



CMC Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 22, 2026
Virtual Meeting

CMC Members Present: Chair Reg Rankin, Tekena Warikubu, Andrew Giles, John Cascadden, Nancy Hartling, Councillor Janet Steele, Peter Lund, Christa Schnare

Others Present: Shannon Betts, Jordan Vallis, Steve Copp, Rick Grant, Jason Timms, Betsy Chambers, Phil MacKenzie, Justin Hawco

1.0 A motion to approve the agenda as circulated was moved by Peter Lund, seconded by John Cascadden. Motion carried.

2.0 A motion to approve the July 10, 2025 minutes as circulated, was moved by John Cascadden, and seconded by Andrew Giles. Motion carried.

3.0 There being no members of the public in attendance, the Chair turned to the next item on the agenda.

4.0 The Chair stated that the proposed 2026-2027 budget for the CMC is \$79,000, the same as the last fiscal year. He noted the amount has varied over the years from \$90,000 to today's \$79,000. The contractual agreement between the Halifax Waste Resource Society and the Halifax Regional Municipality sets \$65,000 as the baseline.

Andrew Giles moved that the budget be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by John Cascadden. Motion carried.

During discussion on the budget, Peter Lund asked that meeting expenses be added under item 1, CMC Administration: "Committee and Communications Meetings" for clarity. In response to a budget management question from Councillor Steele, Shannon Betts explained that the CMC Administrator and Chair review CMC invoices monthly before they are submitted to Halifax Solid Waste for payment. The CMC budget, therefore, resides in HRM accounts and money that goes unspent is returned to general accounting quarterly, based on estimated quarterly expenditures. Some miscellaneous expenses such as charges for meetings, file storage and office supplies are charged under the line item for meetings cited by Mr. Lund. The Chair noted the \$5,000 set aside for legal expenses is precautionary and used only when issues arise

CMC Meeting, January 22, 2025

that require the CMC to seek legal advice. The Chair also noted that the CMC has been given flexibility in the past to move money between line items, as circumstances require, provided that the CMC did not exceed its overall budget. He expressed the hope that the CMC would not be penalized with a budget reduction for its record of fiscal frugality.

5.0 It was moved by Andrew Giles and seconded by Peter Lund to appoint appointment Councillor Janet Steele to the Communications Committee and Krista Schnare to the Technical Advisory Group following their nominations by the Chair and there being no other nominations. Motion carried.

The CMC then agreed to withdraw the appointment of Channing Davis the third HWRS-appointed CMC representative to the TAG, made in error on March 22, 2025. The TAG requires three representatives: two HWRS appointees and one HRM appointee from the CMC membership.

6.0 Moved by Andrew Giles and seconded by Councillor Steele that the end date of the term of employment shown in the Request for Proposals (RFP) for CMC's Liaison Assistant be amended to Oct. 31, 2026 to coincide with the end date in the term of employment set out in the letter of hire for that position. Motion passed.

7.0 Jordan Vallis, Manager, Engineering and Contract Services, HRM Solid Waste Resources provided an update on the Compliance Plan with the results from the November 2025 Audit. (Presentation Attached)

8.0 A motion to defer a report on the work undertaken by the Fluxlab at the Otter Lake landfill was moved by John Cascadden and seconded by Peter Lund. Motion carried.

9.0 Steve Copp, the Otter Lake landfill manager for Mirror Nova Scotia, provided an overview of the new Federal Landfill Regulations. Based on a preliminary assessment, he anticipated that the Otter Lake landfill would have no difficulty in meeting the regulations. They require landfills to install and monitor gas collection systems to ensure methane emissions are kept at designated levels. Operations at Otter Lake, he said, have always been "ahead of the curve," when it comes to methane gas collection and control measures. "We feel pretty comfortable with the regulations and that we're in compliance already," he said.

10.0 Jordan Vallis, Manager, Engineering and Contract Services, HRM Solid Waste Resources gave a brief update on litter cleanup on Highway 103. He noted an illegal dumping zone was spotted between Exits 2 and 3. A bylaw officer investigated and tracked down an illegal dumper. The individual was warned and cleaned up the area. Signs, warning the area is under observation, were posted at both exits and seem to be providing effective deterrence. (Presentation attached.)

11.0 There were no questions on the information report showing budgetary expenditures for the third quarter.

Before adjourning, a motion was moved by John Cascadden seconded by Andrew Giles, to approve the in camera minutes for October 23, 2025. The action was taken during the regular meeting to avoid the necessity of convening an in camera session to approve the minutes from the previous in camera meeting. Motion carried.

The Chair indicated the next meeting, the Annual General Meeting, would be an in-person event, which is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, at The Links at Brunello Pavillion, Timberlea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Andrew Giles. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

HALIFAX

Otter Lake Landfill CMC

Technical Presentation: Compliance Plan Update

CMC Meeting: January 22, 2026

QUICK DISCLAIMER

- Technical presentation
 - The “what” and “how” - not the “why”
- High level overview (but happy to stop and discuss any points or answer questions)
- The methodology and data for the audits are available in the publicly available reports (website)

Background: What is the Compliance Plan?

- 2021 – HRM applied to NSECC to deactivate the FEP/WSF
- New Approval requirement
 - Draft a Plan for NSECC review & approval
 - Target: <10% “Compostable Waste” w/w%
- “Compostable Waste” defined as paper, cardboard, food, and yard waste
- Nov 2022: Plan and timeline accepted, WSF/FEP deactivated

Date	Targets
31-Mar-24	< 11.61 %
31-Mar-25	< 10.81 %
31-Mar-26	< 10.00 %

What is the Compliance Plan?

Additional Aspects

- NSECC added HSW and Small Appliances to the audits
- Seasonal audits
 - Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter
 - May, August, November and February
- “Reporting Year” runs May to February

Date	Targets
31-Mar-24	< 11.61 %
31-Mar-25	< 10.81 %
31-Mar-26	< 10.00 %

The Compliance Plan – The ‘Where’

At the landfill:

- Quarterly Waste Audits (data generation)
- WDRs (residential hauler warnings/rejections)

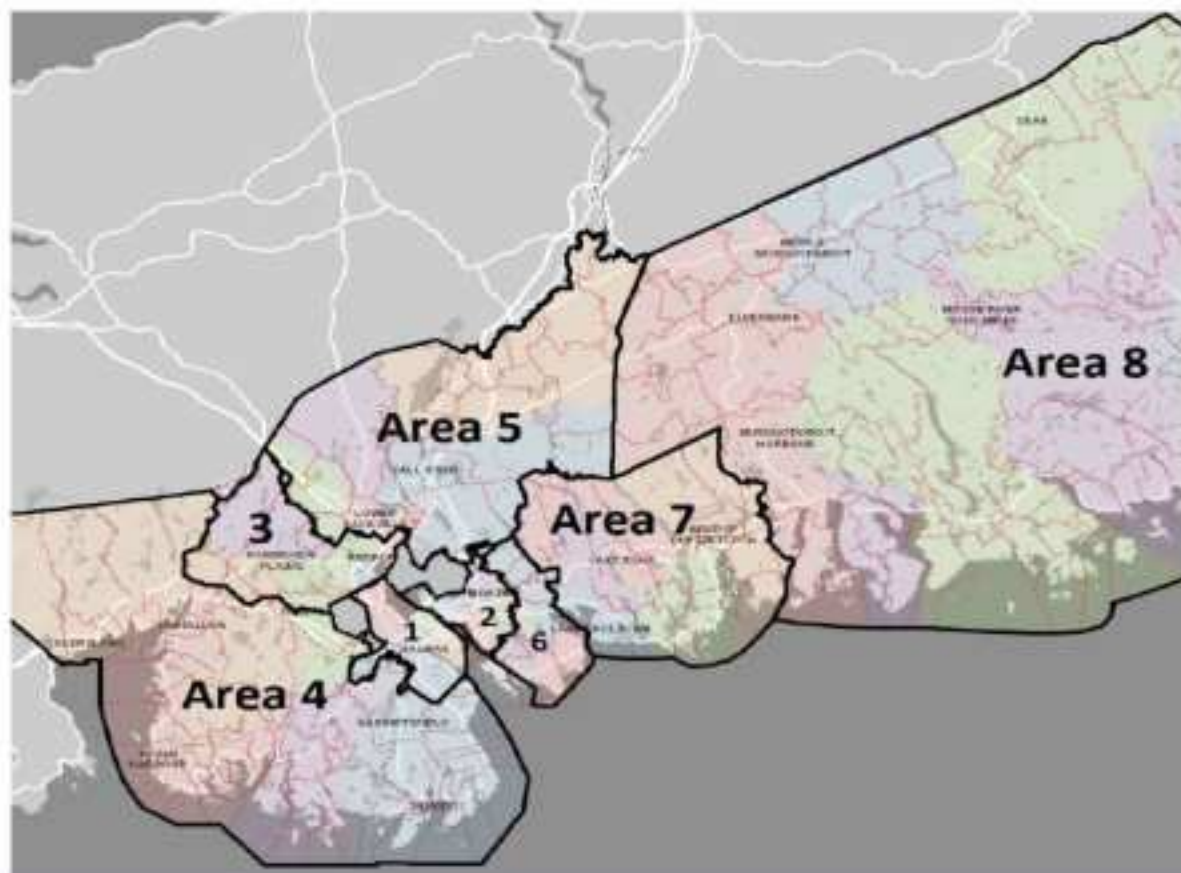


At the home:

- Hauler Education
- Curbside Enforcement (stickers/rejections)
- Public Education (door-to-door, ads, radio, etc.)



The Compliance Plan – Waste Audits



- Samples from each collection area
- Characterizations of:
 - **“Compostable Waste”**
 - Cardboard and mixed paper
 - Food waste
 - Yard waste
 - **Required but not in the targets:**
 - HSW – ~~Halifax~~
 - Small White Goods

How HRM Uses Audit Data - Education

- Audits produce a % Compostable
 - paper, food, and yard wastes
- >10% above target means:
 - Hauler monitoring and education
 - Feedback monitoring and education to Residents
 - Geotargeted Advertising



How HRM Uses Audit Data - Education

Identifying Trends

- Specific buildings and neighbourhoods identified through audit results and route logs
- Seasonal and annual trends
- Trends in material types



Examples of Trends



- May → higher food waste (fridge cleanouts)
- August → lower food waste (vacations)
- Paper and Cardboard - very clean

Examples of Messaging

ALTERNATIVE DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR COMMON HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE ITEMS

 <p>Paint Empty paint cans, leftover paint and aerosol paint cans. Must have original label and lid. These can be taken back to your local Curbside-Deposit™ through the Nova Scotia Home Recycling Program. https://www.productsone.ca/products/care/how-to-waste/</p>	 <p>Medication Can be taken back to your local pharmacy.</p>
 <p>Batteries Participating retailers through the Call2Recycle program. www.call2recycle.ca</p>	 <p>CFL/fluorescent bulbs Drop X Recycling (frees may apply). http://20morecycling.com/</p>
 <p>Motor oil, antifreeze, filters and containers Participating collection facilities through UCNA. https://ucna.ca/ucna-at-banks.com/</p>	 <p>Propane tanks Check with your local tank exchange or propane dealer.</p>

For other disposal options visit halifax.ca/home

HALIFAX

1. HSW messaging
2. Private document disposal (shredding)
3. Specific types of food waste
4. Fridge cleanouts

The Results – Year to Date

November 2025 Results: 9.52% Compostable Waste

	% Compostable Waste			
	2022/23 Baseline	2023/24 Year 2	2024/25	2025/26 YTD
			Year 3	Year 4
Target	N/A	11.61%	10.81%	10.00%
Actual	12.41%	11.64%	11.50%	9.78%

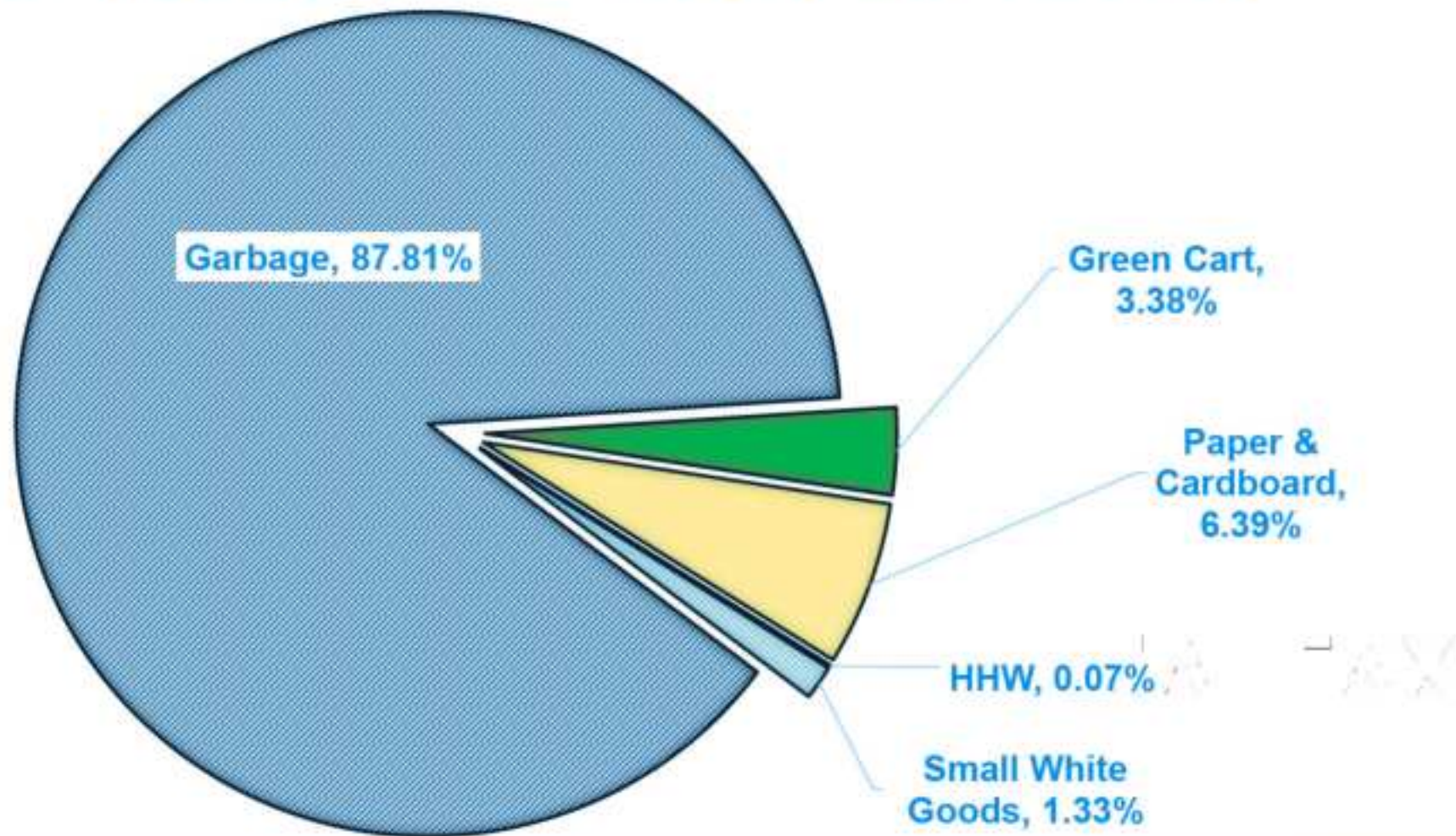
The Results: Curbside vs. Multi-Residential

November 2025 Results: 9.52% Compostable Waste

Area	% Compostable Waste			
	Baseline 2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 YTD
Target	N/A	11.61%	10.81%	10.00%
Areas 1-8 Curbside	12.34%	11.05%	10.53%	9.62%
Condos	13.75%	22.72%	30.69%	12.90%
Total	12.41%	11.63%	11.50%	9.78%

12

The Results – Year to Date



What this means at the landfill

Tonnes of Green Cart Organics in Garbage Stream



HSW Reductions

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 YTD
	Baseline	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
% by weight	0.51%	0.18%	0.08%	0.07%
Est. Tonnes in Garbage	250	90	40	34



-10 - FAX

Actions for 2026 – Challenging areas

Condominiums:

- Multi-residential design guidelines
- Mandatory clear bags at condos

Rural areas:

- New rural communication strategy being developed

High-level themes for 2026

- Food waste reduction education - not just diversion
- New “Paper Isn’t Garbage” campaign in the works!



January 22, 2026

HALIFAX

Questions

halifax.ca/otterlake

Highway 103 Cleanup

Update

CMC Meeting: January 22, 2026

Hwy 103 Cleanup – Background

- Began nearly 10 years ago
- Response to community and CMC concerns over litter on the highway near the landfill
- Monthly litter pickup between Exits 2 and 3



Hwy 103 Cleanup

- Monthly from April to November (typically)
- ~ 100 to 300 kg of litter per cleanup
- Anything from tires to mattresses, metals, recyclables, HSW, and more
- Approximately 1500-3000 kg of litter picked up annually



Examples of Litter



Recent Issue: Illegal Dumping

- Summer/Fall 2024
- Highway 103 on ramp toward Bayer's Lake
- Tires, HSW, and more
- More than 3x or 4x the usual amount



Results

- By-law officer visit
- Guilty party cleaned up the area
- Litter amounts back to normal

Ongoing Actions:

- New signs now installed by the Province on behalf of HRM
- Regular drive-by monitoring by staff



Thank you

January 22, 2026