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## BRIEFING FORM

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

**DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:**

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**DATE OF MEETING:** June 2, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Solar City Update

### ORIGIN

Regional Council February 8, 2011.

### RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION REQUIRED

(NONE REQUIRED IN THIS CASE, INFORMATION ONLY)

## **BACKGROUND**

On February 8, 2011, Regional Council endorsed staff working on framing a Community Solar Project where conceptually 1000 homeowners would have solar hot water panels installed on their homes and they would be able to repay the cost as a supplement to their tax bill. Staff will be returning to the Environment and Sustainability Committee and Regional Council with updates on Funding within the next two months.

This briefing note is with respect to an Expression of Interest that staff issued to industry to identify Suppliers and Installers. This will enable continued engagement with industry as we work with external parties/levels of government on the funding and financing.

Expression of Interest No. 11-052 closed on May 19, 2011. There were fifteen respondents, most were supply/installers, couple were products suppliers only, and a couple offered ancillary services that could possibly be required to complement the project.

The respondents included:

- GreenPower Labs
- Sunross Energy Systems Ltd.
- Bfreehomes Design Ltd.
- Bruce Sutherland Associates Ltd.
- Scotian Renewables
- Shines Renewable Energy
- Atlantic Mechanical Contractors
- Encom Alternative Energy Solutions
- Dimplex North America Ltd.
- Green Sun Rising Inc.
- Aztek Solar
- Creative Solar
- Sun and Wind Energy Resources Inc.
- Thermo Dynamics Ltd.
- Seaforth Energy

In June, staff will be holding an industry engagement session with the qualified respondents and a few other invited stakeholders (from the Province and Nova Scotia Community College) to discuss items required prior to a solicitation (which will not happen until Regional Council approves the project). The items tentatively on the Industry Session Agenda are:

1. Is there enough capacity within the offerings to complete the project (i.e. 1000 homes in 1 year)?
2. What are the parameters the industry needs to offer uniform pricing?
3. What are the quality certification requirements? CanSIA for installers? CSA for equipment, etc.

The time frame staff continues to anticipate is:

- Funding/Financing confirmation, July 2011
- Report to ESSC and Regional Council, August 2011
- Solicitation, August to October 2011
- Contracts awarded, Fall 2011

#### **ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS**

None

#### **IMPACT/BENEFITS**

None

#### **COMMUNICATION ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES**

None

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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