

1/24/2013

Dear Mayor Savage & Councilors:

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce believes that energy issues should be a critical component for developing a sustainable future for Nova Scotians. This can only be achieved if all major players in the Halifax economy work together to achieve this goal. This is acknowledged in the HRM Economic Strategy 2011-16 – A GreaterHalifax - which recognizes the importance of such alignment. Also, the Chamber has presented recommendations to the City on energy sustainability, click [here](#), some of which include:

- Energy and Transportation: advance clean energy public transportation infrastructure in HRM.
- Sustainable Urban Energy Planning: use proven, integrated and systematic approaches to urban energy planning.
- Energy in Policy and Legislation: leverage Nova Scotia's advanced energy policies and legislation to aggressively deploy energy efficiency and renewable energy policies and by-laws in HRM and reduce the community's carbon footprint.

Recognized nation-wide is the critical role that municipalities play in communities forging ahead on the energy sustainability front. Municipalities across the country are reaching beyond their traditional roles to reflect the community desire to become more energy self-sufficient and energy cost effective. To secure a robust local economy, it is a given that the local municipality must be a leader in that achievement.

Thus, it is of some concern to the Chamber that the HRM Strategic Priority Outcomes document dated November 27, 2012, designed to set budget priorities for the next 6 years, fails to identify energy sustainability as a critically important matter. It is not clear why HRM has elected in its Strategic Priority Outcomes document to seemingly move away from its leadership position in energy sustainability landscape when most other Canadian cities are charging ahead because of the clear financial imperatives to changing.

Halifax can be and must be a leader in energy sustainability and, as a consequence, much progress is expected to be made not only on the corporate front but also with respect to community leadership in this area. We add our voice to other stakeholders encouraging the City to not only ensure this philosophy is entrenched in city foundation building documents such as the RP + 5 review, but also in the development of the economic/budget strategy documents.

Such action will clearly indicate that HRM is a committed leader in community energy sustainability efforts.

Nancy M. Conrad
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Halifax Chamber of Commerce