

Item No. 11.5.3
Halifax Regional Council
June 25, 2013

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Councillor Dalrymple, Chair, Environment & Sustainability Standing
Committee

DATE: June 12, 2013

SUBJECT: COMFIT Wind Turbine Project

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee, June 6, 2013 – Item 9.2

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee, Terms of Reference - Section 3.2: The Standing Committee shall “promote and enable sustainable and renewable sources of energy in HRM [and] promote diversification of municipal revenue streams through investments in utilities such as natural gas, wind energy and district energy.”

RECOMMENDATION

The Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to prepare a report on the process, financial implications, revenue expectations and possible options for consideration of the development and construction of a Community Feed-in Tariff (COMFIT) small wind turbine project for inclusion in the 2014 budget.

BACKGROUND

COMFIT is a program of the Government of Nova Scotia providing small-scale power producers with an established price, per kilowatt hour, for projects producing electricity from qualifying renewable resources. It is intended to encourage and support the development of renewable electricity projects by community-based groups such as municipalities.

DISCUSSION

At its meeting on June 6, 2013, the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee discussed the merits of developing a small-scale wind turbine project as part of the COMFIT program. They voted unanimously in favour of bringing this to Council for further consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None were identified. However, staff time and resources will be required to undertake this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings of the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee are open to the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The development of a small wind turbine project would support sustainable and renewable sources of energy in HRM all the while reducing HRM's greenhouse gas emissions.

ALTERNATIVES

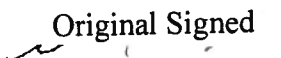

Council can choose not to request a staff report on this matter.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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: Ted Aubut, Legislative Assistant, 490-6519

Financial Approval by:  Original Signed

Greg Keefe, Director of Finance & ICT/CFO, 490-6308
