



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 11.4.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**December 7, 2010**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed

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Councillor Peter Lund, Chair, Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee

**DATE:** November 30, 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA)**  
**Targets**

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**ORIGIN**

The Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee meetings of September 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 25, 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council request that the Mayor sign and forward the attached November 26, 2010 letter to Honourable Sterling Belliveau, Department of Environment.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee discussed this matter during their September 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 25, 2010 meetings.

## **DISCUSSION**

As per the attached November 26, 2010 letter.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## **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**

The Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

No alternatives have been provided.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Letter to Honourable Sterling Belliveau, Department of Environment, dated November 26, 2010.

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

Report Prepared by: Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerks Office, 490-6519

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November 26, 2010

Honourable Sterling Belliveau  
Department of Environment  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 5151 Terminal Road  
PO Box 442  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Belliveau,

As you know, Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) plays a critical role in the Province meeting its Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA) targets. Recently, HRM wrote to the CEO of the Resource Recovery Fund Board, (RRFB), Bill Ring, to clarify a point which has a direct impact on funding allocations to HRM from RRFB diversion and incentive programs. HRM requested that the RRFB confirm their programs were acknowledging that the 2015 EGSPA target of 300kg/pp of waste was a provincial target and not a regional or municipal target in the case of HRM. The response from RRFB was that diversion credits and incentive programs are, in fact, based on their position that the 2015 EGSPA target is a regional or municipal objective (attached).

HRM has sought clarification on a number of occasions from your staff and has been assured that the 300 kg/pp target is a provincial objective, not a regional or municipal objective. As has been explained to HRM, this position is based on the recognition of the density of industry, economic activity, and population in HRM, which puts the municipality in a different situation than all other jurisdictions in the Province. For the RRFB to compare and impose the same waste diversion expectation requirements on HRM (population 394,800) as, for example, the Western region (population 45,075), is unfair. HRM does not believe this is the intent of the EGSPA target. This issue was raised again and your staff assured HRM staff, in the presence of RRFB staff at the recent Regional Chairs meeting, that the 300 kg/pp target is a Provincial goal. HRM believes it is being unfairly penalized and losing out on funding as a result of the RRFB's position that the target is a regional (municipal) goal. RRFB has developed and implemented an incentive funding program that is based on this position (attached). It is requested that you clarify this issue and whether the noted incentive program can be modified to reflect this reality.

In addition, HRM feels that funding incentives and grants, even "one time" funding grants, allocated to all seven regions equally is also unjustifiable. HRM residents generate over 50 percent of the RRFB deposit revenues. Special one-time grants, such as the recent \$100,000 issued to all regions by the RRFB, should not be allocated equally to regions which are not equivalent in representation of population or existing environmental diversion programs. It is requested that the RRFB be reminded that all incentive and grant programs should take into account the size of the regions for equitable investment of provincially generated funding.

HRM takes great pride in its diversion achievements to date. HRM reached 51% in the 2009

Nova Scotia Waste Diversion calculations, achieving the highest diversion of any region in Nova Scotia based on the Nova Scotia conversion calculations data. HRM continues to proactively engage residents and the corporate community in environmental stewardship programs which maintain a support rating of greater than 90%. HRM has every confidence that the municipality will continue to lead the Province in its diversion programs based on equitable demographic and waste generation comparisons.

In recognition of your staff confirming that the 300 kg target is a Provincial target, HRM staff would welcome the opportunity to assist and work with your staff and RRFB in the development of a practical and fair per capita kg/pp target per region, which HRM would then incorporate into its diversion messaging and education programs.

Respectfully,

Peter Kelly  
Mayor

Attachment

CC: HRM Solid Waste Resources Advisory Committee  
Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources  
Keith Colwell, MLA, Preston  
Darrell Dexter, MLA, Cole Harbour  
Howard Epstein, MLA, Halifax Chebucto  
Bill Estabrooks, MLA, Timberlea-Prospect  
Becky Kent, MLA, Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage  
Maureen MacDonald, MLA, Halifax Needham  
Marilyn More, MLA, Dartmouth South – Portland Valley  
Percy Paris, MLA, Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank  
Denise Peterson-Rafuse, MLA, Chester-St. Margaret's  
Sidney Prest, MLA, Eastern Shore  
Leonard Preyra, MLA, Halifax Citadel-Sable Island  
Kelly Regan, MLA, Bedford-Birch Cove  
Graham Steele, MLA, Halifax Fairview  
Diana Whalen, MLA, Halifax Clayton Park  
Mat Whynott, MLA, Hammonds Plains – Upper Sackville  
Dave Wilson, MLA, Sackville-Cobequid  
Andrew Younger, MLA, Dartmouth East  
Trevor Zinck, MLA, Dartmouth North



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RRFB  
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Fax: 902.897.3256  
www.rffb.com

CAO: \_\_\_\_\_  
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COUNCILLORS' OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

July 13, 2010

DATE: *July 16/10*

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

RECEIVED  
JUL 16 2010  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mayor Kelly,

Thank you for your letter dated June 21, 2010 regarding RRFB Nova Scotia's Diversion Incentive Program. As you are aware, Nova Scotia Environment has set a progressive waste disposal target of 300 kg per person per year by 2015. In order to reach this goal, RRFB Nova Scotia has to work in partnership with Nova Scotia Environment and the 55 municipalities.

RRFB Nova Scotia's 2009-10 business plan incorporated several new funding initiatives directed at municipalities to help them reach 300 kg. RRFB Nova Scotia introduced the Diversion Incentive Program, which was intended to challenge regions to develop programs and policies that would get them to the 2015 target.

The Diversion Incentive Program does not replace the existing diversion credits that are distributed to each of the solid waste management regions in Nova Scotia. The methodology for calculating diversion credits remains the same and in fiscal 2010, a total of \$4.18 million dollars in credits was disbursed.

However, to place greater emphasis on the 2015 goal of 300kg/person/year, RRFB Nova Scotia determined that an incentive beyond the diversion credits program would help meet these goals by encouraging new policies or programs across the province.

In January 2010, the draft Diversion Incentive Program guidelines were presented to the Regional Chairs and Coordinators for input. The original proposal would have rewarded only those municipalities that actually hit the 300 kg target. Through feedback from our municipal stakeholders, it became apparent that we should reward regions, and not municipalities. Additionally, it was suggested that there be a more graduated system to getting to the 300 kg. Based on this feedback, RRFB Nova Scotia developed the final guidelines, providing incremental waste disposal targets for each region.

It is important to note that the provincial goal of 300kg is an average based on waste disposal in each region. While some regions may reach and go well below the target, it is also acknowledged that a few regions may not achieve it by 2015.



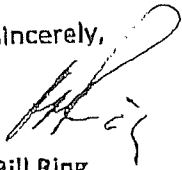
Keeping this in mind, RRFB Nova Scotia developed a program that balanced regional waste management challenges with realistic waste diversion goals. The result is a waste diversion incentive program that provides each region with their own specific disposal targets. These targets are based on where the region currently is, and where they incrementally need to go to reach 300kgs by 2015.

RRFB Nova Scotia believes that the 2015 goal is achievable and we are committed to working closely with our municipal partners to get there. However, we also acknowledge that our organization has a significant role to play in enabling all Nova Scotians to reduce their waste.

That is why, in addition to the Diversion Incentive Program, we have allocated an extra \$100,000 in funding towards the regional education contracts and introduced a new enforcement program, valued at \$100,000 per region, to support increased compliance with provincial and municipal waste management regulations.

This new funding, introduced in RRFB Nova Scotia's fiscal 2010 business plan, will be committed for a maximum of three years. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions about any of these programs.

Sincerely,



Bill Ring

CEO, RRFB Nova Scotia

902.897.4322

Cc: Halifax Regional Council

Minister Sterling Belliveau, NSE

Solid Waste Resource Advisory Committee

<b>MUNICIPAL CLERKS OFFICE</b>	
Distributed to:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councillors	Meeting <u>Regional Council</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAO	Date: <u>June 15, 2010</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DCAOs	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solicitor	Item No. <u>10.4.1</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications	<u>J. Church,</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<u>G. Helm, K. Reasher,</u>
	<u>K. Tidjwell</u>