

News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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If so please call me. 902-899-7768.

A couple of notes from council. Our budget is finalized and there will be no increase in the tax rate. However your overall assessment always goes up by the consumer price index, I think about 1% this year. The budget was a bit of a struggle with a lot of unknowns given costs or potential costs of Covid. There are plusses and minuses. We have staff laid off for savings but additional costs in other places. We have cut some programs and are in good shape financially, providing us with the ability to respond to any additional crisis that may come as a result of this VIRIS. We are prepared.

I am confident that Maurice will have additional details. Another tax item or issue that is being discussed not just in Colchester, but across Nova Scotia is a Property Tax Financing Policy. This may be interesting, but I urge those that may consider taking advantage of this to make sure they fully understand. First there

will be criteria that must be met to qualify. If because of Covid or any other reason you just cannot afford to pay your taxes then it is serving a good purpose.

However, do not lose sight of the fact this is just putting off the inevitable. This policy is approved in principal awaiting council's ratification on Thursday evening. I will support only because there may be some that just absolutely need this. However, I am very uncomfortable with it.

In closing I want to say, these are difficult days, and yes, sometimes it feels like it will never end. I promise there are better days ahead! I am and I know you are very proud of our communities, we are STRONG and we will come out the other end of this with a stronger purpose and I believe a stronger community.

Tom

Tom Taggart is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10.



Burris Outlines Template of Climate Action Plan

By Maurice Rees

Colchester councillors received a very detailed presentation and a multi-page report in their councillor's package from Joanna Burris when she presented an interim staff report on a Climate Action Plan. In the introduction Burris stated, Colchester began its climate change mitigation journey in 2016 by committing to the Federation of Municipalities' (FCM) and ICLEI's Partners for Climate Protection program. She explained the next step is to establish emissions-reduction targets and a local action plan.

Burris's presentation included a range of possibilities and potential initiatives to develop a short-term plan for emissions-reduction initiatives for Colchester's municipal operations to fill a gap while the Municipality develops a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) that will set priorities for long-term energy conservation and emissions reduction in Colchester. The CEEP is set to be completed by December 2020.

She explained the Municipality has direct control over many sources of emissions, such as energy use in municipal buildings, the landfill, fleet vehicles, and infrastructure, as well as indirect control or influence over a number of sectors and sources of emissions, like land use, buildings, transportation, and housing.

Many projects aiming to reduce emissions or reduce reliance on fossil fuel have many benefits for public health, such as: improving air quality by reducing pollution (e.g. car or factory fumes), boosting activity levels by providing or ameliorating active transportation infrastructure; making homes more comfortable and healthy through funding programs to make older homes more efficient and affordable to heat. Other co-benefits of emis-

sions-reduction initiatives include job creation, local economic development, capacity-building, and energy security.

As a basis of determining how to develop a municipal climate action plan, Burris has researched the energy consumption, cost, and emissions by sector from 2009 baseline year. She included total all emissions from energy-related municipal operations including the mechanical operation and equipment at the solid waste facility; however, it does not include emissions from the actual landfill.

In building an action plan solid waste will be addressed separately from other sectors, because solid waste emissions made up over 75% of Colchester's total corporate emissions in 2009.

She explained Water & Sewage is the component of Municipal operations that uses the most energy and consequently has the highest emissions. This sector includes four small sewage treatment plants, two water treatment plants, a regional sewage treatment plant (the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility, or CCWWTF), and numerous pumping stations and lift stations.

Emissions from Water & Sewage make up 61% of total corporate energy-related emissions - therefore, the Municipality must put the most emphasis on reducing emissions in this sector. Electricity consumption from the CCWWTF makes up 75% of the total emissions in this sector - emissions from this facility are more than 5 times the combined total of the five other treatment plants. The facility is massive and processes a minimum of 17 million litres of wastewater every day.

Other aspects of Burris' presentation to council on April 30th will be focus of other stories elsewhere in these pages and future issues.

Burris: Energy Consumption, Cost, and Emissions by Sector

By Joanna Burris

(Joanna Burris' presentation on April 30th included an update on the energy consumption, cost and emissions by sector from the National Inventory Report 2019 as presented below).

The majority (85%) of energy-related corporate emissions come from electricity consumption. In Nova Scotia in 2019, about 58% of electricity was generating by coal-fired power plants; using electricity burns fossil fuel. In 2009, an even larger proportion of electricity was generated by coal. In 2009, 0.00077 tCO₂e (tonnes of CO₂ equivalent) were emitted for every kWh (kilowatt-hour) consumed in Nova Scotia. In 2017, the most recent data available, 0.00067 tCO₂e were emitted for every kWh consumed.

The following table shows Colchester's consumption, cost, emissions and % of the total:

Sector	Energy Consumption (GJ)	Cost (\$)	Emissions t CO ₂ e	% of total
Buildings	20,132	\$350,160	2,557	29%
Fleet	6,068	\$189,886	429	5%
Streetlights	2,245	\$262,645	486	5%
Water-Sewage	25,065	\$701,276	5,387	61%
Total	53,510	\$1,503,967	8,860	100%

A summary of the emissions by fuel source is followed by emissions by sector:

Emissions by Fuel Source:

Other Electricity (40%); CCWWTF Electricity (45%); Fuel Oil (10%); Propane (0.3%); Gasoline (2%) and Diesel (3%).

Emissions by Sector:

Buildings (29%); Fleet (5%); Streetlights (5%); Other Water & Sewage (15%) and CCWWTF (46%)

The following is the summary of Colchester's emissions by sector:

BUILDINGS have the second largest carbon footprint, after Water & Sewage. The buildings that generate the greatest emissions are 1) the Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex in Brookfield; 2) the Balefill building; 3) Scotia Pool; 4) the Courthouse office building; 5) West Colchester United Arena in Debert; and 6) North Shore Recreation Centre in Tatamagouche.

Most of the energy used in buildings is electricity (66%), although there is quite a bit of fuel oil used for heating (33%). The Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex, the highest-emitting building, uses solely electricity for heating the building and making ice for two ice surfaces.

The **FLBET** sector encompasses all municipal vehicles, as well as mileage claimed from employee personal vehicles. The Balefill heavy equipment and heavy-duty vehicles make up most of the diesel fuel consumption, although Public Works also has some heavy- and light-duty vehicles that burn diesel. Community Development, Wastewater Collection, water utility, and Balefill have light-duty trucks that burn gasoline.

STREETLIGHTS In 2009, the Municipality owned 1,425 streetlights, most of which were high-pressure sodium bulbs. Other light types included mercury vapour and incandescent.

WATER & SEWAGE is the component of Municipal operations that uses the most energy and consequently has the highest emissions. This sector includes four small sewage treatment plants, two water treatment plants, a regional sewage treatment plant (the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility, or CCWWTF), and numerous pumping stations and lift stations. Emissions from Water & Sewage make up 61% of total corporate energy-related emissions - therefore, the Municipality must put the most emphasis on reducing emissions in this sector.

Electricity consumption from the CCWWTF makes up 75% of the total emissions in this sector - emissions from this facility are more than 5 times the combined total of the five other treatment plants. The facility is massive and processes a minimum of 17 million litres of wastewater every day.

Burris' statistics showed that 99.6% of the energy used in the water and sewer sector is electricity. The remaining 0.4% fuel source is diesel, which is used to power back-up generators at the facilities.

Other sectors are reported to have consumption by source as follows: Streetlights, 100% electricity; Fleet usage is gasoline, 41%, and diesel comprises 59% of the consumption. Buildings consumption is 66% electricity; fuel oil, 33% and propane, 1%.

Conclusion to Report in July Issue

Joanna Burris' mammoth report and presentation to council was so large it has required the Shoreline Journal to publish a final report in the July issue. In the issue we were able to convert the state of things as of now.

The July conclusion will deal with the following topics: Emission Target Action,

Implementation, Sources of funding, a history of sustainability in Colchester, actions required by administration and council. Other topics will include what will be required in each sector - buildings and grounds, fleet, streetlights, solid waste and renewable energy generation to achieve the required goals.

Deadline for the July issue of The Shoreline Journal is June 23.

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