

Item No. 11.2.1 (i)
Halifax Regional Council
February 25, 2014

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed _____
for / Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair, Environment and Sustainability
Standing Committee

DATE: February 7, 2014

SUBJECT: HRM Participation in Earth Hour

ORIGIN

Motion of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting held on February 5, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee:

3.6.2 To promote community adoption of climate change mitigation and adaption measures.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommends Halifax Regional Council to:

1. Participate in Earth Hour by requesting that the lights be turned off in municipal buildings, where possible, on March 29, 2014 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
2. Promote participation in Earth Hour through HRM's networks and social media platforms.
3. Participate in the conversation around climate change during David Miller's Speaking Tour. And,
4. Request a staff report to consider the costs and implications of participating in Earth Hour City Challenge 2015.

BACKGROUND

Earth Hour is a visible symbolic act that brings people around the work together for a global call-to action to address climate change. On February 5, 2014 the Committee invited Dr. Robert Rangeley of the World Wildlife Federation to make a presentation on Earth Hour.

DISCUSSION

Members of the Committee noted that HRM has not fully participated in Earth Hour since 2009 and agreed that symbolically participating in Earth Hour sends the message that HRM supports action on climate change.

Under Administrative Order 1 section 48 “No vote may be taken on a motion arising out of a presentation or added item until a staff report and recommendation is received” and, as such, the DCAO requested a staff report to accompany the recommendations to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any financial implications in regard to HRM’s participation in the Earth Hour 2014 will be outlined in the staff report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings of the Standing Committee are held in public.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

As identified by the Standing Committee in the discussion section of this report.

ALTERNATIVES

None provided.

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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