Request for Council's Consideration

Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk’s Office by Noon Thursday)

Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk’s Office by Noon Monday)

Date of Council Meeting: January 29, 2019

Subject: Climate Emergency

Motion for Council to Consider: That Halifax Regional Council request that staff prepare a report and recommendations and return to Council within 90 days with respect to:

1. The recognition by HRM Council that the breakdown of the stable climate and sea levels under which human civilization developed constitutes an emergency for HRM.

2. Opportunities to increase ambitions and/or accelerate timelines to:
   i. add new actions to help HRM achieve its climate targets; and
   ii. add new actions that would help reduce GHG emissions beyond the scope of HRM’s current climate targets.

3. The incorporation into the Municipality’s climate targets and actions the need to achieve net zero carbon emissions before 2050 and net negative carbon emissions in the second half of the century.

4. The establishment of a remaining carbon budget for corporate and community emissions commensurate with limiting warming to 1.5oC and an annual reporting process with respect to the expenditure HRM’s remaining carbon budget.

5. The establishment of a “Climate and Equity” working group to provide guidance and support for the Municipality’s efforts to transition off of fossil fuels in ways that prioritize those most vulnerable to climate impacts and most in need of support in transitioning to renewable energy.

Reason: There is a climate emergency declared by other Canadian Cities and it is time for Halifax to take a serious look at this issue.

Outcome Sought: Council approve this request for consideration.

Councillor Richard Zurawski       District 12