

Summary A905: Climate-SMART (Climate-Change Sustainable Mitigation & Adaptation Risk Toolkits)

One of the greatest challenges facing the world is from global climate change. In 2003 and 2004, Nova Scotians and we in HRM experienced several extreme weather events - an ice storm, torrential rains and flooding, Hurricane Juan, and the Blizzard of '04 (also known as White Juan). In response to concerns about global climate change and the impacts from such extreme events, which are associated with climate variability brought about from increased emissions of greenhouse gasses, HRM initiated Climate SMART (Sustainable Mitigation and Adaptation Risk Toolkit). Climate SMART is a leading edge partnership between HRM, the Province of Nova Scotia, the Government of Canada, and private companies. Its goal is to develop management and planning tools to prepare for climate change impacts, and to develop strategies to reduce practices that contribute to global warming in the first place - primarily by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. HRM is making major contributions towards improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable land use planning through its Regional Planning process. HRM is also presently working on a *Clean Air Strategy*, a comprehensive, "all in one place" document or framework to help guide HRM towards clean air for all its residents. As part of the Climate SMART initiative, in 2005 Regional Council unanimously approved a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations by 20% from 2002 levels by 2012. HRM is now incorporating measures to reduce GHGs from its buildings and vehicle fleets. In 2006, HRM Council unanimously approved a plan for challenging and supporting the HRM community to reduce GHGs generated by residents, commuters, businesses and industry by 20% below 2002 levels by 2012. These plans include HRM's Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan and the Climate SMART strategy. Copies of these plans are available at <http://www.halifax.ca/climate/index.html>. HRM recognizes that effective action to address this global problem can only be achieved through a consolidated effort by all stakeholders, including public and private sectors, and community groups. The *Community Guide to Climate Change* has been prepared as one of the tools to assist the HRM community to do its part to minimize climate change and to adapt to its consequences.