass proposal

Home has exceptional exposure to the south/sw sun

this is one of the best initiatives that i have seen the HRM attempt. Please include me in this program whole heartedly.

I would be interested in seeing one of the installations in operation. Also knowing the life of the panels being installed.

we have wanted to do something with solar heating for a long time - our neighbors have a panel on their roof. this came along and seemed like a wonderful opportunity to try the system.

We are very interested in improving the green elements of the newly/totally renovated house (last 5 years) on the peninsula. We currently have electric thermal heating with time of day billing. Our electric water heater only runs between 11pm-7am M-F and on weekends at non-peak periods at a reduced billing rate. We find that on many occasions this has not provide sufficient hot water for a young/active family during weekdays and the override function is costly at peak electricity times with such a large tank. We have a roof with good south exposure with modern engineered roof trusses and I would consider adding solar electric panels in conjunction with the solar hot water if accepted for the program. I am very interested in experimenting with green energy

My home is currently being built, so we don't have some of the data you are looking for. It is an R-2000 home with a calculated EnerGuide rating of 85. We have had the home made Solar Ready, so all of the piping and control wiring are already in place. The back of our house faces exactly SW, and the roof pitch is 45 deg. We are very interested in participating in this program.

Every bit helps and excited that your trying this.

I think it is an awesome idea and should be extended to everyone in the Municipality!

WE HAVE BEEN IN THIS HOME FOR 10 MONTHS AND HAVE ALREADY SPENT OVER \$8000.00 IN UPGRADING OUR RADIANT IN FLOOR HEATING SYSTEM AND ARE VERY INTERESTED IN MOVING FORWARD IN MAKING MORE CHANGES AND MAKING OUR HOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

A great idea. Looking forward to hearing from you!

I think this is a great opportunity for individuals/families to take part in helping the enviornment and I hope the HRM are planning more project like this in the future.

We are extremely anxious to be part of this program.

Hello, I wanted to apply yesterday, however, the web site crashed. In view of that, the fair way to pick people might be to draw names randomly (for those who could not apply due to web site failure).
Thankyou!!

This is not a test!! :)

Participants should be able to go to any company to have the panels installed. HRM should not be in the business of selecting providers. This is a big mistake should you choose to proceed this way. It will hurt private businesses and entrepreneurs and be anti-competitive. Funding is great, but, selecting providers is not.

I believe anything we can do to lower the use of burning fuel to make power is a great thing and we should look at totally using solar for all our household needs

I have a residence with in slab hot water heating ,Is this program able to provide for that form of solar heating or just domestic hot water. I am still interested in the hot water . Great initiative by HRM.

great idea

I hope the program is able to go forward, and that it will continue in future. It is nice to see the city doing something to help it's citizens decrease their carbon footprint.

I feel that solar should be standard equipment on homes. I hope that this program succeeds and makes solar more common/desirable. Good on HRM for trying to move this forward. I'm glad to offer my home for this trial.

I am interested in the tax method of payment. Paying down the costs using the taxation method would make things easier.

We would like to be a part of the solution for the problems caused by climate change. We are trying in every way we can to minimize our footprint on the planet. Congratulations to HRM for leading the way on using solar technology.

My Family and I have a very good location and home with an ideal roof structure in the Highland Park Subdivision in Hammonds Plains. We have always been interested in Solar Heat and would like to participate in the program. Thank-you. Mark Corbett

I would be curious to know what the process would be if I decided to move/sell my house while I was still paying off the equipment.

The more energy efficient we can be, the better. With solar heating we are using nature's resources and producing less pollution.

The greener the better. Good to see tha halifax is taking the initiative. The federal,prov. gov'ts should come on board to defray costs hpoe I'm in. Thanks. J.J.B.

This is an excellent way to support a greener Nova Scotia. If we owned NSP as in the past we may not have had to have so many increasing in our rate over the past years. We hope that these panels can produce enough energy to offset some of our electric heating costs. Depending on the costs we may be able to do this without assistance.

I completed and submitted this form yesterday at 10:05 and am not sure if it transmitted correctly. Please be aware there may be duplication.

We looked into solar hot water and solar heating last year, and it was to not in our budget to

purchase. This program makes it affordable for us. We have stopped using our clothes dryer the last 12 months and use the cloths line and it cut my power bill down by about 35% I still can't believe it!!!

Electricity consumption data is for current house (90 Charles Road, Timberlea, NS, B3T 1J6), but we will be in our new home in January 2011. New home will be solar ready with copper piping and control wiring already installed. Home has calculated EnerGuide rating of 85, and rear roof faces directly SW with a roof pitch of 45 degrees.

This is a great program! When we renovated our building we installed an in-floor heating system with the intention of also attaching solar panels. The cost has been prohibitive so hopefully we meet the HRM criteria. Thank you for your consideration.

This is an excellent proposition to allow opportunity for homeowners to contribute to a more sustainable future in the halifax community. This seems like an affordable option to get the ball rolling. I would like to know more on insurance policies available on the equipment that would be installed and a more detailed figure of service costs we may incur.

Don't know if we could afford to do it on our own,we would have to check that out.It sounds great.Save-on-Fuel doesn't save any info for customers,and I put down what recites I could find.For 5mths in 09 we use 2391.8 liters at the cost of\$1,520.49.2010-4mths-15912-\$1226.59 ,hope that helps.called the water com.and they are putting in a new meter,as they think our bill is too low.

Great program but you should extend it to geothermal heating.

great idea--- how about some forgiveness of loan for seniors after a certain number of years

I have been interested in doing this for some time now and think it is a great program.

Congratulations to HRM on this progressive initiative. I would suggest - if this has not already been done - to lock in a percentage for local supplier content thus reducing a negative impact on their business with sole sourcing. Louis Dionne, P.Eng.

this is an extremely forward looking and positive program concept

Don't know if this went through yesterday so I am filling it out again. Also use wood for space heating and heating water.

This is an excellent initiative. We are very interested in this program!

I applaude HRM for trialing this program. I look forward to hear if my home is eligible

I think this programme is the right first step. I think that the province would be money ahead if the government subsidy was 100% of the conversion cost. The reason I say that is simply freeing up cash to spend elsewhere will help the economy.

Would be interested in looking at the financing options

We are very interested in this program and feel that these are the steps that are crucial for our goverments to take in order to start the change of home owners moving to a renewable energy source and to help save our planet! Great job!

We would simply lower our carbon footprint on the earth. We purchased 2 ductless heat pumps in

July 2010 as a step towards our goal. It would also be a nudge in the right direction for our neighbours to join in.

Great program and I only hope we can get in to it. Thanks

The above question should have a maybe. The main point of these programs should be the city's ability to obtain better financing and competitive costs because of the large number of orders.

I am very interested in the program. I am happy to look at different financing options from full to partial to all on my own.

Please consider my application for this program.

I am willing to be among the case studies, which will provide the equipment etc needed,

I think this is a great program; particularly as a means to make solar power affordable to those interested. We have a young family and are trying to instill values about the environment; and as such we drive a Prius and put solar power on our sons tree house, etc...However adding solar power to our home was always too big an investment. This would be a great alternative.

Love the idea and in full support of this alternative source of renewable energy

very interesting initiative

Very forward thinking. Pleased with the initiative for the future of city..the greener the better and what better way to help tax payer with green initiatives! Mmaie

Would welcome a cost effective payment alternative similar to the area improvement charges on my present tax bill (only cheaper if possible).

I am extremely interested in participating with my current hot water (geothermal + electric) system. I am hoping to reduce electricity costs that stem from my heat pump. Thank you, Alastair

Will do it with my taxes

I would like to use the solar power to generate hot water for my in floor heat. I have an electric boiler at present. I would use the boiler at off peak power rates at night and use the solar in the days. I tried using the off peak power rates when I first built our home. It was too long a period in between and couldn't heat the house all day using this method. I had to come off this plan and heat the house constantly all day with the electric boiler. It is worth mentioning that our house is built to R-2000 specs. I would also like to use the program for domestic hot water also if possible.

This program is a great first step, and I am pleased to see the City taking the lead on a energy saving idea like this. I hope that you expand the scope and breadth of this idea in the future.

This is for a rental property located at 77 Jackson (Ass # 01720961). Power consumption not available currently.

This is for a rental property located at 12/14 Gehardt (Ass # 03440869). Power consumption not available currently.

I've thought about purchasing a panel for the south facing(front) of my house for years but I am

having trouble finishing the inside. This would be a very much welcomed program.

This kind of action generates the kind of awareness that's needed.

Our household includes 3 boys (age 9,7,4) so I would expect my usage numbers to increase in the next few years. I will be having the singles replaced this spring so if there is anything I could do to prep early please let me know.

i have been considering this for the past few years. i will be interested in finding out what the costs will be

will get you water usage tomorrow office closed

The backyard is southern exposure which will be very good for solar panel.. I am extremely interested as I will need a new furnace soon.

I can see a benefit to this program if 1/3 rd. or more of our power bill is for hot water ??, One Thousand Dollars a year for Hot Water ??

I think it is about time that we start to lower our dependence on oil. I was disappointed when I was told I couldn't have natural gas in my home when I moved in 3 years ago. I was told that nobody wanted to have natural gas on the street and 40% of the street would have to commit before they would even consider it. Sad really, all those tax breaks they were given to defer the natural gas infrastructure costs to help HRM residents have accessibility to an excellent heating source and the gas company never helped us at all, they simply took advantage of our good faith. I applaud HRM for supporting something that will benefit both the residents of HRM and the environment. I hope the project is successful and I hope that I can be an active participant of the program.

As for the financing on my own, it would depend on certain things. But this is a great idea!

the alternate participation question - better answer from me is 'it depends'

I am very excited for this opportunity. Our house is South facing and we had wanted to do this on our own, but have been unable to afford it.

With the right financial payback, this is a great program. Thank you for removing some of the uncertainty of using a "new" technology.

Very interested in the program

Great way to get the community thinking Green and motivating people like ourselves to do something about it.

I THINK THIS COULD REALLY HELP AS I HAVE ELECTRIC IN FLOOR HEATING (HOT WATER) AS WELL AS DOMESTIC SO THERE ARE TWO TANKS TO HEAT.

Sounds like a good program. Wish I could have attended initial briefing.

We are very excited about the prospects of using solar energy.

I am interested in finding affordable ways to make home improvements that will result in less need for fossil fuel. Having more people interested in solar heating should allow for affordable installation of the panels as this seems to be the greatest cost in this program.

Our house faces south and would be ideal for solar

I am open to all options

I think this is a great idea, keep em coming.

This program is great if it is financed through HRM without interest, with the home owner just paying the cost over 5 years-10 years on their taxes. Most of us can't afford the initial outlay of money.

The meeting was very good informative. I will be looking forward to some of the details as they are made available. I may consider financing the project myself once the final costs are calculated

I am very excited about participating in this project and pleased to see HRM taking a proactive stance

Excellent opportunity to reduce costs while at same time helping environment.

I think the concept is very good and the ability to finance it through my property taxes is a very good selling feature.

Excellent initiative

This sounds like a great program! Reducing our carbon footprint and saving money (long term) all in one, what could be better than that! I'm excited that HRM is taking this initiative, it shows the commitment to making our community a better place to live, and another reason why I was glad to move back to Nova Scotia.

We are very interested in this program. We live in a 4 yr old R2000 home in Hubbards. We have excellent SW exposure on the coast. Our house is totally electric with an air to air Heat Pump system for heating and air conditioning. If possible we would be interested in exploring solar energy uses in addition to hot water. Thanks Allan Malloy / Heather McEwan

This seems like a progressive and environmentally responsible program. We are excited to have the opportunity to be included, and hope it will come to pass.

This is a great initiative. Positive move for the environment.

a large portion of our power bill is for heating water from a 300 ft. deep (cold) well. The house is heated in part by passive solar. This sounds like a very beneficial program.

In addition to the above costs, we burn 4 cord of wood annually at a total cost of \$900.00.

I am a single parent and am very interested in this program. Please consider my home for this project.

With my high energy consumption costs, I feel I am a prime candidate for this program

In 2009 we switched our house from an oil burning furnace to a more cost effective electrical ETA furnace. The addition of solar paneling to our home would further increase our homes heat efficiency.

Sounds good, would like to see stats on how it will pay itself off and how long that will take. Not sure on the alternative financing quite yet, let's see the real cost first.

This is a great plan that will benefit homeowners and the environment. I hope to become part of it.

The electricity usage and cost information above is an estimate. We purchased the house 9 March 2010. From then to end November, the usage was 23,580 kwh, and the cost \$2,876.05

A truly excellent initiative. For HRM to take on the tasks of researching the technical issues, procuring the systems and developing an easy financing system shows true leadership in this critical area.

I have a log house and all new energy efficient appliances and find that my electric bill is expensive.

I have been very interested in solar energy for a long time. I would be willing to have the financing through the voluntary tax increase program, but would have to work out an estimate to see if I could handle the payments. I look forward to seeing if this is a viable option for me. M.A Richardson 3030 Joe Howe Dr., Halifax

Very interested in using solar to offset total water heating costs including in floor heat. Have a very large south-south-west facing roof.

Noble cause with a cautious approach - looks like a positive direction for city initiative.

I might be interested in participating in the program with my own method, but it would depend if it was cost effective for me to do so. I would prefer to do it with the program, as long as there was to interest, or very low interest. I mainly heat with a hot water boiler/furnace system but, I would like to try to be more efficient, if possible

Great idea!

I am so thrilled to hear about this program, I am keeping my fingers crossed!!!

I am quite interested in alternative forms of energy. I have replaced the windows and doors in my home over the past year.

Power bill is before taxes and the water bill includes filling up a 15' x 28' pool.

concept makes a lot of sense, but needs financial consumer incentive to work. In addition to financing incentives there should be rebate on municipal and/or provincial tax etc.

I have looked into setting up solar panels previously, but it was the financing that influenced my decision to not switch over.

I am certainly interested in getting the details so I can make a reasonable decision about this program. Sounds like a winner to me.

Great idea! Solar city

we have a large south facing roof, this the kind of program is where the city should be heading

I think that HRM has created a very valuable way to help homeowners make the shift away from Fossil fuels I wish for success in this program and hope the we too can participate

Cannot do this myself due to cost. cannot reduce my costs or my consumption of utilities any further. I have wanted to do this to my house and have studied these alternatives extensively, this would be my only option for reducing my footprint and my costs any further.

Sounds great. Hope were not too late for the program.

This is a fantastic program hope more of it happens in the future.

Water consumption figures are only an estimate as Halifax regional water commission was unable to provide information due to backlog I had to submit an email inquiry for the figures and have not heard back from them so I took the figures for the last 6 months and doubled it. If this is not sufficient please advise I will forward exact figures to you when they become available thank you Stephanie Watters

I believe this is a good idea, hopefully the city will move forward with this initiative.

Very nice to see this kind of initiative

We have hot water heated by a coil thru a hot water furnace. The furnace is the original and has an efficiency of about 79%. We have an older home with a gambrel style roof- so it is unique in this neighborhood and most of Bedford due to the pitch/style. Thank you for running the program

This program is definitely the direction that this city needs to be headed. Oil and energy consumption is only going to get more costly in the years to come and being able to take advantage of an opportunity like this one would be a blessing.

great program; i have a simple peaked roof facing south

Great Idea hope I am not too late to sign up.

I think it is a great idea and a great program. Anything that helps raising a family more affordable works for me.

An excellent initiative to assist Haligonians reduce energy consumption and promote a greener environment.

Awesome idea!

Great idea. Should have been in place years ago but better late than never.

We think our old house is ideally situated for solar panels and are very keen in participating in this project.

I feel that this program is a step in the right direction, however I feel that this province and nsp should offer a better rebate program as part of their demand site management, especially as we keep hearing about the age of their infrastructure and increasing cost of maintenance and fuel you would think that they would offer very enticing incentives to help them in this regard. I hope that this group purchase will bring the hardware cost down, since when compared to other provinces in Canada our costs are

amongst the most expensive.

We are very interested in green options and this would be a great program for us to partake in.

The figures I have provided are from my last property, i currently live in a new house (only 3 months old) I am very interested in this program, I couldn't afford to add the cost of this type of heating system to the house when i built it. I use electric heat for my second floor and infloor heat on the main level and use a hot water tank to heat the water (very inefficient but cheap to install). I have positioned my house so that I get maximum sun on the back so that we can benefit from the free heat. Thanks.

Excellent program.

House was renovated last year. Flat roof. Very interested to see this program succeed.

I have been very interested in this type of project for some time. Money has been the issue as well as location. We have recently moved to this new home and the location is perfect for solar and wind energy. We would really like to do all we can to help reduce our carbon footprint.

Hello, Our home is 47 years old home with an Energuide rating of 82! We have a heat pump and we take the environment and energy consumption very seriously and truly believe that this program will propel HRM into the Solar leaders of Canada and the World. We sincerely hope it goes forward and we can provide you our full participation. Best regards, JP, Laura and little Libby.

Great idea, this would really help both us and the environment.

Financing: I might be interested in financing part of it. Also, I would be interested if there is a built-in financing charge (greater than my line of credit). But more info is needed to decide these matters.

we did an energy audit 1 1/2 years ago. we use alot of hot water

We have a high level of interest in this program. Please contact us with further information when available.

Would like to know more about how solar energy could help manage monthly utility costs.

Very good program, we are willing to finance ourselves or financing within the program.

I can firm up these numbers if needed. I just bought this property and it is Saturday and wanted to get my hat in the ring! Thanks very much..Wyatt George

We burn 4 cords of hardwood each winter. It probably accounts for 50% of the energy used to heat our house and we would like to reduce it. our roof is 4/12 pitch and we have an expansive Southern Exposure with no trees or obstructions. If we are part of the program we are likely to add our resources to include infloor heat as our home is a bungalow with potential for easy installation of piping under the main floor plus heating domestic water as per the program. thank you!

If it was affordable , my house as well as most residential & commerical buidings would be heated & powered by a green source of energy

I think this is an amazing initiative for the residents of HRM.

It is important to make it affordable to the home owner. As our home is hotwater heat from oil it makes sense to go solar power if possible. Also extension of this program to wind power for some home owner would also be a benifit and could give energy back to the grid

I would love to participate in this program. I am a single pensioner living in my own home and as you can see above, need to reduce my 'operating' costs in order to remain in this home. I feel solar energy is and should be part of our future.

house is approx. 800 square feet with two people living in it. Some steps have been taken to conserve heat but it is still very expensive. Would appreciate any way to cut costs.

Perfect due south roof. No obstructions for full access to the sun. Love the project. I just purchased this 51 year old home so do not have data to share on current consumption of oil or electricity

The program is a great idea. I was just wondering if I have to do a home energy audit first in order to take advantage of any rebates.

I have recently purchased this first new home as of November 2010. Prior to this, I had resided in an apartment and therefore had no water consumption to report. My new home is solar ready.

My interest is in taking advantage of the bulk program, more than financing through my tax bills, but if that is an advantage am quite willing to use that method.

I really love the idea of this program. I really hope that this goes ahead.

Great to see a program like this - I hope we can make it work! Would also like to see everyone turn the screws on all parties to see greater availability of natural gas through HRM.

Very supportive of this initiative. Can't wait to participate!

I would like to see more information and source material reference, proposed savings or incentives that could be available . Overall I believe the project to be a good start.

Would like to take part in this program with financing through the tax bill. This sounds like a wonderful idea with progressive thinking. What took you so long???

Great idea!!! Very impressed. Whoever came up with this idea is a forward thinker. Not sure if it economically makes sense for person living alone but like the idea from an environmental perspective.

Our home is new.. NSPC bills July to Nov.. Water bill.. they estimated as our 3 months usage. We have South West Exposure.. We will be out of town until end of January.. thank you for reading our email.

Look forward to finding out more on eligaability and financing. Also, to assess possible savings.

We bought a propane stove last summer and haven't had to refill the tank as yet. Our house was electrically heated until last December(09)when we had a wood fireplace insert installed. Our KWh dropped approximately from 20,055 (\$2578.29) to 17,439 (\$2297.81)Budget billing went from \$289.00 to \$148.00. We think this is a terrific community project! Keep up the "forward thinking!"

We have electric thermal storage units for heating, which give us a preferential rate of electricity overnight when the water is heated for the day. We would like to know the implications of solar

heating for this kind of unit (i.e. would it be cost-effective?) Are there solar panels available for other electrical usage, such as the thermal storage units?

city water, no info on #gallons; no propane for heating, used for cooking and one fireplace which is seldom lit. Good program!

2 Duplex. Electricity: 2 households. Oil: 2 tanks, 2 households. Info session St. Mary's Boat Club (audience with different knowledge of votovoltaic/hot H2O, etc.) needed some display and more technical 4-5 options to be presented.

Our house is roughed in for solar hot water with some costs already expensed. Need the major hardware and installation! P.S., NS needs more innovative energy programs like this; also tax incentives for alternative and/or other consumer energy initiatives.

I am excited to see the HRM offering this program I have always believed in using the sun's energy. Offering this program gives opportunities some home owners who could not afford the initial costs. Power Bills are too high! Thanks Again for bringing this program to the tax payers of the HRM!

I have been interested in solar heating for some time but did not know how to go about it, especially from a financial point of view. Paying a little extra on my property taxes to finance this programme would be something our household could easily handle. As a note, I was hoping to be among the first to apply for this programme; however, it took five days for Water Commission to get back to me with the required information. NS Power had all the required info at their fingertips and gave it to me readily when I called.

Please note...: KWH and cost for electricity are based on July 9-December 20, 2010 only NOT full 12 months as requested. We just purchased this house in July and NSPI would not provide electrical usage and cost for the previous 6 months.

Would like to see a local manufacturer of solar panels selected as supplier to help support local industry.

I am a bit an environmental nut as I compost, sort the garbage, minimize electric and water use. I would be very excited to participate in this programme!

I am very happy about this initiative. We have been working on insulating this house more fully over several years. Our Church, Bedford United, has just arranged to have solar panels put on its roof so we are all tuned to this method of heating which both reduces our bills and helps to save our planet.

Very good idea. Even if it just gets everyone thinking about solar. Additional people may still convert even if not accepted to this pilot program.

I am always interested in finding ways to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels and decreasing my cost of energy. I would appreciate the opportunity in participating in this program - Thank You

great idea -hope it takes off

I think this is a great idea. Financing would be a stumbling block for most folk but this makes it attainable for a much wider range of homes.

This is an excellent idea. My house has unobstructed west high elevation and proper roof shape for a solar panel.

I can't provide you with accurate historical data as the previous owner (before July 2010) lived alone and we are a family of 6. I anticipate our energy consumption will be significant.

Great program

I can not agree to finance this on my own without knowing more about the costs and savings involved.

I would really like a way to help decrease my household costs. My home and swimming pool are heated with electricity. If I was able to heat my domestic hot water with solar

1/ Am looking to reduce My carbon foot print. 2/ Am on a fixed income and all costs are going up much Faster THEN the SMALL Increase we get on our Pension each year. 3/ Will look at the Costs to see if I can carry the Financing. 4/ Are there any Tax breaks From H.R.M., The Province or the Feds? For this type Installation.

I was only living part time in the house, over the past year. Therefore, my oil, water and electricity bills were lower than normal. I will have to check to see if there is space available next to existing hot water tank another appliance (filling this out at work).

I like the direction this program is going. I would love to see this work for people that have electric heating as well in the future.

We have looked into getting a solar hot water heating system a few times over the last 5 years but have found the initial investment too much to manage. A program that would help finance the cost of the system would be a great help to us. Congratulations on an excellent initiative!

Great idea.

It sounds like a step in the right direction of a "green" environment.

We live in a new home (R2000) in Willow Ridge. It is plumbed for solar panels.

I would be interested to join in this program. I just moved into my home on Dec. 19th 2010 and I do not have some of the information requested above. As a young professional, heating costs have a large impact on financial sustainability. I currently support my partner while she attends school while managing the household bills. Improved efficiency that saves on the

Would like to see an interest free loan either through property taxes or small loan

I may be interested in the participating in the program with my own method of financing if no other options exist for me. The program is a fantastic idea! It's great to see Nova Scotia being innovative!

We use oil for both hot water baseboard heat and domestic hot water. We have been looking at alternatives to reduce our overall energy consumption, especially given the variability in the price of oil. We think this is an excellent opportunity to lead by example and show what can be done on a large scale when the municipality makes it more convenient to add energy efficient alternatives.

Reduce energy costs

I currently use HWBB oil as a supplementary for our pellet stove, but the hot water is run by the furnace. I think this is a great idea to harness the sun's energy to help cut down on oil and save money.

I think it would be great to use the energy from the sun to help reduce the use of electricity in my home and I am happy to see that HRM is interested in helping homeowners in this area.

We would be excited to take part in this program. It sounds like a great opportunity!

I fully support this worthwhile project. Any alternative to heating with oil and electricity will provide us with a cleaner environment and less dependency on oil, which is rapidly becoming too costly as a source of heat for our homes and domestic hot water.

This is a fantastic idea. We're looking forward to participating.

We currently use a pellet stove for our main source of heat in the house as it is cheaper for us than electricity. The answer above is maybe depending on the cost.

Thank you for the opportunity.

I think this program is a wonderful idea. I have recently mentioned about getting some solar panels installed as I believe we get plenty of sun to make it worth our while to have them installed. Although financing through the incentive program would be great I would also be willing to negotiate pricing and provide my own financing if the price vs savings in the end were right.

Very excited that this program has been introduced. We recently retrofitted our heating system to a heat pump and also installed tubing to be "solar ready" for hot water. Kudos HRM! Brian Dewey p.s. We're not clear what the "Alternative Participation" involves (a little vague) so are too unsure to say "yes" but with more info might consider it.

What will be the interest rate on the money? I answered yes to the Alternative Participation in Program question as I will finance myself if the interest rate is too high. In general we should be doing like PEI did and not charge interest for the first 5 years to give people incentive for paying it off faster which will get HRM their capital investment back faster.

Hello, Re:Financing, We may be able to finance half of the bill if we are accepted in the project depending on the cost. We are very pleased and excited with this program. Thanks, Ronald Fielding

interested in pilot program and financed over the 5 year program and would like more info on these finance programs as well as others for things like insulation for attics or window and door programs.

1. NSPI bill does not include taxes

I would LOVE to convert totally to solar but the costs are beyond our means-- the back of our house is south facing and, to me, seems ideally situated for solar panels since the back roof gets sun almost the entire day. Another way to help reduce water consumption is the way they do in Australia and Hawaii (and probably many other places)- by having "catch basins" (above or below ground) that capture rain water and store it to be used to flush toilets, water lawns, etc) that would be another invaluable way to reduce our use of valuable drinking water....just a thought

I think this is a great initiative and am behind it 100%. This is something I have wanted to do myself for

a number of years but just did not have the money to start it up and research. I am excited of the prospect of our province becoming more energy sustainable.

Any way in which we can tap the energy of a renewable, clean source helps. My rear of my house is south facing and has enormous potential for tapping the sun heat.

As a single mother I am always looking way to save and I am very interested in this program if it will help me save money on heating my hot water, as I have hot water baseboards it would be very useful to me in the winter months.

My house is under construction in Fall River. I have run the tubing to the roof for solar hot water heating. I have left room in utility room for extra heater.

I think it's important to find clean alternatives as sources of heating for the health of our world and community. This is a very exciting project to help us make that possible.

We currently live in a R2000 Standards home using two hot water heaters. One for domestic water use and the other to heat the in-floor radiant heat. The savings to a home with one tank would be doubled should we be chosen to participate in the project. My home has constant sun exposure and is not inhibited by trees or other cover.

The above numbers are estimates based on 6 months of living in my home.

I think trying to use a source of power that doesn't create harmful gases into the atmosphere is the way to go...I'm tired of being held hostage with the NS power corp that they can't manage their company so everytime they need money my power bill goes up...my hope is to use solar power to offset costs and keep the world clean.

We believe strongly in developing alternative methods of fueling our home.

Have lots of experience in alternative energy/power saving systems - <http://www.evalbum.com/3432>
Home is equipped with in floor hot water (slab) on two levels.

I'm very interested in participating in this program.

Am very interested and think it is a great idea. * Though I indicated my house is 60 years old, the majority is an addition and renovation which is 5 years old.

Propane for cooking only. House has fairly steep-pitched south-facing roof. Alternative financing - willing to consider dependent upon cost/circumstances

Our house is in the process of being built in Stockton Ridge. It is a R2000, Solar ready house. I have no idea what the electricity, or water consumption will be. My figures are just estimates. We take possession of the house at the end of Feb 2011. My current mailing address is 308-1 Lombardy Ln Dartmouth, NS B2X 3E4

I'm very interested in lowering my hot water heating costs and like the green option of solar.

I think this is a great idea and I would love to take part.

While I think this program is great, I am more interested in photovoltaic solar so that my home no longer requires a connection to NSP.

One important question that was missed is: Do you use an alternate source of heat? We have a wood stove to reduce our oil consumption at a yearly cost of \$500.

I would very much appreciate the opportunity to participate in this program, especially with the rising costs of electricity with the proposed upcoming increases. I think it's a positive direction that the government is starting to invest in researching the feasibility of alternate energy solutions, and look forward to seeing the results. I would be interested in the tax increase option however have been searching out alternatives for solar power for more than just hot water and would appreciate any information this provides on feasibility and rebates or cost savings.

as you can see by the costs i need to do something to reduce them being a senior and on a fixed income i would appreciate all the help i can get not to mention the reduction of using oil and electricity

This program has a lot of potential - Please make this work for everyone :) i hope it can be expanded.

Did not understand the question: "Alternative Participation in Program" --- I am willing to participate in program & am willing to consider all of the financing options.

I think this is a great idea as we have such a large family and would like to save money as well as help the environment. If I'm able to take part in this program i would like to add the cost onto my taxes

My home is 3 years old and is already fitted with the pipes going to the roof for solar hot water.

HAVING LOST ALL OF MY SHADES TREES DURING THE PAST THREE WEEKS OF STORMS, IT SEEMS WISE TO PUT THE SOUTHERN EXPOSURE - NO SHADE - LARGE FLAT BUNGALOW ROOF TO WORK. THIS IS A WONDERFUL PROGRAM. I HOPE I CAN PARTICIPATE. THANK YOU

Excellent. Is the intention to use flat plate, evacuated tube or solar dish (like solartron from Amherst)? I'd be only interested in evacuated tubes or solar dish.

I think this is a great idea am proud Halifax is showing the initiative in the areas sustainable energy.

Great initiative. Would love to see it extended to businesses if residential pilot works well.

I think this is a superb program. I am the minister of a large church (Bedford United) and we are in the process of installing solar at the church too. I see doing this at both my home and at the church as a very useful way to model this approach for our large congregation. I did attempt to sign up on-line at exactly 10 AM on the Wednesday sign up day, but couldn't get through. Then I got busy and didn't get back to the application. I hope this will still be considered.

Are you willing or interested in participating in the program with your own method of financing?

great idea. good to see HRM pursuing this initiative

This is a great start, I would like to see it cover more than just heating water

We have already conducted a survey of our property and have determined it is 98 % eligible for solar panels. Therefore there are likely several houses on our street that would also qualify. HRM should

seriously consider this option, by doing so it would put HRM on the eco-friendly map, build better relationships with constituents, and make a costly solution to heating plausible.

I am interested in the property tax payment plan.

I think the program is fantastic. We are interested in solar hot water heat, and we've had our home assessed by Creative Solar but the initial cost was too much for us to pay upfront at this time. If a reasonable financing option was available we would be able to do it. Our home is in an ideal spot for solar heat and although we currently heat our water with oil, there is room for hot water storage tanks. We have 4 children under 10, we expect our hot water needs over the next decade to increase significantly as they get older. Thank you.

We are very glad to see H.R.M investigating this venture. It is something we hoped the Federal Government would have done with stimulus funds. It is good to have someone try something different.

This program sounds very interesting and we are excited to potentially participate.

Great idea! HRM is again a leader in conservation efforts.

I have been wanting to install a solar hot water heating unit for many years now, but for one reason or another I have never actually gone through with it. Mostly due to the initial cost and the size of our family at the time.. I am looking forward to participating in this program and very happy to see the city taking the initiative towards helping residents become more self sufficient and less dependant on our conventional energy resources. I find it encouraging to see government helping to foster this emerging industry.

I have the perfect roof for solar panels. Thank you.

I have travelled the world and seen this in action in many countries. I am so happy it is coming to our part of the world. I would love to have this installed so I can help set an example of what we should be doing. Thanks for setting up this program.

The idea of the program is excellent. Looking forward to investigating it.

We would like to learn about financing options available.

READY TO GO. IDEAL LOCATION

I think this is the smartest thing I have heard from this municipality since I moved here in 1993.

Highly in favour of this program. Consider the heating of water to be one of the quickest and easiest methods to reduce power consumption.

An interesting initiative, proactive.

Our roof is in perfect alignment with the sun all day. We were in discussion about solar heat for our pool long before hearing of this opportunity and feel that this form of energy could be very beneficial to a family of 7.

My husband and I are incredibly interested in this program -- my parents have been using solar energy for over 10 years and have dramatically decreased their cost to heat hot water while increasing

the overall efficiencies. Harnessing solar power and relying less on traditional power makes sense - from a financial and sustainability perspective. We will be installing a propane fireplace but that this time we do not have it.

I have a flat roof, very difficult to access. No stairs or permanent ladder.

We have to purchase a new oil tank this year cost \$1000(approx.)We pay \$2000/year for oil, if I understand the cost involved (\$6000/8000) for installation of solar water heating, we would be able to pay for this in 3 years while using a clean renewable resource. That's pretty awesome. Our house is southwest facing & we have been considering this option for a few years but with a young family didn't know if it was affordable. We have already replaced windows, had an energy audit completed, blown insulation to replace seaweed insulation:Our house is now in the top 10 percent for its age group. Thank you for listening to my opinion...we hope to hear from you soon. Heather HinesClark

This is a great program.

We're a low income household but we'd very much like to participate.

I think this program is very creative and innovative. This is a chance for the "middle class" families to have an opportunity to get assistance with a bit home project such as solar panels. It makes me proud to live in HRM.

I purchased my first home in June of this year. It is currently heated by oil, both the furnace and hot water heater. One of my long term goals with this house is to make it completely solar. I think this program is a great incentive and puts me on track towards my objectives. I am 26 years old and recognize the importance of changing our ways for the future. Please consider my application and thank you.

We are very interested in alternate energy. I have a couple photovoltaic panels presently for charging our garden equipment (Snowblower, lawnmower, generator, etc), Eager to lose the oil HW system.

I THINK IT IS A VERY GOOD IDEA.

I have considered this type of installation for a while now, but have not followed it up. As for the financing of the installation, I would have to see what the projected costs would be before committing to a method of payment.

Could be a very successful project

People want to use green energy as long as they can afford it and also save money. Is that possible for HRM to get some group discount on the cost and installation of the solar panels for this project? I am sure people would be more interested if such or more incentives are available by joining this project.

I am certainly supportive of any such program. Hoorah to HRM !

it's a great thing

We are willing to pay for the system outright but would like to be able to participate in the financing program if we see more information. Will we be able to change our minds when the information becomes available?

We are very impressed with the innovative concept of the program. The idea of being able to use a

renewable, green, alternate energy source is very appealing to us. Unfortunately, we are not financially able to fund it all at once ourselves. This program puts participation within our reach, being able to include the payments as part of our taxes allows us to put the savings on electricity consumption toward paying for solar power. That's thinking outside the box! We sincerely hope to become part of this initiative.

WRT the last question more information would be required.

I am most interested in a smooth process and taking advantage of group rebates and pricing. Financing through property tax or on my own both work for me.

I had my house checked out for heating my domestic water via solar and it rated high. I am hoping to get financing through this program as I feel that this an excellent idea and will help me avoid taking out a loan via a bank for this upgrade. Thanks.

I think these green initiatives are great for the province. It's not about saving money (although that would be an added perk), it's about being more environmentally conscious.

I think it is a great idea and I have two properties that I would like considered the other is 3161 Highway #2 Fall River - oil heat only.

Sounds like a great program. We believe that our roof is likely to be very suitable as it is not overshadowed by any trees or buildings.

We think this an innovative attempt to illustrate the viability of alternate energy sources for heating domestic hot water and as such deserve our commitment and co-operation.

looking forward to the new program.

we use also 750 worth of wood for the house and really interested in saving some of the oil and power we use.

This is an exciting move forward by the municipality. It is great to see the town take an interest in greening the residential areas.

I think this is an excellent idea.

I'm excited about the project and it is good to see you are part of the bigger picture looking at alternatives.

This has always been an interest of mine for my house, but is a daunting task of seeking out my best option and contractor in solar hot water.

I think it is a great program. I support care of our environment.

I think this is a great idea and I hope this goes through and the idea about paying it with your tax bill is awesome. Thanks

It shows leadership in helping people to make responsible choices for all of our futures.

I believe that this is a great way to promote and study the different solar options possible in our climate. I have been wanting to reduce the use of electricity in my household. Also with in floor heating we would have another possibility of running the heated water through for household heating. As of now I reduce my energy consumption by burning wood and reducing the thermostats.

Excellent Idea

I would love to get involved with renewable energy, and I have a perfectly situated south facing rooftop that the panels could be mounted on. I'm interested to learn more about the program.

My house has already copper pipes installed to the roof.

I am interested in increasing my use of solar power. Our current house is designed to be passive solar and faces due South over the open ocean.

Please note: the natural gas consumption figure is in Giga Joules, not litres.

I'm very interested in incorporating renewable technologies into this property. Let me know if I'm eligible. Many Thanks, Edwin

This is a useful initiative for we usually do not see this area as being suitable for solar energy collection. The experiences of the first adopters should provide an incentive for others. It may be a disincentive but we won't have negative thinking at this point! We also have a south facing roof providing easy installation of solar collectors.

Great initiative by HRM. Cost benefit analysis should be interesting.

We just moved into our house a year ago and it already had a power saver (the system that draws during non peak hours for a space heater and hotwater) the hotwater tank is not large enough so we are forced to always override the system. and know Mom is home with our newborn so we will be using even more. We think this is a great program, to be able to finance through are taxes is a great idea. We would love to do everything we can to reduce power our consumption, however to get started with things like solar power and heating is beyond our budget under normal circumstances.

We are very excited about the possibility of reducing our energy cost with a better source of heat for hot water. One thing that was not stated anywhere is the maintenance these units require over a period of time.

Think it is a great idea...looking forward to hearing from you...and hoping we qualify!

House has a roof facing into the south and is ideally suited for the installation of solar panels. I have said no to propane. We do have an propane fireplace which is used more for ambiance than anything. Annual propane consumption is about \$350.00.

I think this is a great idea and think it should be expanded. If widely used it should help reduce greenhouse gas production as well as reduce energy cost.

We are very interested in moving toward solar heating (our heat system is for both house and water heating). However the cost of buying and installing solar panels is still outside our budget. We would love to participate in the Solar City program! Thanks and good luck with the program, Johann and Ria Tienhaara

this is a great idea if there are more programs that arise or exist please count me in.

While I answered no to the last question, I might consider participating with my own financing if there was some other kind of incentive (e.g., Income and/or Property tax rebates). This is a great idea! I hope it flies.

I think it's a great idea. Hopefully we're eligible.

This home is completely being renovated. There has been no usage for the past 15 yrs.

I believe that this is an excellent opportunity to confirm the availability of more cost effective and clean energy use.

I am trying to make my home more efficient and this would help.

I am interested in the program but would first like to be considered through the tax funding option for financing first.

I use solar photovoltaic panels for producing electricity at my cottage.

great initiative

I like the initiative that HRM has taken with this project. It is important for all citizens to reduce their dependence on oil and solar power is a green way to go.

Great Program!

I just moved in this house 1/7/2010.

we are late to the game but are thrilled with the possibility of qualifying.

Thank you

This program is an excellent example of how our city counsel if looking to the future. We recently purchases our house, and it was built as a high energy efficient home. This program would allow us to reduce our energy foot print even more.

I applaud the city for taking such initiatives to help reduce both cost and consumption of non-renewable resources.

I am impressed that HRM is considering this project. We are considering solar power for use during power outages and if it works well maybe supplement our power. We have solar panels at our cottage and may be considering some source of wind power also. Hopefully this project is open to all HRM residents and not only those who reside in the city.

I feel our home is a great candidate for this project with a directly south facing (large) roof; modern electric domestic hot water heater. Our family is very eagre to apply for this program in the interest of conservation and energy efficiency over the med - long term.

Will be building a new small home to replace terrible cottage...great solar location. Thanks

This program is an exciting one. We have the opportunity to be a leader in this area and an example to other communities. I have, for a long time, tried to impress on my family and those at work the importance of the environment. Being able to live in a house that has solar energy for hot water is a great way to live. I believe Nova Scotia is a fantastic province with a great deal of natural coastline and wildlife. It is essential as residents that we do what we can to help preserve the environment and do what we can to reduce our environmental footprint. To that end I have insulated the house very well and have replaced windows. This program takes us one closer to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. We can be national leaders and live as a great example to other communities.

I use wood as an alternative! I am a senior.

This is a very long overdue measure for our city to undertake and I am pleased and hopefully to be part of it! :)

I am very interested in clean green energy and plan to stay in this home for many more years.

I have a swimming pool. This requires topping up water every year and the water is heated with an electric air source heat pump. Pool is operated for three months.

I would be very interested in being made aware of any and all incentive programs available now and prior to the Municipality's Pilot Project commencing; particularly, within the next three months. Also, I would like to know who is available to do an assessment, how soon could it be done, would I be responsible for such assessment and if so, the estimated cost of such.

I like this initiative very much- shows great foresight. I hope this flies.

I have had solar hot water panels on another home, and believe the benefits are there. I think it will make a difference.

I think that this is a fantastic program. I have thought about these systems for quite some time, but with the expense of purchasing one, I didn't think it was possible.

Great idea. Please do more like this.

Note: natural gas is billed in GJ vice litres

We think this a great program.

I think this is a GREAT idea but the big uncertainty is cost. I also do not understand what is meant by the last question regarding Alternative Participation in Program. Regardless, I am very interested in participating.

I would be interested in receiving information regarding how much the program would cost with my own method of financing, if not selected for the program.

I marked no for propane as it heats our fireplace and stove.

This is a great idea! We have been thinking about putting solar panels on our duplex...we are trying to provide a green housing alternative in Halifax (see our website <http://www.walnut-place.com/>).

However, being new home owners the initial cost can be onerous so this is an excellent initiative that we would love to participate in!

It's an interesting concept and one I wish to explore.

Keep this program running and I will swim with peter on his next outing??

Great idea for a program!

Will there be any consideration made for financial need , as my utilities for the past twelve months are in the range of 20% of my income before taxes? Is there any information available as to when this program will be started and the cost to the homeowner for the unit and installation? Also what type of panels are being considered, and who will supply and install the equipment?

Hooray to going solar! We're ideally situated for panels and have been discussing this for a while. We'd love to be first on our block.

Looking forward to hearing more about the way ahead especially the costs.

Note: I do not have the precise cost of the oil consumption as the only information I could get from Irving was my total amount which is not accurate because I moved last January and there were other fees/payments that were included in the total amount. However, the litre amount of 923 is correct. I do have a propane tank, however, it is used only for the fireplace and stove, so I left it out as consumption is minimal.

it would be great to see nova scotia power adopt a net-metering approach to energy provision.

I would also like to heat my home by solar panels if that option was ever available.

I think this is an excellent idea. Myself and my family are committed to maintaining the environment and consuming as little finite resources as possible. We have no other realistic means of financing such a project for ourselves. Delighted to see HRM proposing something like this. I hope it is a success and can be made available to all someday. Thank you.

This is a positive approach to both renewable energy and reduced consumer cost over the long term. I support the program which would be possible if the financing can be done over a long period of time through municipal tax program.

The NSP power consumption is a close estimate of our kilowatt usage. I think this project is great. Any means of cutting the cost of electricity is the way to go. Heating hot water by the sun sure helps to save cost and the environment.

House has had extensive renovations, scoring well for the age in efficacy audit. But hot water tank needs to be replaced, considering high efficacy options.

It's about time, this could be a great program that will help make Halifax a leader in sustainability and lessen our carbon footprint.

Really pleased to see this solar energy initiative happening in HRM. Look forward to many more.

I believe this could be a fantastic program if administered properly. I have not seen it stated that if paying for the system through property taxes that once the system is paid for your property taxes

would be reduced appropriately. Some clarification is required on this point.

I think if the city partners with home owners and develops standards to regulate power consumption this is in the best interests of all customers.

I am very interested in this program. My house is all electric. My wife and I installed ETS heating units about 7 years ago and have loved having them. Our hot water heater is on time of day with NS Power as well but in the winter we find the 40 gallon tank does not hold enough hot water to get through the day. We are looking at installing a 60 gallon tank but I think having a solar panel to preheat the incoming cold water would be very helpful for our system. The only downside is we may have some space limitations. I look forward to hearing more about this program as it is developed.

Also use 2-3 cords of wood at estimated cost of \$500.00 - \$700.00 per year.

I participated in teh One Tonne challenge a few years back and reduced my carbon output by at least 50%. I look forward to taking advantage of this programm to help make my home energy solution even greener

This program is a great idea. I hope to see implemented in the not to distant future.

This is a wonderful initiative and shows real commitment to a greener province on the part of HRM.

I am interested in reducing our consumption in an older home which we value because of its location and aesthetics

Great idea - good for you HRM!! I love the idea of no longer being subjected to the greedy cash grabs of Nova Scotia Power's shareholders, and helping clean up the planet by not using fossil fuels. It would be wonderful!

We think moving toward using more solar energy is a progressive and necessary step to take. Thank-you for putting forth this initiative.

I am very interested in this program and since I am situated in St Margaret's Bay, with excellent southern exposure, I think my location would be a good comparison between the urban and rural areas of HRM.

I have lived in my home for 9 years. I am a single mom and inquired about having a solar hot water installed in my home and know the cost is \$5000. I was going to do it when my mortgage was up for renewal. I would really like to be part of this project if possible.

I think this program is a fantastic idea to be more conservative and environmental, I would love the opportunity to be the first on my street to represent it.

I think this is a great step in the right direction. I converted our house, from oil heating to a heat pump 3 years ago and haven't looked back. This would compliment the heat pump and our pool solar heating panels nicely.

This shows a welcomed interest in your government to help the enviroment as well as the people you serve. Good job for into the future for all of us.

I do not think I can afford this without assistance.

I think it is a great idea.

This is a great idea!

This is excellent! Minimal or no cost to the government! Please continue to research opportunities and investments like this!

We feel it would be less burden on the city if we could set up our own hot water panels etc. It isn't about being on the grid as much as it is to help reduce consumption which is a growing problem.

I am reporting my natural gas consumption in GJ. The form says litres, but an earlier page on your site said GJ, so I am assuming that was correct as it aligns with what the utility measures gas by.

I think this is a fantastic way to allow people to finance the up-front cost of solar installation through their property tax payments. Many people would like to "go solar" but simply cannot find the extra money in the household budget to finance the high cost of installation. Thank you for bringing this program to fruition!

This appears to be a great opportunity to help households AND the environment.

Excellent idea and I really hope to see it started.

This is one flat of two, please contact me for more information on my flat. Propane is for the range only. Heat and domestic water uses oil

I THINK THIS IS A VERY FORWARD THINKING TYPE OF PROGRAM.As a person on a lower income I greatly appreciate any method to save money on my power bill. If I am using less power to heat water perhaps I will be able to afford to heat more than one room in the house. Currently I heat the bedroom only. Thankyou for enacting this creative idea. sincerely Clara Fassett PS I have lived in the house since 1997, purchased it in 2000-As you can imagine in the last 10 years the cost of electricity has risen so much but not my income this is a sad state of affairs for many people.However I realize that changing to cleaner sources of power costs money. Property values and taxes have more than doubled

I feel and have felt for many years N.S. should use alternative ways of heating and lowering heating cost and water cost and making life green. Being a senior I am pleased to have this opportunity as my income remains fixed.Replacing old siding with newer more R-rated quality siding is another program the government i.e. Fed, Prov. could help people upgrade their homes. Thankyou for what you are doing even if I do or donot make the list.

I may finance myself after meeting with someone to get a full picture of cost/benefit

I am always looking to find ways to reduce energy efficiently. I am looking forward to hearing more about this program.

Am able to self finance but would prefer to do it through tax payments. Thanks.

I have been asked by several vendors in the past 2 years if I would be interested in installing solar panel because of the amount of sun exposure to the front of our house. I am all for power conversation but feel more comfortable participating in a project organized through HRM than private companies who are more concerned about selling a product for profit (commission) than the proper installation and cost / benefit relationship for the customer. Just to find out if solar panels would be a beneficial investment from a recognized source such as this HRM project would be peace of mind before making any type of investment and or commitment in the future. Sincerely, Alastair Smith

I am excited about this project because I try to be as green as possible and this is just one more step I can take.

Very excited about this program! *note the +1 refers to a tenant that I have attached to my building. His water is attached to my bill but his electricity is separate and is: 8,354 kWh = \$1,171.90 Please let me know if you require any other additional information.

We are very eager to participate in the program. We have just moved into a new house which is very inefficient. Our data is based on our consumption habits in our previous house, adapted to the new house.

Need to see costs and options - I was looking into a evacuated tube system as I understand they are more efficient - plus I was looking at installing my own system (depending on complexity) -- this may allow me to go ahead

Hi My house has a old oil burner that is a forced air system. We need a new furnace and we are switching to natural gas and we are putting hot water heating to replace the forced air. When we do this in the spring we are running pipes for solar heating in the future. This project would work great for us. If you have any questions please drop me a line. Phone or E-mail

Very interesting! Too much information to research this myself so this program gives me confidence that the best type of system will be chosen and installed correctly.

Our roof surface area is facing south/east and we've thought of solar heat before; seeing it as a capital investment.

This a great start. I hope you can sustain this program. Thanks, Gillian Austin

I am a First time home buyer and the address and information listed is for my new house. I do not have any historical data relating to utility consumption because I have never had utilities myself. However I am very interested in this project and would like more information, hope that I am able to participate, especially given the proposed financing option of voluntary tax increase.

This is a great way to ease the financial burden of doing the right thing for the environment.

My husband and I have been talking about installing solar panels for years. I believe it is a great opportunity for residence in HRM, whom otherwise do not have the means to finance such an undertaking, and I think this project is a great idea. I work for HRM, and would love to help promote and participate in this pilot project.

Sounds great. I would love to have 'green' ways of heating my water.

Regarding the question if I am interested in participating in the program with my own method of financing - I am interested, but not sure as I don't know what the cost or financing options are.