

2024

Choose Green City Leaders: Election Toolkit

*For voters and stakeholders of Halifax
Regional Municipality*



Ecology Action Centre



Environment and the municipality

Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), along with all Nova Scotia municipalities, is holding a municipal election on Oct. 19, 2024. The results of this 2024 election will set the tone of HRM's locally based environmental action for the next four years. HRM is growing faster than ever, resulting in more pressure on our housing, services and the environment. In recent years we have also been affected by flooding, forest fires and hurricanes – all connected to our changing climate. The municipality has adopted many great plans, including the [Halifax Green Network Plan](#), [Integrated Mobility Plan](#), [HalifACT climate action plan](#), [Sharing Our Stories culture and heritage plan](#) and JustFOOD Action Plan [Part A](#) and [Part B](#) – but all these plans need dedicated resources and staff, and measurable and timebound goals, to be implemented fully. Now is the time to be ambitious and committed in building our community around sustainability. This election season, you can help make climate and environmental justice top election issues.

Introduction to the Ecology Action Centre and Our HRM Alliance

The **Ecology Action Centre** is a member-based environmental charity in Nova Scotia. Since 1971, we've taken leadership on critical environmental issues from biodiversity protection to climate change to environmental justice. Learn more at ecologyaction.ca.

Our HRM Alliance is a coalition of over 60 organizations, from sectors as diverse as health, environment, trails, business, community growth and transportation, advocating for a sustainable future through [greenbelting](#) and [complete communities](#). The Ecology Action Centre is a key member of the Alliance and our Sustainable Cities Coordinator acts as its coordinator. Learn more at ourhrmalliance.ca.

How to use this toolkit

This toolkit is designed to help you, a community member or representative of a community organization, to engage your candidates in HRM's top environmental issues. The toolkit provides background information and key facts for top issues with corresponding questions to ask your candidates. We have also included sample emails to connect with candidates, or you can keep a copy of this toolkit on your fridge to engage with canvassers.

This toolkit contains:

- Top environmental issues for the 2024 HRM election
- Key background information and facts for each issue
- Questions to ask candidates related to each issue
- Tips to identify good answers; and
- Sample emails to connect directly with candidates.

This toolkit is not a complete summary of all environmental and community issues in HRM. These are simply a handful of topics and issues that we would like to hear from candidates on. We highly encourage you to work beyond this guide and ask candidates about the issues most relevant in your community!

Election issues in this guide

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Affordable and complete communities

Adding more housing options in already developed areas and building walkable, complete communities in our suburbs and rural hubs are key to building the most sustainable communities. To do this, our cities must serve the needs of all people. A full range of housing is needed, with an emphasis on affordable and accessible housing. The average home price in HRM in 2022 was \$541,790, a 16.1 per cent increase from the year before, and the average monthly rent for an apartment in HRM grew 8.4 per cent to \$1,352 ([Halifax Partnership](#)). When people who wish to live in the Regional Centre are unable to find and afford housing, they are pushed to choose housing that is a longer distance from their desired neighbourhoods, which fuels suburban sprawl. Sprawl places a greater financial burden on the municipality and replaces natural habitats, watersheds, natural corridors and landscapes. The carbon footprint of this growth and settlement is more significant than most urban development and densification.

In 2023, HRM's vacancy rate remained unchanged at one per cent, despite a record number of new rentals being built. Tenants are also less likely to move; the turnover rate dropped to its lowest level in the last six years ([CMHC, 2024](#)). Many have declared this a housing crisis which all levels of government must act on.

Candidates may mention that affordable housing is primarily the responsibility of the province. This means that affordable housing isn't technically HRM's responsibility. Although it is true that city planners are restricted by the HRM Charter, municipalities have many tools they can use to improve affordability.



Affordable and complete communities:

Questions to ask

- What can HRM do to build more affordable and accessible housing options while housing remains the primary responsibility of the province? How can HRM work with other levels of government to see affordable housing and complete communities realized?
- What do you see as the main barriers to building affordable housing and complete communities? How do you propose to address these barriers?
- African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaw and newcomer communities have historically been left out of city planning processes. How will you make sure that the voices and concerns of these communities are heard and prioritized in council decisions?

A good answer may...	Caution tape; what to look out for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge the relationship between the municipality and the province (HRM is only allowed to do a set of actions outlined in the HRM Charter). • Build on limitations. While there are certain mechanisms that HRM can't do because of the HRM Charter, there are other actions HRM can take to address limited housing options and affordability. • Express an understanding of the importance of building denser, more sustainable, complete communities. • Include an awareness of HRM's continued history of displacing Black and Indigenous communities and a commitment in to address this. • Make tangible commitments to help build affordable and complete communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspirational and theoretical responses that aren't rooted in actionable steps. • Jargon or planning terms that the general public wouldn't understand. • Refusal to take on responsibility for housing issues at the city scale. • Refusal to acknowledge HRM's history of leaving African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaw and newcomer communities out of planning processes and decisions.

Transit and active transportation

Council needs to encourage the use of clean transportation and improve the safety, reliability and efficiency of our transportation network. HRM can manage traffic congestion and meet the transportation needs of its rapidly growing population, but we need reliable service and safe infrastructure to make transit and active transportation viable options for more people. Walking, rolling, cycling and transit are the only modes of transport that improve affordability; car-dependence increases people's cost of living significantly. The incoming council is responsible for following through on the actions set out in the [Integrated Mobility Plan](#) and the [Strategic Road Safety Framework](#), implementing the Bus Rapid Transit network, electrifying the transit fleet and supporting accessible community transit.

- Rapid Transit – High frequency transit routes that make travel quick, convenient and reliable.
- Bus Rapid Transit – Rapid transit services that operate using buses rather than rail vehicles, with dedicated lanes and other transit priority measures for reliable service in shared lanes.
- Transit Priority Measures – Infrastructure that prioritizes the movement of buses over other vehicles to make public transit service more efficient and reliable. Examples include bus lanes, dedicated boarding platforms and syncing traffic light cycles with bus location.
- Active Transportation – Human-powered transportation, such as walking, using assistive devices like wheelchairs, cycling, skateboarding and rollerblading.
- Minimum Grid – A network of bike facilities that together allow safe cycling access to many destinations across HRM. Protected cycling infrastructure makes our roads safer for everyone, including drivers.



Transit and active transportation:

Questions to ask

- The Rapid Transit Plan and electrifying the transit fleet have been approved by council and are receiving funding from the provincial and federal governments. However, labour shortages are another barrier to providing a reliable system. How will you ensure transit remains a priority and our transit system improves?
- The Active Transportation Priorities Plan was due to be completed in 2019, then 2022 and is still not complete. What will you do to ensure HRM's minimum grid of bikeways is completed?
- The Rural Active Transportation Program has been approved. How will you support active transportation projects in rural and suburban areas?
- What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups for sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?
- What will you do to improve the safety of HRM's roads and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Framework?
- Changing transportation means improving our systems but also changing our habits. How will you demonstrate leadership to change both systems and habits?

Learn more:

- HRM's Social Policy Framework: halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/190416rci04.pdf
- Active Transportation Myth Busting Page: activeatlantic.ca/resources/mythbusting
- Integrated Mobility Plan: halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/about-the-city/regional-community-planning/IMP_report_171220-WEB.pdf
- Rural Active Transportation Program: halifax.ca/transportation/cycling-walking/sidewalks-rural-community-centres and shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/rural-active-transportation

Transit and active transportation:

Questions to ask

A good answer may...	Caution tape; what to look out for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that connected, convenient and safe bicycle lanes are needed to encourage more people to ride for transportation. Currently 60 per cent of residents surveyed in HRM do not ride bikes because they do not feel safe. • Commit to investing in bus rapid transit by hiring more drivers and working towards electrifying 50 per cent of the transit fleet by 2028. • Commit to approving and implementing HRM's transportation plans that already exist (including the Integrated Mobility Plan, the Strategic Road Safety Framework and the Rural Active Transportation Program). • Consider social equity as an essential part of transportation planning. This means recognizing that some planning practices have affected certain communities more than others, prioritizing certain neighbourhoods to make sure all community members' needs are met and using equity maps (showing income, visible minorities, disability, education levels and other factors) in decision making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myths that there are not enough people cycling to invest in bike lanes or that bicycle infrastructure is expensive. • Thinking technology for electrifying the transit fleet is not proven, and that we should wait. (<u>HRM and other stakeholders have already proven that this approach works.</u>) • Prioritizing parking* over the needs of people who walk, bike or take transit. (*With the exception of accessible parking). • Defaulting to police enforcement as the solution to making streets safe.

Protecting our green and blue network

The [Halifax Green Network Plan](#) (HGNP) was adopted in 2018 and is one of HRM's priority plans. It identifies a system of interconnected green and open spaces around HRM's urban and suburban core and has recommendations for better land-use management. Of the 79 actions in this plan, many are incomplete or haven't been started. Implementing the HGNP and using it to guide planning decisions is critical to protecting our valuable natural assets, curbing urban sprawl and building a sustainable HRM.

One action in the HGNP is a commitment to protect greenspace in specific areas in HRM as wildlife corridors – areas where wildlife can live and move around. Allocating space for wild species then gives human residents the services nature provides, like cleaning air and water and pollinating plants. A formal, protected greenbelt for wildlife to thrive, and which people can access and enjoy, is long overdue in HRM.

Wetlands are also an important part of the HGNP. They store carbon in their soil, filter and replenish groundwater and can help to safeguard our homes and communities during extreme weather events such as floods, storms and fires. Protecting these natural assets, particularly in communities where they are vulnerable to destruction and degradation from development, is key, and the responsibility of all levels of government.

Another government responsibility regarding climate change adaptation is protecting our coastline from inappropriate developments, such as houses built in areas vulnerable to sea level rise. In February 2024, the provincial government shelved the Coastal Protection Act, a highly anticipated piece of legislation that would have been the first step in helping to make our coastal ecosystems more resilient. As a consequence, much of the responsibility of coastal protection has now been downloaded onto HRM and other coastal municipalities in Nova Scotia.

Protecting our green and blue network:

Questions to ask

- What steps will you take to formally protect the Halifax Green Network before it is lost?
- Will you protect the fragile wildlife corridors mapped in the Halifax Green Network Plan? What steps will you take to ensure this is done?
- What can HRM do to improve the protection of wetlands?
- How can HRM protect our coastline and prevent inappropriate development on our coast?

A good answer may...	Caution tape; what to look out for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge the importance of a protected network of green and open spaces in HRM and commit to implementing the HGNP. • Recognize that timely action is required to protect wildlife corridors from development. • Realize that municipalities have jurisdiction over managing land around wetlands, and not usually over the wetlands themselves. Bonus points for naming a 30-metre setback for development around a wetland. • Commit to passing municipal bylaws to prevent unsafe coastal development, while recognizing the responsibility the provincial government has in implementing the Coastal Protection Act and regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking that the job is done. (Council adopted the Halifax Green Network Plan in 2018 and supported land purchases, but has not implemented all 79 actions and the Green Network is not yet guiding policy and development.) • Claiming that only the province has the ability to manage and protect wetlands.

Learn more:

- User's guide to the Halifax Green Network Plan: ourhrmalliance.ca/halifax-green-network-plan-users-guide
- Media resource about the Coastal Protection Act: cbc.ca/1.7125745
- Wetlands toolkit: ecologyaction.ca/our-work/coastal-water/wetlands-water

Parks and nature

Parks increase nearby property values, provide health benefits to the people who visit them and are important refuges for wildlife. A vibrant municipality works on equitable park access for everyone while also bolstering the ecological benefits of parks through stewardship activities like tree planting and using native plant species. HRM has parks, but has no unifying plan to manage the park network, meaning the potential of HRM parks to help fulfill multiple needs in our municipality goes unrealized.

The Halifax Green Network Plan, adopted by council in 2018, has several actions that would improve HRM's park network, but these actions have not been implemented. Some are proposed to be worked on in a parks strategy, which has yet to be started.

A variety of parks goes a long way to serving the diversity of ways people connect with parks, such as through walking, playing on the grass, hosting family picnics, bird watching, playing sports and more. But a full spectrum of parks also needs to include large, wild, nature-focused parks, where the needs of other-than-human lives are a priority. The EAC advocates for these “Nature Parks” to be part of HRM's park system, and for their expansion and management for both biodiversity and human needs, at three locations: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, Sandy Lake – Sackville River and the Purcells Cove Backlands.

There's much to do to improve our park network in HRM. Some opportunities are ready and waiting, needing only more political support to get going.



Parks and nature:

Questions to ask

- What do you believe needs to be done to build equitable access to parks, especially in historically marginalized and underserved communities?
- Parks are great for people, but nature needs to be able to thrive in our parks too. What do you think can be done to better support caring for nature in HRM parks, and where should these efforts be focused?

A good answer may...	Caution tape; what to look out for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that people in HRM value their parks. • Acknowledge that parkland acquisition and park maintenance require municipal funds, but are worth it. • Realize that an equity approach should be taken in park planning in HRM so that underserved communities have access to parks, and commit to lead on this if elected. • Suggest collaborating with volunteers that are already active across HRM's existing parks and greenspaces. • Name one or more HRM parks, and describe ways they could be improved for nature, like through tree planting or naturalization. Bonus points for naming one of the three large, wild parks in urban Halifax (listed below). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stating that HRM has an annual operating budget for parkland acquisition and that this budget is enough. (Caution: this budget has been reduced in recent years.) • Falling back on the idea that HRM has lots of parks. (Caution: communities in some parts of HRM do not have parks nearby, and there is no plan to change this.) • Dismissing the issue because they claim cities have more pressing matters to pay for right now. (Caution: parks have proven to be valuable assets for cities including for their health benefits. Many remaining wild spaces in HRM that could be parks are being lost to development right now. Saving the best of what's left is a pressing matter.)

Learn more:

- Three large, wild areas in urban Halifax that need more protection as Nature Parks: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes (bluemountainfriends.ca), Sandy Lake – Sackville River (sandylake.org) and the Purcells Cove Backlands (backlandscoalition.ca).

Action on climate

HalifACT 2050 is an action plan for HRM to address climate change over the next 30 years. HalifACT identifies that climate change poses risks to health, the economy, community safety and natural areas within HRM. This action plan aims to decarbonize HRM through investments in areas including efficient buildings, renewable energy, water, critical infrastructure and services, planning, sustainable transportation systems, emergency management, community capacity, business and economy, municipal operations, governance, monitoring and carbon accounting. HRM has received good funding in the short term for HalifACT, but still needs long-term commitments from council. Predictable, guaranteed annual funding and continued implementation planning are needed for efficient buildings, renewable energy and climate adaptation. Next year, there are actions that HRM must work on including:

- Developing a well-funded, comprehensive and large-scale equitable retrofit program for homeowners and renters, using the Solar City Program as a model. An equitable retrofit program would reduce the energy demands of buildings through actions like improving windows, insulation and air sealing, making heating and cooling systems more efficient and switching to less carbon intensive fuel. It should be accessible to households at all income levels and include financial supports for lower income households.
- Continuing to replace diesel buses with electric buses.
- Ramping up EV charging-station availability so that electric vehicles have the same access to fueling as gasoline vehicles.
- Working with developers to ensure new buildings meet the Net Zero Energy Ready standard (see definition on next page) at a minimum.
- Placing a greater emphasis on safe infrastructure and road safety for those walking, rolling and cycling so that these clean, sustainable modes of transportation are more attractive.

Learn more:

- HalifACT 2050: Acting on Climate Together website - halifax.ca/about-halifax/energy-environment/halifact-2050-acting-climate-together
- The Green Jobs Report highlights how Nova Scotia can boost the economy by funding employment strategies for green job sectors - ecologyaction.ca/our-work/energy-climate/just-transition#green-jobs

Net-Zero Energy (NZE): a Net-Zero Energy building produces, each year, as much energy from on-site renewable energy sources as it consumes.

Net-Zero Energy Ready (NZER): a Net-Zero Energy Ready building has been designed to produce as much energy from on-site renewable energy sources as it consumes, but it does not have the renewable energy source installed (and may never have the renewable energy source installed). These buildings can be more affordable than NZE buildings and can still be very energy efficient.

1.5 C pathway: a city-level climate commitment to keep global temperature rise under 1.5 C, which involves steep emission reductions to be achieved by 2030.

Action on climate:

Questions to ask

- What will you do to ensure long-term, predictable funding for implementation of the HalifACT climate plan?
- How will you use funding and bylaws to put forth a large-scale equitable retrofit program?
- How will you support the continued purchase of electric buses and public education on their importance?
- Although the province mandates building codes, what should the municipality do to incentivize builders to build to the highest possible standard of energy efficiency?
- What types of green jobs do you think HRM should be helping to create in the next 30 years?



Action on climate:

Questions to ask

A good answer may...	Caution tape; what to look out for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the need for swift action on climate change, understand the importance of achieving steep emission reductions and show commitment to taking mitigation actions. • Use the HalifACT guidelines to implement actions and measure achievements/milestones against written or committed targets. • Recognize the need for a focused working group and allocate necessary human resources to carry out tasks. • Show interest in promoting benefits of building efficient buildings, and retrofitting for improved efficiency. • Show interest in creating new and interesting jobs, especially for youth, women, African Nova Scotians, newcomers and Mi'kmaw tradespeople. • Acknowledge the thousands of people that directly contributed ideas to HalifACT and the roughly 160,000 people who were aware and actively following the development of HalifACT through social media. • Show a willingness to use an elected position to advocate for climate mitigation work at other levels of government to match HRM's initiative. • Show a willingness to champion long-term investment in HalifACT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overemphasis on new technologies, instead of tried and tested energy efficiency and renewables. • Assuming climate commitments are only under a federal or provincial scope. (Caution: Federal and provincial support programs are available but only if HRM has a clear plan in place to receive the funding.) • Siding with a "business as usual" model that does not recognize the need to drastically reduce emissions. • Focusing on the initiatives that HRM has already done rather than addressing the necessary actions ahead. • Suggesting that more research is needed. (Caution: The research has been done, including by municipal staff and stakeholders.) • Considering hydrogen, natural gas, oil, coal and uranium 'green jobs.' (Caution: All produce greenhouse gas emissions when used for energy production. Any job relating to biomass that is not sustainably harvested and efficiently burned is also not considered green.)

Energy poverty

Energy poverty—defined as when households pay more than 6 per cent of their income on energy bills—is a serious issue across Nova Scotia, where nearly half of households can't afford electricity, heating and cooling of their home. While HRM has relatively low rates of energy poverty, by its sheer size it has by far the highest number of households in energy poverty of any Nova Scotian municipality. The high number of households in energy poverty is the result of two related factors: high (and spiking) costs of electricity and heating fuels and high rates of overall poverty. A new report commissioned by the Energy Poverty Task Force proposes a provincial universal service program that would subsidize home energy costs for households under a certain income, help households in arrears pay their bills, create a crisis intervention fund for those with significant arrears and ensure access to energy efficiency supports for all households in energy poverty.

Learn more:

- A Dartmouth case study using an affordable multi-unit residential building. The case study focuses on panelized retrofits, an innovative method of deep energy retrofit to reduce emissions from existing buildings - ecologyaction.ca/sites/default/files/2024-03/PanelizedRetrofitToolkit_March2024v2.pdf
- A Way Forward: A Made-in-Nova Scotia Home Energy Affordability Program - ecologyaction.ca/sites/default/files/2024-05/AWayForward_FullReport_May2024.pdf



Energy poverty:

Questions to ask

- How will you work to address energy poverty in HRM?
- How do you think HRM should work to ensure that renters are supported in long-term energy affordability solutions such as installing heat pumps, better insulation and building envelopes?

A good answer may...	Caution tape; what to look out for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an understanding of the barriers preventing low-income households from accessing efficiency programs. Barriers might include having to pay for programs up front, ongoing high maintenance costs, a lack of information or time and programs that are designed for middle-income households. • Demonstrate familiarity with the Property Assessed Clean Energy program and other municipal initiatives such as Energize Bridgewater, and an attitude HRM can also put such programs in place, especially given the level of provincial and federal supports available. • Include an understanding of the trap of poverty that results in impossible choices between necessities like medicine, food and warmth. • Demonstrate awareness of current provincial programs addressing energy poverty (Home Warming, Heating Assistance Rebate Program, Affordable Multifamily Housing Program, Your Energy Rebate Program, Home Energy Assistance Top-up, etc.) and their strengths and limitations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assuming all housing issues are the jurisdiction of the provincial or federal governments, without imagining a role for a large municipality in creating and implementing solutions. • Dismissing energy poverty as a social (non-environmental) issue without recognizing the link between affordability and energy efficiency.

Community food security

Across Canada, municipalities are providing increased support for strategies and policies that support healthy, just and sustainable food systems. This includes developing and funding community and municipal plans that strengthen the food system; building on municipal assets like libraries, community centres and transit systems to promote food access and literacy; providing support for urban agriculture; and adopting healthy and sustainable procurement practices and waste recovery initiatives. Municipalities are well positioned to foster collaborations within and across sectors.

In December 2019, Halifax council endorsed the Halifax Food Charter and committed resources to work collaboratively with food system partners to increase access to good food and strengthen the local food system. This kick-started the development of the first municipal food action plan, the JustFOOD Action Plan for the Halifax Region. Council has now fully endorsed the JustFOOD Action Plan, but in February 2024 committed to only partial funding for its implementation. What is needed now are municipal candidates who will commit to funding and implementing the Action Plan in future years. Full funding is a critical step to ensuring that HRM has a food system where no one is hungry, where people and food are celebrated, where the local economy is strong and where the environment is protected for generations to come.

Learn more:

- JustFOOD website, including Parts A and B of the Action Plan: justfoodhalifax.ca
- JustFOOD Update Council Report Sept. 22, 2020: halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/200922rci16.pdf
- Food Counts: Halifax Food Assessment (2015): nshealth.ca/public-health



Community food security:

Questions to ask

- Are you committed to ensuring the continued development and full funding of the JustFOOD Action Plan as the municipality's first comprehensive food strategy?
- How will you work to support a healthy, just and sustainable food system? More specifically, how will you (pick one or multiple options to ask!):
 - support urban agriculture?
 - reduce food waste?
 - support rural food production?
 - support climate-friendly agriculture?
 - promote food skills and literacy opportunities?
 - support communities to access culturally relevant foods?
 - support small-scale food retailers?
- How will the municipality support community food access?

A good answer may...	Caution tape; what to look out for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show an understanding of the breadth of food issues. For example, are candidates considering urban agriculture, food waste, protection of farmland, procurement practices, healthy food initiatives and access to food for all residents? • Support innovative partnerships. A strong food system and equitable community food access is not the responsibility of the city alone. It can only be achieved through partnerships involving all levels of government, community partners, public health and the private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of recognition of food as a municipal issue. • Aspirational and theoretical responses that aren't rooted in actionable steps. • Jargon or terms that the general public wouldn't understand.

Additional resources

Sample email from a citizen:

Dear _____,

[Introduce yourself – if you are a community volunteer, an avid gardener, hiker, cyclist, concerned resident of their district, etc. add it here]. One of the most important things to me as a voter is to elect a council that will prioritize making Halifax a healthy, just and sustainable place to live. This is a crucial time where we need to be ambitious and committed in building our community around sustainability. For me, this means developing strong plans and policies to protect the Halifax green network, build affordable and inclusive housing, provide safe and clean transportation, address community food security and act on climate. If elected to council, how will you work to support a healthy, just and sustainable community? [Pick a few questions from the lists throughout this guide and/or add your own.]

Sincerely,
[Your name]

Sample email from a community organization:

Dear _____,

[Introduce your organization – you can include your mission statement and/or vision here as well as who you represent]. Across Canada, municipalities are increasingly engaging in strategies and policies that support healthy, just and sustainable places to live. We know that now is the time to be ambitious and committed in building our community around sustainability. This includes developing strong plans and policies to protect the Halifax green network, build affordable and inclusive housing, provide safe and clean transportation, address community food security and act on climate. [Introduce your organization's concerns and/or members' needs as they relate to HRM – there may be a particular focus that you want to highlight, such as access to nature, housing or food security].

If elected to council, how will you work to support a healthy, just and sustainable community? [Pick a few questions from the lists throughout this guide and/or add your own.]

Sincerely,
[Your name and position] on behalf of [your organization]

Additional resources

Voter information: Who are your candidates and how do you vote?

- Find your candidates' contact information on [HRM's list of registered candidates](#).
- Find your district using [HRM's District Look-up tool](#).
- Email/tweet all candidates in your district as well as the mayoral candidates to create more conversations!
- Each resident can vote for one candidate in a district, as well as for the position of mayor. Information on how to vote: halifax.ca/city-hall/elections/information-voters

Get in touch!

Did your candidate commit to action? Let us know: tag us on X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram @EcologyAction and on Facebook @EcologyActionCentre and tag #hfxvotes2024 #nspoli #nselections #halifaxelection #HRMelection

Stay in the loop on municipal elections issue and how you can take action at ecologyaction.ca/municipal-elections-2024

