



Climate Action Committee Excerpt
May 6, 2026

All-Hazards Risk Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan

An all-hazards risk assessment and climate adaptation plan will build on the Municipal Climate Change Action Plans developed in 2013 and 2014 for the three (3) previous municipal units of the Towns of Hantsport and Windsor and the Municipality of the District of West Hants. It will also build on the WHRM Emergency Management Plan developed in 2021. Combining the climate change adaptation and emergency management components of a risk assessment into one project and final adaptation plan will decrease duplication and result in a well-informed risk assessment. Staff have also identified numerous funding programs from FCM and the Federal Government that require a multi-hazard risk assessment at minimum, and ideally a climate adaptation plan in place. This is the norm going forward and may also be required by provincial funds in the future.

The recommended motion was...

THAT THE CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCIL APPROVES ALLOCATING UP TO \$30,000 AS PART OF AN APPLICATION TO THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES' CLIMATE READY PLANS AND PROCESSES PROGRAM FOR FUNDING TO COMPLETE AN ALL-HAZARDS RISK ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOP A MUNICIPAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN, TO BE FUNDED 50% FROM THE CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE 2026-27 WORK PLAN BUDGET, AND 50% FROM THE REGIONAL OPERATING RESERVE.



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
--------------------------------------	--	---	--

To: Deputy Mayor Francis and Members of the Climate Action Committee

Submitted by: 
John Ogilvie, Climate Action Coordinator

Date: 2026-05-06

Subject: All-Hazards Risk Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

NS *Municipal Government Act*, Section 65

RECOMMENDATION

...that the Climate Action Committee recommends that Council approves allocating up to \$30,000 as part of an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Climate Ready Plans and Processes program for funding to complete an all-hazards risk assessment and develop a Municipal climate adaptation plan, to be funded 50% from the Climate Action Committee 2026-27 work plan budget, and 50% from the Regional Operating Reserve.

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
--	---	---	--	--	--

The 2026-27 Climate Action Committee (CAC) Work Plan includes an action item to complete a climate hazard and risk assessment for West Hants Regional Municipality (WHRM). Staff and the Clean Foundation have identified funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Climate Ready Plans and Processes (CRPP) program that could support this initiative.

DISCUSSION

As climate change becomes more evident across the country, WHRM has witnessed many of the impacts caused by increased carbon emissions. The worst wildfire season in Nova Scotia history in May-June of 2023 was immediately followed by catastrophic, fatal flooding in July of

that year. Almost one (1) year later, the neighbouring Municipality of the County of Kings also witnessed fatal flooding in July 2024. 2025 was characterized by severe drought where the Municipality, funded by the Province, distributed thousands of litres of drinking water to residents whose wells had run dry. These hazards and many others are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change, and they are placing increasing pressure on Municipal infrastructure and systems used to deliver services to residents. Additionally, the Province is restructuring emergency management at the municipal, regional, and provincial levels. Part of this restructuring will require municipalities to develop risk assessments to inform emergency management operations and services.

Staff have also identified numerous funding programs from FCM and the Federal Government that require a multi-hazard risk assessment at minimum, and ideally a climate adaptation plan in place. An example of this is FCM's Adaptation in Action program, which will fund projects up to \$1 million for applicants who have a risk assessment completed. This is the norm going forward and may be required by provincial funds in the future too.

An all-hazards risk assessment and climate adaptation plan will build on the Municipal Climate Change Action Plans developed in 2013 and 2014 for the three (3) previous municipal units of the Towns of Hantsport and Windsor and the Municipality of the District of West Hants. It will also build on the WHRM Emergency Management Plan developed in 2021. Combining the climate change adaptation and emergency management components of a risk assessment into one project and final adaptation plan will decrease duplication and result in a well-informed risk assessment.

The hazards preliminarily identified by staff to be included in the risk assessment are listed below:

- Inland flooding
- Sea level rise and coastal flooding
- Water quality
- Drought
- Extreme heat
- Freeze-thaw cycles
- Extreme cold
- Wildfire
- Extreme weather (wind/tropical storms/hurricanes)
- Precipitation (snow, rain, and ice accretion)
- Pests, and food, water, and vector-borne diseases (avian flu, Lyme disease, etc.)
- Road traffic increases
- Natural gas (methane) explosion
- Hazardous materials
- Structure fire

Each of these hazards will have related sub-categories for detailed risk assessment. As an example, drought may be broken down into sub-categories as follows:

Drought:

- Groundwater availability
- Saltwater intrusion
- Surface water availability

Staff recommend this project take place over the duration of 24 months. This is allowed by FCM and will ensure staff have time to draft a detailed request for proposals with the identified hazards and municipal services and components to assess (i.e. facilities, water and wastewater lines, dry hydrants, etc.). That timeframe will also enable collaboration, data-sharing, and synchronisation with other projects being completed by or for the Municipality such as the Integrated Resource Plan, Plan Review, Climate and Health Vulnerability Assessment for the Central Zone (NS Health project), and discussion/consultation on coastal and flood zone land use regulations. This project, once completed, will assist staff and Council in prioritizing actions and investments to reduce risk to delivering municipal services in a more unpredictable climate.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Committee make the recommendation to Council, staff will prepare a recommendation report for the May 26, 2026, Council meeting. If approved by Council at that meeting, staff will submit an application to the CRPP program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If approved by Council, this project will draw down reserves by up to \$15,000 and draw up to \$15,000 from the 2026-27 CAC work plan budget. Should another funding opportunity arise, and the work plan budget does not have sufficient funds for an application, staff will recommend different funding sources at that time. This financial impact is contingent on a successful application to CRPP for a grant of up to \$70,000.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee may:

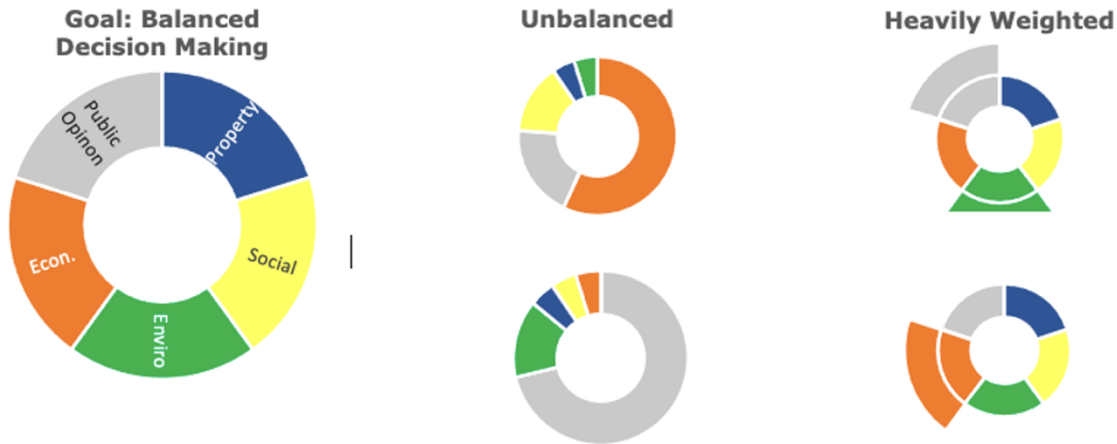
- make the recommendation to Council with specific amendments, which may influence the financial impacts of the recommendation;
- request more information on a specific topic; or
- defeat the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

REVIEW

The Committee has been provided with a reference taken from the *Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy*, Appendix C “Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole”, as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by: John Ogilvie

John Ogilvie, Climate Action Coordinator

Report Reviewed by: _____

Kari Fougere, Acting Director of Planning and Development

Report Reviewed by: _____

Carlee Rochon, Director of Financial Services