



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

## BRIEFING FORM

**SUBMITTED TO:** Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

**MANAGER'S APPROVAL:**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gord Helm".

---

**Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources**

**DATE OF MEETING:** October 6, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Waste Characterization Study Update

### ORIGIN

HRM Waste Characterization Study

**RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION REQUIRED** (NONE REQUIRED IN THIS CASE  
INFORMATION ONLY)

### **BACKGROUND**

As part of research and option analysis, HRM embarked on a three phase process to examine the potential opportunity a residual waste conversion technology for the advanced handling of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) poses for the municipality. Phase one was the selection of a consultant to perform an energy caloric/BTU waste characterization study. The study report was to include an industry technology assessment for the purpose of identifying MSW conversion technologies options suited for HRM's residual waste stream. This review was also to include an overview of industry best practices currently being employed or investigated.

The objective of this assessment is to further develop and evaluate information for a waste strategy review and evaluation. In this specific case, the analysis is to support an assessment of a business case to significantly reduce the residual waste stream currently being landfilled at Otter Lake. There are several objectives of this analysis. First, landfill cells currently cost more than \$15M to build and last approximately 40 months. Reducing residual waste would extend the life of cells, and allow the costs to be spread over a longer period of time. There is also the environmental stewardship opportunity to produce a green source of energy. Finally, extending

the life of cells would have the potential to extend the life of the current landfill footprint and therefore the operational life of Otter Lake. This latter outcome requires consultation with CMC and would be part of a formal community engagement plan.

If approved by committee and council, a second phase would be the release of a Request for Expressions of Interest to develop a list of interested parties with technologies suited for HRM's environment and waste stream. This assessment would include a best practices and industry opinion analysis for an optimal HRM business case opportunity utilizing the specific characteristics of HRM's residual waste stream as developed in phase one. The results of phase two responses, developed into an opportunities report, would then be presented back to committee with the intent to seek and confirm approval from council to include this information in a community engagement process on the options and opportunities involved in reviewing and potentially evolving the HRM waste strategy.

Following phase two, HRM staff, will then report back to committee with an updated report based on the community engagement process to outline the strategy review process findings and advance recommendations for committees consideration.

## **ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS**

Continue to observe ongoing operational development of technology sites, such as the one in Edmonton.

## **IMPACT/BENEFITS:**

There are potential external funding opportunities that HRM could benefit from with the identification and approval for the implementation of a residual waste conversion technology process.

## **COMMUNICATION ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES:**

Consultation with CMC and any subsequent engagement plan with the community would be developed and brought back to committee for review and consideration.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

## **KEY STAFF CONTACT:**

Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources 490-6606