

Environment and Sustainability Committee
May 5, 2011

TO: Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Committee

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

DATE: April 15, 2011

SUBJECT: **Electric Vehicles**

ORIGIN

- Community Outcome Area: Clean and Healthy Environment Objectives
- Infrastructure and Asset Management Business Plan 2011/2012

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainability Committee:

1. Direct Staff to prepare a Corporate Plan for location and investment of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for Corporate Fleet Vehicles;
2. Direct Staff to prepare a Policy for the incorporation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in new Facility Development and Recapitalization projects;
3. Engage with the Development Community and Nova Scotia Home Builders Association regarding reviewing the recommended actions from the British Columbia Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment Guidelines;
4. Engage with the Nova Scotia Automobile Dealers Association regarding expectations on market penetration of electric vehicles in Nova Scotia;
5. Direct Staff to review revenue opportunities offered with the deployment of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure; and
6. Forward this report and recommendation to the Transportation Standing Committee and Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee for recommendation and other Committee direction on this subject.

BACKGROUND

As per the Electric Mobility Canada publication: Driving the Rapid Adoption of Electric Vehicles in Canada (<http://www.emc-mec.ca/files/DrivingTheRapidAdoptionOfPEVsInCanada-v3a.pdf>), Electric Vehicles are coming.

Electric Vehicles provide environmental benefits. Even though Nova Scotia electricity is coal based, Electric Vehicles are lighter (with no combustion engine) and much more efficient at turning energy into propulsion. This results in lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions per kilometer than fuel powered vehicles. Air quality benefits are improved as well.

Some predictions indicate about 2% to 5% market penetration in new car sales per year by 2015. This roughly translates to 2,000 to 5,000 cars in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) annually.

With this new technology coming, there are opportunities and threats.

Transport Canada has created a primer on electric vehicles:
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/programs/environment-etv-evprimer-eng-1994.htm>

DISCUSSION

In anticipation of the work and opportunities related to Electric Vehicles, HRM joined Electric Mobility Canada (www.emc-mec.ca) for peer learning and collaboration.

Toronto and Vancouver are leading other Canadian municipalities in preparing for Electric Vehicles, so there is work that HRM staff and Councillors are able to look at and consider.

Toronto: <http://www.fleetwise.ca/>

Vancouver: http://vancouver.ca/sustainability/electric_vehicles.htm

In addition to this, BC Hydro partnered with several stakeholders and created a EV Charging Infrastructure Deployment Guideline:
http://www.bchydro.com/etc/medialib/internet/documents/environment/EVcharging_infrastructu_re_guidelines09.Par.0001.File.EV%20Charging%20Infrastructure%20Guidelines-BC-Aug09.pdf

All this work provides a template for HRM Staff, Council and Community Stakeholders to initiate policy and strategy related to the adoption of the technology.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Current recommendations will not cause any impacts to existing operating or capital budgets. Future plans will have future budget implications.

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

This report directs a level of community engagement in the recommendations.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee may choose to not advance policy, but this is not recommended by staff.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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

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