

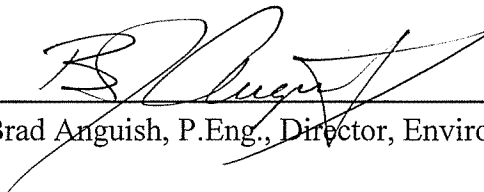
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Halifax Regional Council
May 8, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Brad Anguish, P.Eng., Director, Environmental Management Services

DATE: April 26, 2007

SUBJECT: Biomass for Alternate Energy - Community Energy Plan

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Regional Council, April 24 2007, Councillor Streach - Biomass for Alternate Energy - Community Energy Plan Request.

BACKGROUND

At the April 24, 2007, meeting of Regional Council, Councillor Streach requested a staff report laying down the groundwork under the Community Energy Planning Process to provide for a new 30 megawatt biomass facility serving Eastern Rural HRM.

DISCUSSION

Community Energy Plan - Snapshot

On November 28, 2006, Regional Council approved the tender award for RFP-06-125, **Community Energy Plan**.

The Community Energy Plan is a required Functional Plan of the Regional Plan and an integral component to HRM's integrated systems approach to clean air, land, water and energy. The Plan will be a comprehensive document, in essence a road map to guide decisions, investments and community form related to energy.

Details and updates on the Community Energy Plan are available on-line at www.halifax.ca/environment/energyplan.html.

Present Status - Community Energy Plan

Much of the stakeholder consultations, public information sessions and gathering of baseline data is nearing completion.

One of the key components of the Community Energy Plan will be the **Implementation Plan**, in essence a document that delivers a well assessed list of actions that will be the most effective (in terms of energy efficiency, security, sustainability, cost effectiveness, feasibility, etc.) to meet the goals of HRM.

The Plan will include long and short list options/ opportunities that have been assessed through various science and engineering based lenses for such things as viability, emission reduction, sustainability, technological availability, economics, etc.

Biomass Opportunity - Fit - Community Energy Plan

A **biomass fuel**, is a renewable fuel derived from a living organism or the by-product of a living organism. Biomass fuels include wood, wood waste, crop wastes, etc.

Biomass and rural opportunities were included in the Community Energy Plan goals and objectives and are specifically identified in the Task One Report (Resource Assessment) which includes a section specific to Renewable Energy Resources in HRM.

A potential biomass electrical generation plant for Eastern Rural HRM will be assessed, and brought forward with other energy related options and opportunities when the Community Energy Plan Final Report is presented to Regional Council in early to mid summer.

The report will provide suggested recommendations in areas where HRM has direct control or jurisdiction, i.e. land use planning and where to best focus attention and efforts in other areas where HRM does not have direct control or jurisdiction, i.e. energy decisions at the provincial and federal levels .

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications. The costs of the Community Energy Plan were previously approved by Regional Council and the biomass considerations are included within the overall scope of this project.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

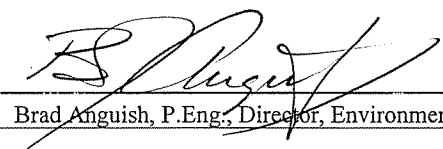
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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

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