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Item No. 11.4.2

Request for Regional Council's Consideration

x Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	Request from the Floor
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Date of Council Meeting: October 27, 2015

Subject: Food waste reduction tax incentive

- Motion for Council to Consider:** 1. Halifax Regional Municipality support the National Zero Waste Council's food waste reduction proposal to introduce a federal policy which implements tax incentives for food producers and suppliers who donate their unsold edible food, thereby reducing unnecessary food waste, decreasing disposal cost to municipalities, reducing the environmental impact of food waste, and alleviating hunger and poverty in our communities.
2. Halifax Regional Municipality direct that this resolution be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for consideration at its upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Reason: It has been estimated that up to 40% of the food produced is lost along the value chain, with much of it finding its way to landfill or composting instead of ending up as nourishment ([Provision Coalition, 2014 via National Zero Waste Food Working Group](#)). The value estimated for food waste across Canada is \$31 billion dollars, or 2% of the Canadian Gross Domestic Product ([Cost of Canada's Annual Food Waste, Gooch, 2014](#)).

It is estimated that one in eight Canadians struggle to put food on the table ([Second Harvest, 2015](#)). Nutrition and food security are among the top four indicators of health in Canada, with limited access to nutritious, affordable food linked to poor health ([What Makes Us Sick, 2013](#))

Although waste arises at all stages of the food supply chain the most significant gains for food waste reduction lie in food manufacturing, retail and with consumers, with the causes of food waste ranging from limitations of technology with respect to equipment and packaging, to the behaviour and risk perception ([Provision Coalition, 2014 via National Zero Waste Food Working Group](#)).

Recently the [European Union Commission](#) tabled a strategic proposal targeting food waste reduction including a number of elements that would support a new circular economy.

Canadian municipalities are taking local actions to reduce food waste, including initiatives such as:

- Organizing and developing a Southern Ontario Food Waste Collaborative
 - Undertaking more detailed waste composition analysis to better understand the food waste resulting at the household level
 - Promoting food waste reduction through ad campaigns
- Grass roots community activism and not for profit agencies which support food rescue such as Food Banks Canada, local food bank efforts (i.e. [Second Harvest](#), [The Stop](#)), Food Forward and "[Not Far from the Tree](#)".

Outcome Sought:

Motion from Regional Council supporting National Zero Waste Council's food waste reduction proposal

Attachments:

A TAX INCENTIVE TO PREVENT FOOD WASTE IN CANADA, ISSUES BRIEF, FALL 2015
National Zero Waste Council

STUDY OF ORGANIC WASTE REDUCTION: Tax Incentive Options for Charitable Food Donations Making the Business Case Prepared by The Conference Board of Canada

Councillor: Jennifer Watts

District: 8