

**Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
July 5, 2012**

TO: Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee



SUBMITTED BY: _____
Peter Stickings, Acting Director, Planning & Infrastructure

DATE: June 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Halifax Water ComFIT Endorsement

ORIGIN

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, June 7, 2012

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council to endorse the Halifax Water ComFIT project proposal for a Biosolids/Biomass Facility and an inline turbine at the Orchard Control Chamber.

BACKGROUND

On June 7, 2012, Halifax Water updated the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee on the status of two previously endorsed ComFIT wind energy projects. In addition, Halifax Water staff solicited endorsements for two future ComFIT proposed projects. One project would entail using biosolids and biomass in a co-generation facility. The other project would use inline water pipes to power a turbine.

The presentation can be viewed at:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/swrac/documents/RenewableEnergyPresentationtoESSCJune72012.pdf>

DISCUSSION

In order to qualify for eligibility for ComFIT, the municipality must endorse the project.

The inline turbine projects have no impact on the municipality's operations, budget, or planning activities.

The biosolids/biomass project may have an impact on the municipalities operations, planning, and budgeting related to solid waste. Specifically impacted may be the source separated organics solutions. Currently, regulations under the Environment Act biosolids are classified the same as source separated organics (both residential and ICI). As such, HRM staff retained the right to continue to be involved with the examination of any revisions to definitions or regulations. Currently, incineration of organics is not permitted. Staff will need to monitor provincial consideration of changes in definitions or regulations related to solid waste under the Environment Act and assess the implications or opportunities to the municipal solid waste strategy. If the Province separated biosolids from the organics definition, this impact would be moot.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts to the 2012/2013 Halifax Regional Municipality Operating or Project Budget.

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 are community engagement requirements under the ComFIT program, should Department of Energy endorse project development.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

These projects align with the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act and Provincial Renewable Energy Strategy.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee may choose not to endorse these projects.

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.

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