
Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 1 - Waverley - Fall River - Musquodoboit Valley

Candidates *Stephen Kamperman* and *Steve Streach* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **Cathy Deagle Gammon** and **Arthur Wamback** can be found below.

Cathy Deagle Gammon's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I truly need to know more so that any motion was an informed one. I would like to see an accountability report at least every 6 months.

3. 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?

Town Hall meetings, in person consultations when possible, engaged committee participation, newsletters, an online Q&A to name a few

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - We need to acknowledge the budget constraints and incorporate this into the Regional Plan.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

No - Short term rentals are not always the reason that affordable housing is limited. We need a three-level government strategy to address this issue, in consultation with the nonprofit sector that actually has the pulse of the need. Greater collaboration with the province in a poverty reduction strategy and rent supplements, funding to support renovations in our public housing and incentive or bonus zoning are options to consider as well. Remove the option for developers to buy out.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - The Integrated Mobility Plan should be resourced well to assist in safe communities.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - "we cant afford not to" was the quote i remember from the webinar!

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Town Halls, Online Q&A, newsletters, committee participation etc

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Resource the plan

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

Arthur Wamback's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - The environment plays an essential role in our healthy living; it provides the food, air, and critical needs we require. Additionally, it is a source of natural wonder necessary for our physical and mental wellbeing.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

1. Support and encourage the Solar City program and work towards expanding the program to include more essential components such as power panels.

2. Work towards and support the transitioning of our public transit to battery-electric

3. 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?

By ensuring their inclusion and by myself being part of council making the decisions.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes – It is important

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes - Establish affordable housing maintenance and rehabilitation programs. There exists a stock of affordable housing, unfortunately, some of which is poorly maintained and is becoming uninhabitable. Targeted assistance programs can help maintain and restore this stock. This can include support for elderly residents on fixed incomes, and owners of older, low-priced apartment buildings

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Investment in Safe Streets for everyone only makes sense.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Will go a long way towards our environmental goals.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

By supporting and participating in outreach team, working with the municipality's Diversity and Inclusion Office, and engaging early with diverse communities throughout HRM will ensure meaningful engagement.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Push for a formal oversight system with regular status checks to ensure that the vision and goals of the Strategic Road Safety Plan are achieved.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Important to ensure long term environmental success

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - This is a worthy and important initiative for our community

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Halifax's Solar City program has been successful and warrants support in addition to other PACE initiatives. The payback period should be reviewed to ensure financial impact does not deter residents.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 2 - Preston–Chezzetcook–Eastern Shore

Candidates *Nicole Johnson* and *Tim Milligan* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **David Boyd**, **David Hendsbee** and **Tim Milligan** be found below.

David Boyd's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - We need stop GHG ASAP, We are in climate crisis

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

All municipal vehicles must be hybrid or fully electric by 2030 and phase in private by 2035.

3. 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?

I am Mi'kmaw and I will bring forward new regulations requiring diversity & inclusion of many groups in the planning process. I will speak for many voices.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - HGPN is draw up very well and I support it 100% and will speak on it in council

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step,

are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes - Increase property density and require developers built more low income housing thru new zoning measures.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Safety should have no spending limit.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - our future is dependent on progressive transit

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

public awareness campaigns

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

support this measure. I would reduce parking and add more bike/pedestrian space on all roads.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I am a nature nut and love the wilderness

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

David Hendsbee's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - We need to make our municipal facilities as energy efficient as possible. Use of solar and where possible wind and micro Hydro powered projects. And out transit and service fleet should be converted to electric and hydrogen powered. In the transition period, the use of biofuel alternatives / additives to fossil fuels.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

- 1. Acquisition of more strategic parkland for open space recreation.**
- 2. Installation of solar panels on all municipal facilities.**

3. 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?

Need to regularly communicate with the communities. Where possible use their respective ratepayers and community Development associations as a conduit to Inform the larger communities. Provide Administrative support for these volunteer community organizations that need assistance with planning processes.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes – I would like to acquire or secure more wild land and coastal properties in order to have access to these natural areas.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes - HRM council has also permitted secondary and auxiliary suites in all residential areas in the municipality. Also look at what surplus parkland lots that HRM received from old subdivision plans that could be used as a building lot for charitable housing initiatives such as Habitat for Humanity.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Need to change the current Regional Transportation Area Tax rate and modify it to become the IMP Integrated Mobility Plan Levy. That way a secured funding source for IMP initiatives in urban, suburban and most of Rural HRM within this zone.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Need to extend the Highway 107 / Route 370 to include Park & Ride Terminals in the Westphal/Preston, Mineville and Musquodoboit Harbour communities.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Continue to work with them collectively. As Councillor I have used District Funds to help participate in leverage funding to complete studies and projects.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

If we get Provincial approval to control our own speed limits, I would advocate the respective Traffic Authorities to have a rationalized speed zone strategy whereby residential streets be 40kms/hr, and 30kms in all school zones and collector roadways (2 lanes at 50kms and 4 or more lanes at 60kms). Rural arterial roadways like Trunk highways be not higher than 60kms in residential areas and 7kms in uninhabited areas.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - And other places too - especially on the eastern shore! Wild Islands as an example.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I have been a champion for community gardens and have supported them when community organization have come forth with such proposals.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

Tim Milligan's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. HalifACT is an ambitious plan put forward by the municipality. We need adequate spending in areas to achieve its goals.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

**Accelerating metro transits acquisition of electric/hybrid models.
Promoting increased community gardens within district 2. To my knowledge we have one community garden currently. These obviously help with food insecurity but also serve as a fantastic way to get youth involved and serve as an educational tool for the environment.**

3. 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?

We need to consult with these community groups. My entire campaign platform has been crafted on community feedback. If elected I would reach out to members of these communities for their thoughts.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Yes I do. Specifically in district 2 we need more established green space options.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Simply put we need affordable housing. In rural district like our own we need to revise existing bylaws restricting the possibility of "tiny homes". Currently the primary dwelling for a single family unit must be 950 sq ft at a minimum in rural HRM. That simply does not allow for affordable housing out here.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. In district 2 we don't have those safe spaces to walk nearly at all. We need sidewalks and crosswalks in our high traffic communities, and this is where I will advocate and collaborate with the provincial government. We also as I mentioned early need more green space opportunities.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. This is a great sustainable option. We also need to expand transit service throughout more of district 2. Many are forced into driving, where increased transit would allow a more sustainable means of transport. I'm proposing adding service through Mineville, Lawrencetown, and Musquodoboit Harbour. While also adding routes on the weekend.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

We need to have dialogue with these groups. I will continue to work with the community on any matters. It's time for individuals in our district to actually be heard.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan?

As I mentioned earlier we have almost no crosswalks or sidewalks in our entire district. People have been screaming for these for years upon years and it's time for these projects to be done. Speed limits also need to be re-examined in some areas.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not

Yes. And hopefully some in district 2 as well.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Explain why or why not (optional)

We need to support local food banks and also create community gardens as I previously advocated for.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. we need to expand upon our renewable options.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes, they need this basic training.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 3 - Dartmouth South - Eastern Passage

Candidates *Vishal Bhardwaj, Lloyd Jackson, Becky Kent* and *George Mbamalu* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Response from **Clinton Desveaux** be found below.

Clinton Desveaux's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - It's important we pass on a clean and green city to the next generation

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I would like to see more EV Level 3 charging stations in key strategic locations in order to assist EV adoption helping reduce our carbon footprint. We also need to reduce our carbon footprint by eliminating condo/apartment/office tower height restrictions in key strategic locations.

3. 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?

By using smartphone apps which offer video livestream tech, meeting with groups, and taking phone calls in order to help modernize decisions and be more inclusive

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Because we can walk and chew gum at the same time - other cities have green spaces like Ottawa, Vancouver, Calgary, so can Halifax

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

No - The city can examine the federal government's new Co-Investment Fund between it and cities which allow for affordable housing to be built if partnered up with a not-for-profit like Habitat for Humanity for example. I have ZERO interest in outlawing or eliminating AirBnB

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I'm an avid cyclist - we should encourage families to take up more outdoor fitness related activities such as cycling.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

No - It will depend on what each bus costs and what the ROI is because there is lack of tax revenue at the moment due to COVID19

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

We need to do a better job of better connecting our cycling network between suburbs which will encourage a healthier population while improving Woodside Ferry Transit service on Saturdays

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

We need better traffic flow in some areas, and traffic calming in other areas while finding a way to create cycling areas that are not problematic for cars, buses, and tractor trailers.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Out wetlands and waterways and nature hiking corridors are important for who we are as a nation

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I support more local community farm operations

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I think we can examine Bill Gates and his recent Heliogen start-up to help drive costs down

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - It's a good idea

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - It's a good idea

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 4 - Cole Harbour - Westphal

Candidates *Marisa DeMarco, Kevin Foran, Jerome Lagmay, Jamie MacNeil, Tania Meloni, Chris Mont, Trish Purdy, John Stewart and Caroline Williston* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from *Ryan Burris, Darryl Johnson* and *Jessica Quillan* can be found below.

Ryan Burris' Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

The revitalization of Cole Harbour Place to include HalifACT 2050 mandate in the design. When purchasing any new combustion driven vehicles or equipment ensure we are looking at the best options for the climate and not the cheque book.

3. 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?

We have a lot of ways to consult with communities and should be utilizing them without creating red tape so everyone's voice is heard.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Greenspace is great for everyone.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. We have to get ready, we need to be organized, we need a solid business plan and a solid housing strategy with municipal commitments. Form an HRM housing committee to direct the program. Take an in depth look at what other municipalities like Dieppe, St. John's and Chester are doing and what works well for them and what didn't. We need to start tracking non-market housing and to understand our market. Identify what affordable housing is needed, where and what the current affordable rental rates are in all HRM. We need to use all of our assets, sell land for less than market value, donate and help obtain land for housing groups. Ensure the sale of surplus lands includes an affordable housing requirement for development. Create partnership, shared ownership with affordable housing providers. Waive property taxes completely for affordable housing providers and non-profits and developers. Create incentive packages for development and make affordable housing attractive. Support micro and tiny living and reduce red tape. Lowering building lot size dimensions, basing lot sizes on unit square footage not an arbitrary number for lot size. Remove fees and connection cost for water access. Update densification policies to include affordable housing requirements. Make sure urban design policies do not negatively impact the cost of housing in HRM Promote cost effective building methods and low maintenance finishes that don't need replacing periodically, like flooring, wall coverings and exterior finishes. Promote the construction of simplistic units with basic needs in mind like functionality versus luxury. Forgoing high end design and large size units with high rental costs. Establishing incentives to appeal to accelerated development of the types of units required in different areas of HRM. Establish an affordable housing fund within the budget. Municipal planning, development and investment should work together to market affordable housing as an economic development opportunity not only for the city but non-profits, housing initiatives and developers we need to make affordable housing available now.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Pedestrians should not have the right of way. Bikes should not be on the road ways.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Commit to work towards a better active transportation system for everyone.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

If we take away the pedestrians right of way it would be a step in the right direction. The use of traffic circles and roundabouts slows traffic. I think we should be using these construction methods to not only save money but to reduce accidents.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Darryl Johnson's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Reducing GHG slows down climate change. In turn we need to do our part to help this world-wide problem and not exceed the 2-degree celsius increase.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I would push to improve active transportation and support electric buses and bus rapid transit. Of course, green spaces.

3. 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?

As an African Nova Scotian male, myself, I can relate to the importance of making sure that the voices and concerns of these communities are heard and given equal time and equal prioritization on council. I have always been an advocate for the marginalized community and will continue if elected to council.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We need our open spaces to support plant, animal and human life. These natural spaces need to be protected built and maintained to protect ecosystems and help reduce GHG. We need the working landscapes to support our economy, outdoor recreational spaces for recreation, fitness and mental health. Green spaces in communities and cultural open spaces connect us to our local roots and our history giving residents a sense of belonging.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and

collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. We need to bring back the rent control.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Active transportation helps reduce GHG, supports fitness and health, and therefore helps take some of the burden off our medical system as well.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. It's important so we can reach our goal to slow climate change.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Community engagement, ensure all are consulted and have a say in what is needed. Action plans in place and together formulate a viable plan for development.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Visible cross walks, digital speed radars to reduce speeds. The ongoing collection of data and public feedback is key to implementing the plan.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. With recovery from COVID the budget is tight so this may need to be done over a longer period of time. But I do support this.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Food security especially now is very important. We need to commit to strengthening our local food system and ensure all communities have access to healthy food.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. All residents should have affordable energy to maintain a quality of life.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Jessica Quillan's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. There is always an added value when investing in the long term. Especially when it increases community health.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

The impact on Covid-19 has created a financial strain however 2 motions id consider would be:

- **design/implement a proposal for more Rapid Transit to have less vehicles travelling to the same destination.**
- **consider acquiring green space but not in the upcoming fiscal.**

3. 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?

As a woman of colour, it is my duty to ensure the voices for the underrepresented are finally heard. Once in council my first priority to advocate for US. IT'S TIME council should reflect everyone in the municipality it represents. In the history of Halifax that still hasn't been done.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. I'm extremely budget conscience therefore when it comes to budget spending I need to really weigh out all options and look for avenues to limit over spending.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. I'd like to look into the rent control, however that is a Provincial area. Maybe it's an area where city and province can collaborate.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Safety for walkers is a major priority for me especially for children who are walking to school. My district (4) needs more sidewalks. So does the rest of HRM.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes to Rapid Transit. Unsure on transits fleet becoming electric right away due to budget constraints.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

As a woman of colour who else to advocate for and collaborate With these groups. It's my priority to be their voice, a voice they've never had. To ensure this, their concerns will be an agenda topic every single council meeting.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Continue to push forward to ensure the recommendations are implemented. Collecting data on collisions to try and provide immediate attention to “problem areas” that may require a redesign.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. Although this is important it's something I would look into after we bounce back from the devastating financial situation Covid-19 has put us into.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. Although this is important it's something I would look into after we bounce back from the devastating financial situation Covid-19 has put us into.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. Although this is important it's something I would look into after we bounce back from the devastating financial situation Covid-19 has put us into.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020 Candidates for Councillor, District 5 - Dartmouth Centre

Candidate Mitch McIntyre **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Response from **Sam Austin** be found below.

Sam Austin's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - The best balance sheet in the world doesn't matter on a dead planet. We have to do our share.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I'm not sure what specific motions I might advance. I have a track record of not being shy about intervening when needed, be it Blue Mountain Birch Cove, funding for urban forestry, HalifACT or the Integrated Mobility Plan. My environmental priorities are to see HalifACT taken seriously as budget funding, to take action on restoring and protecting urban lakes, daylighting the Sawmill River, and to continue the work of making our transportation system more sustainable.

3. African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq 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?

We have to do better in involving traditionally marginalized voices. Greater involvement from HRM's African Nova Scotia Integration Affairs Office would be beneficial (the infrastructure is there). The Centre Plan is an example of taking the extra effort to go meet people where they are in the work that was done to engage with the Black community and is a good template for future planning exercises in this area. The Cornwallis Panel was a great success in involving Mi'kmaq voices and seeing through its recommendations is important. That nation-to-municipality panel could be a useful approach for future decision-making in areas where there is a great deal of Mi'kmaq interest.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - We can't continue to sprawl ever outward. The Green Network Plan isn't about restricting traditional rural life or rural towns/villages, it's about preserving the most important places and ensuring that suburban sprawl doesn't continue ever outward.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes - Short-term rentals, to me, should be limited to a person's primary resident. It's deeply problematic to have existing apartment buildings converted to short-term rentals. It displaces housings and amounts to a hotel operating in a residential neighbourhood. HRM won't solve housing by itself, but I believe we can make a significant contribution through the creation of the new housing fund that will assist non-profits who are active in the housing space. A similar approach in Saskatoon generated just over 2,700 units over the last five years. I think we can do the same here.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I'm fully committed to the Integrated Mobility Plan. We won't meet any of our Climate Change or planning goals if we don't shift more people towards biking, walking, and transit.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I'm committed to it, but we can't afford it by ourselves, or at least not at the pace that's planned. We need the Provincial and federal governments to come aboard with funding. The infrastructure dollars are, in theory, there.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

I'm always open to ideas. Right now we're very much in implementation mode for projects like our rapid transit plan, like the minimum grid. No plan is ever done though and I'm open

to advancing changes when the community identifies a need. An example that comes to mind is the work I have been doing to try and preserve the pathway connection from Lynn Drive to Regency Drive in my district (a low-income neighbourhood with traditionally low levels of engagement)

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRM's roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

HRM spends nearly \$30 million a year on road recapitalization. That's a large pot of money to work with. I will continue to apply a complete street lens to all projects. Through my advocacy over the last four years, Chadwick Street got a sidewalk by narrowing the road (something that HRM would normally not consider), Sinclair's sidewalk was extended, and Prince Albert's paving project became a road redesign that will dramatically reduce the paved area and make the street safer. It will take a long time to fix 50 years of car centric infrastructure. I'm keen to see HRM's Tactical Urbanism program expand so that we can advance design interventions at a quicker pace. I have been pleased with the project that has already happened in District 5 and I'm enthusiastic about the two that are tendered (Oakdale and Ochterloney/Victoria) and will be put in place this year.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Yes. Protecting key wilderness areas provides long-term benefit. It's hard to think of Dartmouth without Shubie Park, a purchase that seemed expensive back in the early 1990s. This Council has had a great track record of acquiring lands in Blue Mountain Birch Cove and at Purcells Cove. I'm committed to acting on future opportunities as they arise.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - A Solar City style program for energy efficiency is something that I think HRM should pursue. I would love to see it scale based on income, but I'm not sure if we have that legislative power.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Housing and Climate Change action together in one. This would be a good potential use for HRM's new Housing Fund.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - In principle yes. What I'm not sure of is what capacity already exists as HRM has energy specialists in our planning department. The Energy and Environment section is an area that is going to need to additional staffing if we want to be successful with implementing HalifACT.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 7 - Halifax South Downtown

Candidate *Richard Arundel-Evans* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **Waye Mason**, **Jen Powley**, and **Craig Roy** can be found below.

Waye Mason's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Our house is on fire. We need to act now, for the sake of all of our tomorrows.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

A) We need to open up solar city to do deep energy retrofits (over longer pay back periods), but I think the support should be targeted to lower and lower middle income home owners. (ideally tied to provincial grants, but you never know if and when the province might come onboard).

B) I want to commit the municipality to produce or purchase 100% renewable electricity as early as 2025, similar to the Federal commitment. Dept of Energy staff want to work with HRM to make this happen, I think it could be a very good piece of the puzzle.

3. 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?

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has gotten more resources the last few years but there is still a disconnect, where things go ahead without having sufficient guidance from these expert staff who hold these relationships to ensure historically un-empowered groups are considered. We need to leverage our nation leading relationship with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs and the Mi'kmaw community and work hard to engage with African Nova Scotians for the critical ongoing work of revising the Regional Plan, which needs to

have clear, unambiguous values and binding commitments that will guide and define all planning going forward.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes - I support the municipal affordable housing plan (density bonus funded housing support, registration or landlord licensing of residential units, review and reduction of policy and regulatory barriers, increased municipal funding incentives, identify appropriate surplus municipal lands, prioritize units in vulnerable neighbourhoods) - but what really needs to happen is the province needs to act on my motion of 2018 where Council asked them to give us housing back. Halifax and Winnipeg are the only major cities in Canada that do not delivery housing on behalf of the province.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - We need to connect the funded Regional Centre AAA network better to the suburbs, and finish some other major projects like Bedford Highway AT trail and the Dartmouth Waterfront connector.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - It is essential to our GHG targets, and the technology has matured so a depot charging model will work for at least 80% of Transits routes, and at the rate ranges are growing, it should be 100% by 2028. The quality of life improvements in terms of noise and stink is just icing on the cake.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion will play an important role in both guiding staff and providing the training and development to ensure staff have the competencies to engage these communities. I hope personally to continue as Council's Indigenous Community Liaison after the election and work to deepen the relationships we've built these last four years.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

We need to increase the budget for traffic calming and complete streets, adopt the new Red Book so we build safer streets in new development and major re-developments, and ensure we are using evidence to make sure we get are investing in the highest need areas first - good example was the new school traffic calming program that put speed humps in front of 10 of the schools that had the worst speeding problems this year.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes -Have every time, will keep doing so.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes- already answered this as one of my motions. Absolutely!

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - The municipalities funds for this will be a drop in the bucket compared to what the province should be spending. My hope is some of the ICIP money that the Province has been sitting on since 2017 will go into this program so we can really see some big changes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

Jen Powley's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I found HalifACT2050 to be insufficient. I do not believe we need to wait until 2030 to demand net zero buildings. If Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver can do it now, why can't Halifax? I also want an account of the carbon emissions in all proposed projects, both upfront emissions (that is, in the building materials) and those due to construction, to be identified in staff reports as a percentage of HRM's yearly carbon budget. HRM needs to ask the province for control of demolition. If we are serious about changing we need to get a handle on the destruction. The document put out by architects declare.com is great. I want HRM to take carbon budgeting seriously, so that we make decisions on what we choose to build with its effect on the climate in mind.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I would propose that the net zero buildings that HalifACT2050 doesn't require until 2030 be moved up to be required now.

The second motion would be to add a line to all staff reports reporting carbon emissions, both embodied and from construction. We will also need to have yearly independent audits of our carbon budgets. I'm not exactly sure how this should happen (maybe readers will have some ideas!), but I do know that we need to do it.

3. 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?

I think you forgot persons with disabilities. I want to have an Advisory Committee advising me from a variety of perspectives. This Committee will include African-Nova Scotian and Indigenous leaders, leaders from the communities of persons with disabilities, the Blind, the Deaf, recent immigrants, the 2SLGBTQI+ communities, as well as students, low-income earners and members of the arts communities. If each member of council would commit to doing the same, then a variety of perspectives will be heard, and it will be good for the whole of HRM in terms of democracy and representation. HRM staff should also be consulting similar committees when they write reports. I think it would be great if we had Advisory Committees in all the districts, and then the council could choose, say, two (or more) of those Committees that staff would have to consult when writing each of their reports. They'd be different each time, and could be chosen for relevance to a report, or representation of the views across HRM.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Of course, I would. I developed the original green belt maps for Our HRM Alliance and I brought together 49 of the now 60 groups in the Alliance. The green network plan is based in science and is rational. It is supported by rural, suburban and urban groups.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes - I think HRM needs to establish an office of non-market housing right away. I think that office should commission and provide plans for a number of Granny suites, all energy-efficient, affordable to build and incorporating Universal design principles for maximum accessibility. HRM could provide snow clearing to these buildings, as they are already clearing the sidewalks. Rather than selling city land to private developers, we should be using it to build affordable housing. We need not just to ask, but rather insist that the province provide HRM with the power to have inclusionary zoning. We have gotten no results from asking

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - There are a series of public green spaces in the South End. They need to be connected through protected bike lanes that do not jeopardize disabled parking. There need to be adequate sidewalks, crossings and curb cuts so that wheelchair users can access those green spaces. I am currently learning the intricacies of signalized intersections because I believe all citizens need a safe place to travel. I was investigating why auditory signals are not available at all intersections. I am now trying to learn why right turns for cars are allowed on red lights. It is disturbing to learn how much car culture has influenced what we see as normal.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - As a former member of the transportation team at the Ecology Action Center, I am fully in support of transit. I propose in my platform to make transit free as a way of getting private automobiles off the road. Metro transit will be expected to provide better service. Moving to electric buses will be a huge expense and we will need to mitigate their silence so they are detectable to people who are blind. There are federal infrastructure programmes that can help offset the cost. HRM has developed a Green Mobility strategy. This must be implemented and supported.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

I think it is crucial to get all members of the community on board. I think the underrepresented groups probably have the most to gain from universal transit but at the same time not knowing their history I do not know the experience they may have had with government practices.

People may need help in learning to trust the system. I am committed to making transit free. I have a commitment to a community input panel that would meet once a month to advise me. This group would consist of voices representing a variety of different groups.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

I think the Road Safety Plan with its dependence on actual data is really robust. I think all I could do as a councilor would be to ensure it is properly financed and respected.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - These are places that have been identified by both science and the community as being critical for the health of the environment and the community. I think HRM needs to recognize the value of these places. It may not have a price tag from the development community or it might. In any case its value is priceless.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - When I was on the Halifax Community Health Board, I remember the initial trips of the Mobile Food Market. I did not volunteer to work on the bus, but the excitement was palpable. I also remember the initial meetings developing the Halifax Food Charter. It is exciting to see all the various people in the video produced for the Mobile Food Market. It is neat to see that the community volunteers all have matching aprons – something that couldn't have been imagined at the initial volunteer call-out.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I would like more information on the amount of financial support the programme needs. I would like to know why there is any interest charged at all. I would like to know how tenants of apartment buildings can benefit from the programme. I think it is a great programme. I just need details.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes- We need to get to zero carbon emissions by 2050. Halifact 2050 demands that all buildings be net zero by 2050. We need to help buildings get there

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes- If these people are designing our communities they need this knowledge.

Craig Roy's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Climate change is a serious issue and we need to do all we can to address what is going on with the world, we need to increase awareness, if this involves increasing policies, new initiatives to decrease emissions which are polluting the world we need to do it. Looking at seeing results in 2030 and 2050 is too far away, we need change today.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

The first thing, I would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery would be improving active transportation, and the second acquiring additional green spaces for additional parks, parklets, play grounds, etc.

3. 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?

We need to be more transparent, have active participation from African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaw and newcomer communities and one way is to have them on the Council, if this is not possible, we need to advise them that motions and discussions are being had in advance so that they can be available to express their voices and concerns prior to council decisions being made.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGNP to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGNP to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes – Green spaces are important to a sustainable and eco-friendly world. We need to ensure that we continue to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. The Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) has been on Council's agenda since early 2016 but again, there is not much in way of transparency. There are a few things that were planned in 2016, then again in 2017, and 2018, but very few motions/actions since....

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes - While "short-term rentals" is a great stepping stone to the affordable housing crisis, this in my opinion is not the answer. People don't need short-term rentals, they need affordable housing. They need a place where they can live where their rent does not exceed 30 % of their expenses. We need to be working with developers, giving them incentives for low cost affordability so that people can live without the notion that they are going to get evicted after not being able to afford their home.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - HRM needs to be inclusive for all, whether that be walking, running or biking. Not everyone drives or takes the bus and they need to feel safe while they are on the roads going to work or exercising.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - While this is a great start, I don't think this is the solution. HRM needs to have more options available for commuters and it needs to be quicker in how it commutes from one zone to another.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

A conversation needs to be had as to what they foresee, what they would like and how better this solution will work. We need to have our communities involved with what is before council before votes and actions are made.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRM's roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

This again needs to involve the people of the communities where the implementation plans to take place. While some roads have potholes, others have dangerous drivers, and some simply need a bus and/or bike lanes available. We need to have active participation with

Council and HRM staff to review/oversee these things and identify them before constituents do. This will show for a more inclusive and proactive community involvement.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - We need to expand on our parks, parklets and economy, this will help with our climate change issue, by assisting with our pollution problem, and greenhouse gases.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Just like there is an issue with affordable housing, there is an ongoing issue with being able to afford food. As mention a few questions ago, being able to afford the necessities in live comes from the fact that all of our necessities in live are increasing in fees. It seems like everything increases with exception to your pay-check these days. Housing (rent or mortgage), power, water, gas, groceries, property taxes are all increasing. All of these things are mandated by HRM and Government but it does not seem as though there is any solutions on how to decrease these fees or increase the amount of money a person brings home to help them solve these issues...

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Energy efficiency not only saves energy and cleans our air – it also saves consumers money. Increasing energy efficiency should be a priority for every utility, government, business and individual. Every year, energy is wasted through transmission, heat loss, and inefficient technology, which is costing families and businesses money and leading to increased carbon pollution and climate change. Energy efficiency is one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to combat climate change, clean the air, and save consumers and businesses money.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes- These cooperatives and shelters are needed for thousands of individuals who need them and being net-zero energy ready will help the climate, sustain the need for having the

buildings available. Buildings being net-zero ready, are built to a high energy efficient standard. This allows the building owner to incorporate renewable energy generation at the building later and at a lower cost due to a reduced requirement for energy in the building. I personally think this is how all buildings should be built.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes- This should be a mandate and that they need to do professional development classes over the year to keep up-to-date on the latest practices and keeping energy costs down as we are in a crisis and they should want to reduce anyway they can.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 8 - Halifax Peninsula North

All Candidates for District 8 Councillor responded to the EAC candidate survey.

Click here to view responses from **Virginia Hinch**, **Dylan Kennedy** and **Lindell Smith**.

Virginia Hinch's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - We can't afford not to.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I'd motion that new developments must be planned through a community benefit framework and that they prioritize environmental considerations.

I'd also move that a residential and commercial property retrofit program be explored. HalifACT 2050 identified this as a leading mitigator for carbon emissions as well as the most impactful employment consideration.

3. 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?

I've lived these exclusions and know how harmful they are. True and meaningful engagement has to occur before all projects and developments that significantly impact our community. The city has to go to the people to engage them and do so with trusted messengers. Simple 'pop-up' consultations or online surveys do not ensure that those who are historically marginalized are properly heard.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes – I support the HGPN based on my understanding of it so far but cannot speak to its full implementation yet. It is something I still need to better familiarize myself with and look forward to discussion with groups like EAC to better understand its implications.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes - Regulating STRs is one step. Ensuring that accessible and affordable housing is actually incorporated into community benefit aspects of new development is also something I believe is necessary. In the immediate term, the city needs to identify properties that can be used as affordable units.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Safe, healthy, and accessible communities is one of my priorities. We can't reasonably have communities that are safe, healthy, and accessible if we don't engage with community and learn what this really means to them in an effort to move toward Vision Zero. This could look like the IMP but may also look like shared/mixed use (woonerf-type) streets or something else.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

I will continue to push for real and meaningful engagement with community - and especially those historically underrepresented or marginalized - in all significant projects. This will mean collaborating with community groups and trusted messengers to go to those being engaged and ensuring their voices are heard from now on.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Vision Zero needs to be the end goal and I'm still familiarizing myself with the full SRSP. I support adding the 'missing Es' such as Equity and Engagement to the Plan and agree with EAC's observation that a 15% reduction is overly modest as an interim goal.

There are folks who call for reduced speed limits in residential areas as well which I feel need to be more seriously considered as well. To date, I don't feel the political will has been there to call for such reductions and responsibility seems to often be passed to the Province without considering (or just ignoring) the influence that the city can have on it..

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Food insecurity is a real problem – one of health and wellbeing but also one of equity and equality - and one that impacts a lot of people in our city and my district in particular. Food security is a vital part of individual and community wellbeing while food insecurity impacts marginalized communities more.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - I would advocate for expansion of this program as, to my understanding, it is limited in scope to the Solar City program presently and a 10 yr payback. Beyond that, I'm still learning more about PACE so cannot comment with full confidence on how it would best be expanded but look forward to working with key partners in fully understanding its potential impacts.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes- Retrofitting existing buildings is, according to HalifACT 2025, the most impactful measure to reduce the city's carbon impact. It would make sense to consider all means of achieving this and push for those that can be applied to the largest number of units. Some parameters may have to be looked at around which NFPs need support most/most immediately.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes- Similar to other awareness training (e.g. equity training for people working in human resources and management), people in public works and planning should have a fundamental awareness and understanding of these principles and practices as it should underpin most every decision in these fields moving forward.

Dylan Kennedy's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes - Climate change continues to be the largest existential threat facing humanity. The science regarding this situation is clear, and the HalifACT proposal is an important step towards a sustainable future.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I believe good climate policy will not only curb current emissions, but will also protect our municipality from near future impacts. I am very interested in adding to green energy subsidy programs with a new goal of establishing a green microgrid model. This would not only allow carbon neutrality but would mean less power outages during storms.

3. 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?

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 9 - Halifax West Armdale

Candidates *Bill Car* and *Stephen Foster* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **Shaun Clark**, **Shawn Cleary** and **Gerry Lonergan** can be found below.

Shaun Clark's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. Yes, but we first must contribute to affordable housing, and can make part of that affordable housing with green upgrades, and instead of knocking down old buildings and putting up brand new ones, current ones could be repurposed so we have smaller carbon emissions, but still have new homes for families.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

See previous answer.

3. 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?

By maintaining contacts in the community, whether through friends of these communities, contacts such as ISANS, and others, as well as maintaining availability for people to call, and reach out via internet/social media platforms.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I love nature and its creatures (especially ones like moose) and you need a lot of room for these creatures.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. One person should not own 60 STRs! We need to create a designation for low income housing, as defined by the province's social assistance cheques (what is paid towards housing in that) and we need to prioritize development for those who are providing low income housing. I would love it if those housings were also eco-friendly, as that would reduce the costs of heating, and maintain those homes.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Bike lanes reduce the street sizes, which slows traffic down, especially if we have them protected. It's healthier for people if they exercise, and the environment. Also, people in Public Housing have asked that they get a bike lane, which I will bring forward whether I am elected or not. Perhaps you could chime in, and help.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Only if we can get the infrastructure in place to ensure there is enough charging stations at the bus depot that we do not need employees to be there all night waiting for a single bus to charge so another can roll up. Also, we need multiple charging stations throughout the city so we can increase our electric vehicle usage. PS Britain recently did a test flight for a hydrogen plane. Apparently, it only went a short amount of time, but the results are promising. If you have any articles available, I'd love to read more about this!

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Some of my Black Nova Scotian friends have been complaining about the lack of transit availability in marginalized communities, such as Spryfield to the shopping district of Bayers Lake. Also, did you know there is no bus route to Africville for low income, disabled, marginalized groups? It's a beautiful park, and in my life, I've only been there once. How many other such places, and groups, are being left out? These are all within the city...

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

I'm going to keep after the Province to get our speeds reduced to 30kmph as per the Vision 0 plan, which is the speed when a person is most likely to survive if hit. Speed cameras to help enforce our speeds, since we have a lot of people who enjoy going fast, and we need to enforce this better. We cannot rely wholly on our police force to be everywhere at all times. Please see my response earlier about smaller roads. Also, speed tables are apparently safe for fire trucks and buses, so maybe able to use on connect roads, et al for traffic calming measures.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. I will prioritize affordable housing and COVID recovery, and then buying the lands. I will not support development on the land, and actively fight against this. But I have to prioritize the people who are alive now.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Food banks are overstrained, and people are hungry. Food prices continue to go up, but wages do not.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. I haven't heard of this yet, please send me more information! I do not mind admitting, I do not know everything, but I am willing to learn.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We will make sure they can take care of the people on the streets and expand to what our current need actually is at the same time.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. While I think it's something that should be done, council has no direct oversight over this. It can be put forward, and I can advocate for it, but staff matters fall under the purview of the CAO.

Shawn Cleary's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I brought a motion forward on Sept 22nd that will explore options for the city to provide direct investments in affordable housing. There can be no recovery unless all residents have a safe and affordable home. A future motion will be for new developments to meet more stringent requirements for energy efficiency and sustainability.

3. 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?

I've said before that we constantly hear from the same voices on development. The city needs to do a better job of proactively reaching into racialized and marginalized communities to hear those voices. This will require changes in the process for public information sessions and the type of feedback that's accepted. We need to set up more pop-ups in these communities. We need to adjust the times of day for meetings, provide child care and food, and hire facilitators from the community. And much more.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide

the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGNP to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. We need more housing supply, more public investments in housing, and better cooperation between the federal, provincial, and municipal governments in housing policy and funding.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

The city needs to do a better job of proactively reaching into radicalized and marginalized communities to hear those voices. This is especially true on transportation policy. We need to reach into these communities to understand their needs and the realities of getting around. We need to provide amenities, safety, and comfort. We need to transit a real alternative.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

My motion to replace the Traffic Authority is a start. We need to triple our budget for residential traffic calming to eventually traffic calm every neighbourhood. We need to adjust the criteria (warrants) to ensure more marked crosswalks are installed. We need to narrow lane widths to slow traffic. We need the province to allow the municipality to set lower speed limits, install red light cameras, and use photo radar. We need the province to embrace

"vision zero" to match the philosophy of the municipality. We need to finish the minimum grid of protected bike lanes, local street bikeways, and AT paths and we need to build more sidewalks.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Gerry Lonergan's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. The simple things at first, reduce emissions by increasing the flow of traffic through traffic light synchronization. Additionally we need to invest in our wetlands and wooded areas. Specifically Williams Lake has a dam that has been leaking for years. We live in an ecosystem, we need address these issues from multiple angles.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

More trees, specifically on streets such as Quinpool Road. I also want to see at least 4 rows of trees planted around the perimeter of the commons. Less paperwork. There's far too much paper being used by the municipality, most is redundant and can be eliminated.

3. 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?

By involving the community we will get more insights into issues and solutions that may have not been considered. Every major decision should allow for constructive feedback to be collected. We need to engage our community.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I fully support the protection of Wildlife and natural habitats and the addition of green spaces however relying on a document without looking at each situation uniquely could bring about new problems. Case by case with Community involvement.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. Supply and demand, more affordable units will add competition. Rent as well as property taxes should be indexed against inflation. This would maintain or improve standard of living.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Absolutely everyone should feel safe in their city and have safe places to walk and cycle. What doesn't make sense is adding bike lanes to major traffic arteries where safety is being sacrificed for convenience. I would like to see more pedestrian and cycling paths along scenic areas.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Once Upon a time cable cars were everywhere. It was a great system with a proven track record. Let's make it happen

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

We need to get feedback from our communities so that we can effectively make an informed decision.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Improve lighting. Far too many streets and neighborhoods have areas where pedestrians are almost invisible.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. If these natural habitats disappear, we won't be able to get them back. We need to invest in our future. Wetlands protect us from flooding, trees protect us from soil erosion.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Local food is fresher, healthier, cheaper and both feeds and employs the community .

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Additionally, I will request that newly created local businesses be given energy rebates for the first two years in order to help them establish themselves.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. All municipal buildings should net-zero. Funding small housing cooperatives would allow us to learn what works and what doesn't and eventually we will reach our net zero goal.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. This should be part of basic training.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 10 - Halifax - Bedford Basin West

Candidates *Andrew Curran, Debbie MacKinnon, Mohammad Ehsan, Renee Field, and Sherry Hassanali* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **Christopher Hurry, Kathryn Morse** and **Kyle Morton** can be found below.

Christopher Hurry's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes, absolutely. This is one of the main reasons I am running. We must ensure that it is not only full funded (funding was cut the first year) but also that it is prioritized within the yearly budget.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

My first motion would be that we full fund the HalifACT 2050 and second would be that speed up its implementation date since I do not think we have thirty years to deal with this issue.

3. 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?

There must be automatic inclusion of these communities at the initial stages of any planning activity. There is a lot of trust that needs to be rebuilt. Within planning process, I would think that we need to ensure that there be some kind of feedback or committee that has input into the process that represents those interests and brings their concerns to council so all voices are heard.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. With an eye to keeping improving the plan using the zero carbon target as a motivating force.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. Intelligent regulations on short-term rentals can also avoid many pitfalls experienced by other jurisdictions. This is an opportune time for creative use of federal money to remodel existing structures and create new structures to increase the available affordable housing stock.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. We must do this like of stuff sooner. All avenues available to maximize the reduction of carbon emissions and traffic congestion must be sought.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

I would look to build lasting relationships with these communities that would empower their voice, either through reaching out directly to the communities or having them participate within the planning framework.

No group should be "underrepresented" in developing plans, especially those that disproportionately affect that group. Transparency in all decisions must be maintained.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Beyond supporting the reduction of vehicular traffic, I would work with the expert advice gathered on this topic and certainly support the safety plan.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I realize that currently we are facing hugely uncertain times and that funds are limited, but if we can work with all the levels of government maybe we come up with a creative solution.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. It blows my mind that we, one of the richest countries ever, have citizens who are going hungry. I believe that the effects of food insecurity are long lasting and we must do all we can in these difficult times to help each other.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. However, it appears that the PACE is provincial program if it could be part of a comprehensive solution that provides more funding to the city that would be good. We have to remember the HRM resources are limited.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. this is should be part of our move forward, we must do it together, all avenues of funding must be explored and certainly not-for-profits should be included with in our funding umbrella.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I would have thought this was a requirement for the job in the 21st century.

Kathryn Morse's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

Adopting net zero standards for new construction Implementing bus rapid transit and electrifying the fleet of buses.

3. 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?

I am in favour of HRM council implementing a social equity lens as part of its decision-making processes. As an HRM councillor I would personally reach out to representatives of African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaw, newcomer communities and other groups to hear their perspectives. I think it's important to recognize that participating in planning processes takes time, energy and money, and so I would be in favour of providing small grants to enable community representatives to participate.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. I would advocate for an HRM team to work full-time to coordinate new construction of affordable and accessible housing units that are also energy efficient. We need a group or agency to coordinate the work of all 3 levels of government with community-based partners and possibly the private sector to make progress on affordable housing. Right now there are too many silos and no one is leading.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Faster, more efficient and more reliable bus transportation is needed in order to get more people choosing buses over cars.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

I would request HRM staff consult with underrepresented groups as part of the Integrated Mobility Plan implementation process, and reach out personally to underrepresented groups in my district.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

I would work to ensure the Strategic Road Safety Plan is considered within the framework of the Integrated Mobility Plan and in conjunction with the Towards Zero/Vision Zero strategy. I think it's important to make data-driven decisions when it comes to prioritizing infrastructure improvements--and the areas with the most accidents should be prioritized for improvements first.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. The right food policies can accomplish many things at once: they can help people get and stay healthy, they can keep money and jobs in the local economy, they can help farmers, and they can help the climate by reducing the need for importation of food. Policies that promote organic food can also help pollinators (no pesticide use) and improve local biodiversity.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Kyle Morton's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Climate change is a crisis and needs to be treated like one, even if we are dealing with crises on multiple fronts.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I'd like to have one spending more on green infrastructure and another on supports for more domestic solar panels. I'll also be trying to forge ahead on HalifACT.

3. 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?

I want to hear and address concerns from marginalized communities by making sure we have representative staff in the municipality, by communicating with local community groups, and by reaching out 1 on 1 by continuing to canvass throughout my district after the election if I am successful.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Greenery is important to people's health and actually also has an appreciable benefit to the economy, so I think there's no good reason to not prioritize it.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. My housing plan is to set clear standards for what can be built and where, so we have a transparent system where new constructions being built to code don't have to go through a multi-year approvals limbo. This will help increase the supply of housing overall, and we can fine-tune it with the use of incentives and government support where required to have a healthier, more balanced housing market for the full housing spectrum. Over time, the increased tax base will also help provide more funds to use to combat homelessness and tackle other important priorities.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. In particular I think it's important that we have sidewalks in communities with lots of families so children can get around without being put at risk. Further, it's a great time to invest in transportation infrastructure because of support from other levels of government and our own need for local and targeted expenditure to help move us out of the recession as quickly as safely possible.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. If anything I would like to do it faster than by 2028! Electrifying our bus fleet helps save on fuel costs and supports the environment at the same time, so it seems supremely sensible.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

As in the earlier question, I'd like to make staff more representative of our communities, involve local organizations with decision making, and engage people at a 1 on 1 basis by continuing to canvass after the election. I won't just be doing this for active transportation infrastructure, but for just about everything.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

I want to apply deadlines and accountability to the Road Safety Plan implementation so it's acted on without needless delays. For improving the safety of HRM roads more broadly, I want to continue hearing from district 10 residents about local safety issues, and work with professionals so we can apply effective fixes to hazards and prioritize people's health and safety.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. While I'm supportive of land purchases in general, I want to be honest in saying I won't be supporting immediate purchases until the pandemic and recession are over. Right now, I want to prioritize municipal funds for keeping people safe and housed, and getting the local economy back on track so we have the funds available to keep making environmental investments in the future. Unlike, say, building green infrastructure, buying land has almost no short term economic benefit so it makes more sense to me to work on the former for now.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. It's always worthwhile to take steps to improve food security, but it's particularly important during a pandemic.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Solar panels applied to houses are generally a good investment for the homeowner and help reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Yet they're a large investment and have a small risk of failing to pay for themselves for one reason or another. More involvement from the local government could do a lot to help acquire these benefits without putting as much short term cost or long term risk on the individual, which is a major barrier to solar panel purchases.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Since increasing the efficiency of buildings through retrofitting can be expected to bring down long term costs for heating, among other things, the municipality could probably offer very generous loans with negative real interest rates to finance retrofitting. This would be nice because it would support non-profits without costing taxpayers much, and would keep funds available in the long run for other good work.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Efficiency should be something governments strive for at all levels and energy efficiency is no different. More planners with that kind of training could only be a good thing, and it shouldn't be unduly expensive.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidate for Councillor, District 11 - Spryfield - Sambro Loop - Prospect Road

Candidates *Matthew Conrad, Bruce Cooke, Patty Cuttell and Jim Hoskins* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **Stephen Chafe, Kristen Hollery, Ambroise Matwawana, Lisa Mullin, Hannah Munday, Dawn Edith Penney** and **Pete Rose** can be found below.

Stephen Chafe's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. Because I do not believe is achievable in that time frame, and because the plan needs revision to allow for what we need to do if the climate situation worsens.

It is no good to have a plan to solve something, if you do not also have a plan to deal with what happens when the first plan fails. To not have a Plan B is to guarantee failure, and usually the worse kind of failure.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I would like to make a motion to introduce the Solar Thermal Program and the Green House Initiative. Although they are not the only two green programs I would put forward.

Start a sister program to the Solar Panel Finance program, which is used for people who want to install Solar Thermal systems in their homes as well. Currently the program is set up mainly for PVC panels, and limited thermal -- but not for the kinds of mixed system that are used in place in Europe.

Solar Thermal is a better technology, uses less rare earth minerals, and unlike PVC panels it is a fairly stable technology. It would also be better used for large scale power generation through steam. Also common in places like Germany.

The Greenhouse in every backyard program would similar to the old Composter program that was introduced a decade ago. The goal would be to buy at wholesale costs a large number of Greenhouse kits, and make them available to households at a more reasonable cost.

The goal is to encourage more local food consumption, less importing of foods, and thus not only food security but also less burning of fossil fuels used to transport food products to our province.

A third thing would be providing courses for people to learn how to set up small Solar or Wind generation capacity at home (outside of normal grid use) would also be something I would like to see offered by the city. This would mean setting up Solar PVC stations in home garages or sheds that can be used eventually to power smaller E-vehicles, Scooters, or even single use batteries in the home for some devices not connected to the grid. Emergency cells or battery wall-based kits being part of that solution.

A fourth thing would be a seed warehouse and distribution program for urban gardens and also to encourage more home food production and growth options (even hydroponics).

3. 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?

If possible (and if those communities welcome it) we should have public townhalls in their respective communities. To make attending such sessions as easy as possible.

Sending out direct surveys to members of these communities, and conducting follow-up phone calls would seem a wise step for data collection analysts to follow as well.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Green space is a future need, not just a current need.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. I plan to push for Affordability Indexing, which will allow landlords to rent for less than average market value, and take the equivalent different off the property taxes they have to pay.

If combined with a similar Federal program (effecting Tax on Rental Income) should greatly reduce the options of affordable rentals, along with putting downward pressure on existing market prices. Thus, curbing some of the extreme rental increases the greediest of landlords seek.

This will immediately provide the option for lower rents in at least 5% of the available rental market stock, and hopefully pull some of the short-term rental units back into the market as well -- increasing numbers.

I would also like to see a study of converting Commercial spaces or unused Churches and Schools into emergency shelter units.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. The introduction of the Dual Sidewalk program, which is far more cost effective, safer, and less maintenance then the current use of bike lanes along major arterial roads. This is for the benefit of wheel chair users as well as those who are using E-scooters and the like.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. Current costs for rolling stock are too high for our current city budgets, and the technology is not quite there yet.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

I am not convinced that they are underrepresented.

It would not be a bad thing though to have a Committee that deals directly with these issues (I though there already was one) and at min twice a year public meeting to detail future plans, and get open input from the community.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

The SRSP is simplistic and does not provide adequate solutions to the problems. I have worked in the Traffic Planning world in the past, and have seen solutions that work. I would like to see them introduced here, even if only at the Regional Council levels.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

It is part of our quality of life to have green spaces dispersed in amongst our regular living spaces. Years from now that will be important.

Having all of them connected by a series of walking and active transportation trails would be good too.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Food security is an important issue to me, both from an emergency response point of view, and an anti-poverty point of view. We need better options. That is why myself and my partner started the main Farmers Market in District 11, and helped another group start a second Farmers Market in the same area (Prospect).

Bringing in government run Co-op style grocery stores might be a better solution for those areas that are food deserts.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

That being said, I need more information on this program before supporting it.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Kristen Hollery's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We have seen with the lockdown of the world due to the pandemic that we are able to reduce our GHG emissions so we can continue to move in this direction moving forward.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

One motion would be ensuring new builds are using renewable energy sources like solar panels. Another would be to look at a more robust transit system to reduce our dependency on gas.

3. 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?

I would like to start having town halls all over District 11 to give all residents a chance to have a voice.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Green spaces promote better mental health, and physical activity as well as environmental services.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

I would like to build communities using tiny or container homes.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

I do support building active transportation infrastructure but a balance is needed. We need to consider carefully where it could be implemented to ensure the most use.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

I would hold town halls to ensure all residents are able to have voice on all issues

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

More crosswalks especially in school zones, and implementation of flags/lights at crosswalks.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Non-profits are front line and know the best way to utilize the resources efficiently and effectively!

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Ambroise Matwawana's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Global warming is a reality. we need to be proactive to reach the targets above. we need to think about the future of our kids and planet.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

(1) Electric buses and Bus rapid transit (2) Acquiring green house space.

3. 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?

First i would try to meet with these group to find what the important issues are in their communities. Making sure that I'm putting forward motions that can include these communities in the city planning processes.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. An activity-oriented community is a healthy and vibrant community.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. It would show that we are serious about achieving a net-zero carbon emissions before 2050 and a net negative carbon emission in the second half of the century.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

It's always better to meet and listen to these communities and groups. I believe that you gain insight as well as coming up with common sense solutions.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

I would try to work with the appropriate partners including neighboring concillors and MLA. In many communities' roads are City then sometime become a provincial responsibility (Prospect Road)

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Lisa Mullin's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. HalifACT 2050 was adopted by a unanimous vote for good reason! We must do our part in reducing GHG emissions and meet our targets. This was our commitment and therefore a non-negotiable.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

The two motions I would introduce are: 1) That HRM, in collaboration with the Backlands Coalition, work to identify further parcels of land to be protected. Once identified, petition Council to adopt re-zoning to include this parcel in the protected category. 2) that all new construction permits in HRM be scored through the Social Policy Framework and that the framework includes scoring mechanisms that take into account green recovery.

3. 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?

Healthy public engagements lead to healthy inclusive decision making. To ensure that communities historically left out of the planning processes are included, Council must engage in healthy relationship building. All engagement forums must include representation from: African Nova Scotia, Mi'kmaw, newcomer, LGBTQI+, youth and women. By having equal representation in the discussions, voices can be lifted, included and prioritized in the decision making.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGNP to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGNP to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step,

are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. * further support 311 with the resources it needs to effectively follow up on standards inspections and resident complaints of non-compliance by their landlords.

*** support a landlord licensing program.**

*** actively promote "Renters Ed" - a program offered by Affordable Housing Association of NS.**

*** work towards achieving the goals set out by the Housing and Homelessness Partnership.**

*** work with council to better define "affordable" housing and address how any change impacts By-Law M 200, building permits and zoning.**

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Any public engagement must contain representation from: African Nova Scotia, Mi'kmaw, newcomers, LGBTQI+, youth and women. Only with a well-represented voice can sound decisions be made. It will be Councils responsibility to build relationships within these communities, seek out collaborative opportunities, and ask!

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

It is my hope that should I be successful, I put my name forward to participate on the Transportation Standing Committee. Traffic flow, traffic calming, road widening, bike lanes, transit are all issues that areas are concerned about. Suburban, semi-rural residential, and rural areas of HRM are being left out of the conversation as the past Council has focused on the moving of people within the city core. With the increase in development outside of the core, it is now time for Council to take a look at how commuter traffic gets to that core and how can we make those roads more efficient and safer.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Hannah Munday's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Halifax declared a climate emergency, and I fully supported this action. We cannot delay in addressing the effects of climate change on our city and our world.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

We need to expand and improve our transit services to encourage more people in all areas of the municipality to utilize public transit. This is especially key in my district 11; many communities have no transit access at all, and with increased population growth we need to address this need.

We need to protect our green spaces and sources of fresh water. The Williams Lake dam is badly damaged and water levels of the lake are at historic lows. We need an engineering study as soon as possible to find the best way to repair the dam.

3. 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?

Council needs to reach out to Black, indigenous and newcomer residents, through community groups and targeted outreach. Their input needs to be specifically addressed in discussions around city planning.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Attempting to preserve and protect green spaces in isolation from one another is not as effective as taking a holistic approach. It only makes sense to have a plan that addresses the whole of the municipality. The HGPN is well-researched and comprehensive, and I'd be pleased to support it.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. I would add that not only do we need affordable housing, we need to make housing accessible as well. Any initiatives toward improving the housing situation in Halifax must also be viewed through an accessibility lens.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Well, a good percentage of my district are underrepresented in these areas. During this campaign I have had many discussions with residents eager to see transit service brought to our communities, and if elected I will continue to work closely with residents to push for this much-needed infrastructure development.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

The Transportation Committee needs to refocus on the SRSP. As far as I can tell from the Halifax city website, the Road Safety Steering Committee hasn't met since December 2019 - but the number one concern reported to me by residents across District 11 is road safety / sharing.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I'm a big believer in community gardens, and think we need to enable more citizens to grow food on shared municipal land. In my own neighbourhood the Prospect Road Community Centre has a small community garden and there is definitely land available to

expand! I'd like to see community groups encouraged and supported in developing these resources.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. While I think this is a very laudable goal and would like to see the PACE program expanded, in the immediate term I feel that there are other initiatives Halifax needs to focus on that have a wider reach. As Halifax's financial situation improves post-COVID-19, however, this would definitely warrant a second look.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Non-profit organizations are struggling right now, with demand up and donations / funding down thanks to COVID-19. Helping them retrofit their buildings to thus reduce their energy costs over the long-term is an initiative that makes sense.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. I'm hesitant on this because of the "all staff" qualifier - if there are staff in Public Works and Planning who never have to make decisions that would require this training I'm not sure that it would be an effective use of time or resources.

Dawn Edith Penney's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Taking care of our home on this planet is common sense to me.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

All electric (or other renewable energy source) transit fleet. No more single use plastics in HRM.

3. 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?

By listening to, caring about & taking action on their human rights & basic needs. Being not just an ally but an accomplice in the necessary outdated systems replacements, overhauls, liberation & cultural revolution.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. Eliminate homelessness in HRM.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Supporting Active Transportation to flourish is common sense.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. The sooner the better.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Free bike rentals. More side walk & active transportation infrastructure for rural communities & updating existing active transportation spaces to be universally accessible to EVERYONE.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Prioritizing pedestrians, active transportation & public transit. Installing speed ticket cameras in all school zones.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Again, the what is good for the planet & the public is common sense for me.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I have been volunteering with Food Not Bombs for over 10 years and this would be extremely welcomed.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Again, common sense for future sustainability.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Excellent idea.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Pete Rose's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I am committed to familiarizing myself with a solid understanding of HalifACT and learning of the opportunities for investment. I want to further learn about the mitigation strategies and action plan. Prioritization of all spending to support the priorities with the lens of COVID-19 is going to be a significant challenge for the next regional council.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

Continued support of the Food Action work to enhance and promote community gardens, urban farming and food security is essential. There has been significant work completed by HRM through its partners over the past several years. The time is right to continue to support and grow this work. Authentic engagement with community in the sustainability of our municipality is another area of interest. We are stronger when we have solid community participation. The product is increased, engaged residents who support the changes moving ahead.

3. 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?

All of our issues and work in HRM is important for all residents; it might look different in various communities. Ensuring opportunities are available and priorities are explored is essential. I would want to know more about the barriers and enablers that exist within any communities to ensure there is adequate support. Taking an equity approach or following the HRM social policy framework can help with this.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I support increasing greenspace and wildlife corridors. I support looking at strategies to protect areas within HRM that need protection. To fully respond to this question, I would need

to understand the Halifax Green Network Plan, the impacts and the costs associated with it. I am committed to further learning.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes, work is underway already in these areas. HRM needs to define affordable housing and work towards achieving this with its provincial and municipal partners.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

All residents should be able to move through our municipality in ways that they prefer and to feel safe doing so.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I will commit to understanding the work completed to date, the decisions moving forward and fully understanding the work needed to move this ahead.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

As mentioned earlier, all of our issues and work in HRM is important for all residents; it might look different in various communities. Ensuring opportunities are available and priorities are explored is essential. I would want to know more about the barriers and enablers that exist within any communities to ensure there is adequate support. Taking an equity approach or following the HRM social policy framework can help with this.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

HRM needs safer roads. I would further understand the Strategic Road Safety Plan and learn what has been completed to date. I would want to see less effort into raising public awareness and increased effort from HRM for a commitment to road safety. There needs to be continued communication and partnership for injury prevention in ways that follow the evidence and science. It would be essential to see if there are any early wins that can be

continued in this work through leveraging technology and understanding what has been working (evaluation).

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We need to protect our lands and green spaces. We need to secure the areas that are at risk to create healthy communities with forests, clean lakes and a solid diverse, urban landscape.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We have issues of food security and poverty throughout HRM. Continued support of the Food Action work to enhance and promote community gardens, urban farming and food security is essential. There has been significant work completed by HRM through its partners over the past several years. The time is right to continue to support and grow this work.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. This is an area I would need to learn more about and understand the impacts. I agree with the intention of improving renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. This is a partnership area that needs to be further explored. I agree there is accountability from all 3 levels of government to contribute and support retrofitting.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Operationally, this would be the responsibility of the Director; to determine best practice for staff training and operations. I would be interested in learning more about this and where it shows up in existing HRM action plans.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidate for Councillor, District 12 - Beechville - Clayton Park - Wedgewood

Candidates *Eric Jury* and *Richard Zurawski* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **John Bignell** and **Iona Stoddard** can be found below.

John Bignell's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I support the HalifACT 2050 action plan and would like to see it be a success for Halifax.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I would with local district 12 residents to develop goals and mentions that they feel are important to the city and their community. Let's start with public consultation and build on the communities goals.

3. 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?

I would fight for permanent residents in Nova Scotia to have the option of municipal voting rights. They pay taxes and should have a say and I would work with the Nova Scotia Government to make this happen.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Creating a green belt/green network around our city would be important to me and I feel important to area residents.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

No. I don't believe introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals is the solution.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I am a paramedic and creating safe communities is important to me.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I support the proposed Bus rapid transit network, I am a fan of electric automobiles, but I question the success of electric buses in our city.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

As a new elected official, I think it's important to take the time to listen to this groups, before I start speaking about solutions.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

I would like to use statistical data from EHS to outline risk areas in our community. To help better understand issues and create a safety plan.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I help build The Bluff trail in the 90's and hope to transfers these skills to other green parks in HRM.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. As a beekeeper, chicken keeper, gardener, I believe food security is important to the city and my family.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

No. I would like to learn more about PACE, before I jump in supporting it.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Iona Stoddard's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I fully support the HRM's commitment to HalifACT 2050

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

We need electric busses. Sitting council passed a motion that would see Halifax Transit add 210 electric busses to the fleet by 2028. We will need cooperation from all levels, but I fully support this motion and seeing it through.

3. 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?

We need more diversity on council; we need councillors who will commit to the reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. I fully pledge to bring the African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaw voices who have been sidelined and left out of the planning process into the conversation.

Council has to set the pace by also educating itself on white fragility and privilege, intergenerational effects of slavery on Black Nova Scotians, and residential schools and colonialism on the genocide of the First Nations Peoples; change the names of Cornwallis Park and Street; collaborate to make the tough decisions and follow through with them.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We need to respect the region's parks and greenspaces, as someone who has lived in district 12 for over 20 years, I consider myself lucky having been to able to hike an area like Blue Mountain/Birch Cove at my leisure, its part of what makes our district so great! We must protect it.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. The issues around the housing and rental situation is complex because it involves all levels of government. It also involves many Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and departments within government. Having said that, I have a platform which calls for increased building of affordable housing and reduction in permit time. In addition to that, I insist all new developments contain a certain proportion of affordable units. I also believe we could benefit from handing some of the Provincial control over to Halifax. Lastly, my platform calls

for best practices of other cities to be looked at and incorporated into our plan. We don't have to reinvent the wheel to solve our issues.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Protected bike lanes in Halifax to help people feel safer on the roads is important to me.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Its part of my platform to help make Halifax a greener city and reduce emissions, I fully support this plan and commit to seeing it through.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Communication is the #1 part of my platform, I want everyone in my district to feel comfortable reaching out and contacting me, I will bring everyone's voice to council and listen to what these underrepresented groups tell me.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

We need to lower vehicle pedestrian accidents in Halifax, I fully support the strategic road safety plan, vehicles are traveling much too fast in residential areas and downtown. I have spoken with residents who have been ignored by their representatives, taking matters into their own hands and placing makeshift speed bumps in their neighborhoods. We need to listen to these residents and prioritize the safety of their children, I will listen to these calls for help to government and assist by implementing official speed bumps, traffic calmed neighborhood signs and crosswalk bump-outs.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We must protect these greenspaces and develop a working partnership with the ecology action centre, environmental departments in government and The Nature trust to prepare a park plan that does not compromise and honours the viability of the area moving forward.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 13 -Hammonds Plains - St. Margarets

Candidates *Tom Arnold, Derek Bellemore, Robert Holden, Nick Horne, Darrell Jessome and Harry Ward* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **Tim Elms, Pam Lovelace** and **Iain Taylor** can be found below.

Derek Bellemore's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming?

I will prioritize doing our fair share to achieve the goals of HalifAct. We must adapt to ensure we reduce the damage to our environment.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

**The first motion I will bring forward is to explore our options for providing expanded transit services to our more suburban and rural areas. This will help
The second motion will tie in slightly with my first motion, creating more walking connections**

3. 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?

Part of the problem is that we are not going into the communities themselves.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network?

I will fully support the full implementation of the Green Network Plan as it will ensure the growth of the municipality encroaches as little as possible on our green spaces and offers common public spaces for all.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock?

I am committed to regulations on short-term rentals, similar to the recently passed motion in council, and collaborating with the federal government to take advantage of the National Housing Strategy. I will also push for the Regional Plan to include conditions for affordable housing, updated planning for the suburban and rural areas of the municipality, and additional housing and shelters for the homeless.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM?

Yes

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028?

Yes.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

I would push for direct consultations in these underrepresented communities as they are usually forgotten. These areas are usually lacking most in any form of active transportation and we must involve their input in future decisions. Preston and Lucasville are areas recently improving their active transportation, but after years of pushing for change. These communities should be at the table to ensure their needs are addressed and accomplished far quicker.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

For a start, I will propose road diets and bollards as a temporary measure so safety is enhanced on our streets and provide an example as we recapitalize these areas. My top priority is updating crosswalks at and within a 1km radius of schools.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River?

Yes

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Yes

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty?

Yes

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready?

Yes

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices?

Yes

Tim Elms' Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. As we are heading into a recession we need to focus on sustainability, both Environmentally and Economically. As our City continues to grow rapidly, if we do not have

good governance in place to protect finding realistic solutions to senior care, accessible recreation, job security, & the middle ground between development & protecting our accessible resources, we are in very big trouble. We do not have anything if we do not have our planet. All of this needs to be top of mind for the District #13 councilor role.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

We need to reduce emissions within the transport sector, by going greener with transit busses that replace older transit buses & increasing bus accessible bus routes for all HRM. Transit needs to be more accessible to make it a viable option for commuters

We also need to generate more of our electricity through renewables. More efficient heating of buildings, rooftop solar energy, focusing on less wasteful living, and shifting focus on renewable energy.

3. 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?

With open, respectful communication between all groups. We need to establish a more effective community inclusive task force that acknowledges/discusses the challenges facing in all our communities, both in transparent and accountable manner. If we invite open productive discussions, we can facilitate changes.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We need to find the Middle ground between development and environment protection. We have a shoreline being bought up for private use & our long-term neighbours are struggling to find park access while HRM owns and sits idle on vacant inaccessible lands. These are our shorelines & we need a strong local voice who will make waves to protect what is ours. Having traffic calming solutions, accessible recreation & common spaces that will support local businesses, will help keep our community active & sustainable. Better recreational facilities and accessible recreation for our parks will keep our spending local as well as create local jobs. We need more from our tax dollars.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and

collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. We need to relax zoning laws to ensure zoning by-laws are up-to-date and we need to increase our use of e-permit zone reclassification. Access to affordable financial services must include lone parents, single pensioners, migrants, long-term sick & disabled people, long-term unemployed, & households headed by students or part-time workers. We can create more affordable & accessible housing by both “de-zoning” the suburbs as well as allowing some “gentle densification” that goes beyond secondary suites & laneway houses but also includes ways to redesign single-family lots into multi-family lots. We can also look at a combination of public/private housing; where our governments invest more in housing production funds that can be used to help developers finance new buildings that include more units for low-income and working-class residents.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We are going into a recession in 2021. We should be careful where we spend our money but not at the cost of our road safety. Having traffic calming solutions, accessible recreation & common spaces that will support local businesses, will help keep our community active & sustainable. I should add, we need to look at HRM, that includes rural areas, and not just the downtown core. When my children have no crosswalks and sidewalks around their schools and recreation, I have a real problem with spending more on snow clearing for bike lanes in the downtown core. We need to be more realistic and safety should be everywhere in HRM, not just the DT Core.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We need to reduce emissions within the transport sector, by going greener with transit busses that replace older transit buses & increasing bus accessible bus routes for all HRM. Transit needs to be more accessible to make it a viable option for commuters. We also need to generate more of our electricity through renewables. More efficient heating of buildings, rooftop solar energy, focusing on less wasteful living, and shifting focus on renewable energy. I don't think HRM residents takes transit enough. I think that is partially due to the lack of service in rural areas. Having empty busses running 100% routes throughout the covid-19 pandemic, and an estimate revenue loss off \$20 million, has put an incredible strain on our City's budget for 2021. We can help offset this by following other major cities examples and increase our Metro-X routes to key tourist locations such as beaches and parks outside the peninsula. Transit revenue would increase throughout late spring- to early fall, as it gives tourists, students, and/or peninsula residents the ability to access beaches outside the city without driving. It's an important revenue source.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

We need to create a task force/committee and have open discussions. Include and post minutes from Councilor meetings on this topic is imperative. I've grown tired of politicians who focus on elections instead of solutions, claiming they have done 'so much' for us but with little actual results. I want to hold this position accountable. My experience with policy & procurement for Atlantic Canadian Rural Municipalities, has me questioning: "why we see such little return from our high taxes? We need to elect a transparent & knowledgeable candidate who will include the provincial government in discussions to deliver traffic calming solutions & safe accessible recreation for both our facilities & common space which will help support our local businesses.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

focus on all of HRM not just downtown Core.

We are going into a recession in 2021. We should be careful where we spend our money but not at the cost of our road safety. Having traffic calming solutions, accessible recreation & common spaces that will support local businesses, will help keep our community active & sustainable. I should add, we need to look at HRM, that includes rural areas, and not just the downtown core. When my children have no crosswalks and side walks around their schools and recreation, I have a real problem with spending more on snow clearing for bike lanes in the downtown core. We need to be more realistic and safety should be everywhere in HRM, not just the DT Core.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. However, we need make sure we focus on Accessible recreation.

We have a shoreline being bought up for private use & our long-term neighbours are struggling to find park access while HRM owns and sits idle on vacant inaccessible lands. These are our shorelines & we need a strong local voice who will make waves to protect what is ours. Having traffic calming solutions, accessible recreation & common spaces that will support local businesses, will help keep our community active & sustainable. Better recreational facilities and accessible recreation for our parks will keep our spending local as well as create local jobs.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We need to focus on our food system. Vague Altruistic policies only end up hurting those in need and we need to create complete policies by working with both the provincial and federal governments to alleviate poverty and increase food security.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Keeping in mind that are all about to go into a recession in 2021 Sound municipal policy calls for a middle ground. The most effective methods to combat household poverty are; Universal education, extended health care and the redistribution of income though increased social security payments. We need to work with both the provincial and federal governments to alleviate poverty by reforming the income tax and social security systems currently in place instead of creating an opportunity to increase energy poverty.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Keeping in mind that are all about to go into a recession in 2021 (we need to be realistic with our spending) We need to relax zoning laws to ensure zoning by-laws are up-to-date and we need to increase our use of e-permit zone reclassification. Access to affordable financial services must include lone parents, single pensioners, migrants, long-term sick & disabled people, long-term unemployed, & households headed by students or part-time workers. We can create more affordable & accessible housing by both "de-zoning" the suburbs as well as allowing some "gentle densification" that goes beyond secondary suites & laneway houses but also includes ways to redesign single-family lots into multi-family lots. We can also look at a combination of public/private housing; where our governments invest more in housing production funds that can be used to help developers finance new buildings that include more units for low-income and working-class residents.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I currently work in policy & procurement for rural municipalities associations across Atlantic Canada and there is a way to 'Go Green' and save money for tax payers as well. Having environment training at all levels is important to find the best solutions.

Pam Lovelace's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We need to act responsibly now for a healthy, sustainable future.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

1) We need to clean up the straight pipes bringing raw sewage into St. Margaret's Bay.

2) HRM should produce more of its own renewable energy.

3. 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?

The voices of marginalized communities have been shut out of community planning for too long. HRM's Office of Diversity and Inclusion has done good work to strengthen connections between communities, however, there is more work to do to build relationships and trust with Indigenous and newcomer communities and those living with disabilities. I strongly believe permanent residents should have the right to vote in municipal elections and accessibility is key to building healthy, vibrant communities.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGNP to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGNP to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and

collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

We must increase the diversity of our housing stock and set a definition for “affordable housing.” At this time, we have not agreed on a definition. Short term rentals should be regulated, and the province needs to give HRM more power over housing. Relaxed zoning is not the answer; we already live in the wild west here in District 13. Updating our outdated community plans with a community first approach is essential to setting a direction for future development.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. For too long, HRM has been counting fatalities and injuries and using those numbers as justification for infrastructure changes. It's time to build our city with an injury prevention approach.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. It's time for HRM to join with other modern cities and embrace electrifying transit and cleaning up our air.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

HRM's community consultation approach is damaging the relationship between government and communities. I would like HRM to implement Public Involvement principles in how we work with our communities and put community first!

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

HRM is on the right path to safer streets, however, we need to adopt Vision Zero and use an injury prevention approach to building infrastructure. Speed humps are not the only answer and should be used sparingly. They impede emergency services. HRM must implement a multifaceted approach to calming traffic and creating safer streets for all.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the

Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. As a board member of Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes, I am in full support of preserving our wilderness areas and creating wildlife corridors between them. There's little point in creating wilderness reserves that are not connected. The development currently being planned around Sandy Lake is concerning. HRM should not permit development on wetlands.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I have been working to address food insecurity for a long time. From starting farm markets to updating bylaws to permit market gardens in rural HRM, I will continue to work to secure our local food systems.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. HRM should be doing so much more to bring provincial and federal housing dollars to the municipality. Non-profit groups in District 13 want to develop co-operative and senior housing but they have not had support from the Councillor to do this work.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Iain Taylor's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I actually believe we need to make our targets more aggressive and accelerate our transition to a green economy

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I would move to reevaluate our targets under the HalifACT action plan specifically in regards to new green building standards. A second motion would I would bring would be for looking at ways to offset the new emissions from any potential new vehicles on the roads as a result of bringing Uber and Lyft to the city. To look at rebates for EVs and ways to decrease our reliance on gas powered transportation.

3. 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?

Consultation with community leaders from all areas will be paramount. The current make up of municipal government is unrepresentative of the communities in HRM, so finding a way to ensure all voices are heard is important. I would plan to have open dialogue and inclusion with leaders by establishing a direct link, and working in collaboration with the provincial Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. The recent Blue-Mountain Cove Lakes decision was an important one for municipal government as it established a precedent of making the HGPN and protecting the Green Network a priority. I also believe it is not only beneficial for residents to have these spaces available, but that we have a moral obligation to protect them for future generations and the preservation of our planet.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. On top of a very restrictive vacancy rate, HRM has seen an explosion in property sales, especially at the entry level, which when combined with the low vacancy rate means home ownership has become out of reach for even more people. This coupled with one of the lowest minimum wages in the country, the high unemployment from the pandemic, and a rise in a precariat gig economy working class, the housing crisis is only going to get worse. Rising rental prices, and stagnating/low minimum wages. I would work with the provincial and federal government to restrict the amount of short-term rentals, and also increase the volume on not only affordable but accessible housing which is often overlooked.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. The more people that are walking or biking as their main means of transportation, the less reliant on carbon-based fuel consumption we will become.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. The quicker we are able to transition to a green energy grid and EV's the more effective and efficient our transportation network will become, and the less reliant on carbon based fuel consumption we will be.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Through working directly with the municipality's Diversity and Inclusion Office in forming outreach groups to collaborate with underrepresented groups I will ensure their voices are heard.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRM's roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

One of the main areas that would need to be addressed is the pedestrian collision rates in the city. I would move to see more pilot projects like the in-ground crosswalk signs Coun. Lorelei Nicoll introduced earlier this year. Through pilot programs like these, expansion of the bike lanes, and greater education of the general public on distracted and impaired driving I believe we can further reduce these collision rates.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Recently the current municipal government purchased land for the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes, and established it as a precedent. It is also important for the further protection of our current green spaces in HRM

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I have spent the last two decades working in the food and beverage industry, and have witnessed an increase in the cost of food every single year, while our minimum wage remains one of the lowest in the country and stagnates. Food insecurity is a major problem, and with the increasing intensity of climate change, this is a trend that is not going to go away. We need all levels of government to act, and on the municipal level we can act to increase the availability of fresh, local food through the promoting of urban farming and rezoning residential areas to also include the opportunity for agricultural use which they currently do not have.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Transitioning to an energy efficient and green energy grid is of major importance, it will not only allow us economical flexibility which will be passed on to the constituents, but through reducing our reliance on a carbon-based economy we can reduce our impact on climate change.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Establishing a new green building code and retrofitting our old buildings is one of the most impactful ways we can hit our targets in the halifACT action plan. They currently account for 70% of our emissions. I would call for more aggressive measures to tackle this issue specifically

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We cannot reach our energy goals in the halifACT action plan if we do not transition to energy efficient and energy concepts and practices. We need full buy in from all levels of government and all staff to make this seismic shift, it cannot be achieved by only going half way, or by having staff undereducated in the issues. This would only result in an inefficient use of resources and time, neither of which there is enough of

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 14 - Middle/Upper Sackville - Beaver Bank - Lucasville

Candidate *Greg Frampton* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Response from **Lisa Blackburn** can be found below.

Lisa Blackburn's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Now that we have voted HalifACT into law, the next Council has to make sure it has the staff support necessary to achieve its goals. This is one of the things I will be fighting for.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I just did one of them to allow Market Gardens in all areas of HRM, not just the Centre Plan areas. It's important to move on these simple ways to promote local food security and self-sufficiency. Another motion that I put forward and had passed was regulations on flyer deliver to prevent the waste of unwanted paper being thrown on properties.

3. 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?

I think it's time all of our reports are put through a Diversity and Inclusion lens before coming to Council. All of our reports have a section on Environmental Impacts (a change just made in the past four years) and now it's time that reports have a chance to go through our Diversity and Inclusion office. That would help ensure those who have traditionally not had a voice at the table are heard.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Implementing the Green Network Plan will also require the purchase of more land to preserve these wildlife corridors. Halifax is a growing city and as development increases, we need to be strategic on protecting as much wild area as we can.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. Our regulations on short-term rentals is coming at the next Council meeting. It's my position that landlords who decide to evict tenants to renovate buildings for short-term rentals need to be taxed appropriately. We also need the power to fine those who fail to follow the regulations. The province also need to be involved. In District 14 we don't have many rental units, rather land lease communities are our version of affordable /rental housing. I continue to work with the province on changes needed to protect those living in land lease communities.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. You build bike lanes not for those cycling today....but those who will use these safe places to bike in the future.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Yes with an asterisk....we also have a report coming on the hydrogen economy which could be another option, but BRT is where we need to go to provide fast, reliable and efficient transit.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Again...making sure all our reports are put through a Diversity and Inclusion lens will help with this.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

We have to design roads better and implement traffic calming in areas where speeding is an issue. I support lowering the speed limit to 30kms /hr in all residential areas and hope the province will give us that power in the new MVA.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I have supported these purchases before and will support them again.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. The Food Action Plan will go a long way to helping with food insecurity. I've demonstrated my commitment to this issue by introducing a motion on market gardens in all area of HRM.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Councillor, District 15 – Lower Sackville

Candidates *Mary Lou Leroy, Paul Russell and David Schofield* **did not** respond to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **Anthony Andrew Mrkonjic** and **Jay Aaron Roy** can be found below.

Anthony Andrew Mrkonjic's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I would like to bring forward a motion to ramp up public transportation in HRM, including looking into the feasibility of a light rail system. This could reduce vehicle emissions by helping people to become less reliant on personal vehicles for travel.

I would also bring forward to look into retrofitting Municipal buildings to improve energy efficiency.

3. 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?

I am a big proponent of direct democracy and community collaboration. As Councillor, I want to make policy decisions based on direct feedback from community members, including members from the African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaw communities.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide

the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGNP to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

As Councillor, I will work to ensure that community members have a say in policy decisions and are kept in the loop on the decision making process.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

I would work to implement traffic calming measures in my district. I would add my support to implementing the policies layed out in the Strategic Road Safety Plan.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Jay Aaron Roy's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. It is important that we take climate change seriously and take care of our planet. I have read HalifACT 2050 and support its goals. I know climate issues are very important to voters in Lower Sackville. These plans included a lot of engagement and represent a good first step for the municipality in addressing the climate emergency. I will be working closely with my community to determine what decarbonization will look like and how that will meet our needs specifically.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

I'd like to put forward a motion that looks into the plausibility of mandatory green roofs for new developments, similar to what was done in Toronto and Vancouver. I will support motions to continue the ban on single-use plastic bags and transition the city to a cart-based waste system.

3. 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?

These communities should always be engaged and consulted, and I am committed to doing that work. As a concerned individual and especially as a candidate, I have a responsibility to acknowledge and address my own personal colonial heritage and how that heritage informs my own bias. Doing this self-reflective work is an important first step to ensuring we can recognize that same bias as it manifests in the collective.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGNP to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGNP to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. I will continue to advocate for amendments to provincial legislation that would transfer the power to operate and deliver housing programs back from the province to the City of Halifax. I will continue to push for inclusionary zoning and provincial rent control.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

I would start by working closely with community-based interest groups, non-profit organizations and local grassroots movements.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

I would start by bringing forward the concerns of my constituents and the suggested traffic control measures outlined for our local communities.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>
Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey Results 2020

Candidates for Mayor

Candidate *Matt Whitman* **did not respond** to the EAC candidate survey.

Responses from **Mike Savage** and **Max Taylor** can be found below.

Mike Savage's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. We were one of the first cities in Canada to declare a climate emergency and I advocated strongly for HalifACT to be adopted and to be challenging. Our staff has seen the will of Council and produced excellent work. The implementation must be a key priority for the 2020-2024 Mayor and Council. For the protection of our economy in the long term, and the safety of our citizens it is critical that we meet the targets in that plan. That means Council must ensure that the resources are available, and that the necessary partnerships are pursued to ensure the successful implementation of the strategy and that the community embraces its shared responsibility.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

3. 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?

One of the things of which I am most proud has been the creation and establishment of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Together, with community leaders and partners, they are helping us become a more welcoming and inclusive municipality. Some of our inclusion initiatives are:

- **Drafting and implementing of the new 3-year Immigration Strategy, inclusive of public feedback.**

- **Working with the Local Immigration Partnership to enhance collaborations among services agencies, the community, and the municipality.**

I believe we must build upon the work done in these offices to strengthen the voice of members of minority groups in the decisions made by Council and within HRM.

I would also help ensure that our leadership represents the municipality's diversity through the establishment of an Inclusion Halifax initiative to actively recruit underrepresented groups to the municipality's agencies, boards, and commissions and to encourage more people from diverse backgrounds to serve on HRM committees of Council and to run for Council.

Council recently approved a social policy lens that will allow us to more broadly consider these issues. For example, it will be applied in the context of traditional African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaw communities as we move to the procurement phase of the Cogswell district project.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGNP to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGNP to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. COVID has demonstrated how important our green spaces are to our health as a community, as well as for the physical, emotional, and mental health of individuals and families. I was proud to support the purchase of lands to expand the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes holdings and the Purcell Cove Backlands. I believe that, in addition to their intrinsic value as part of our environmental protection and climate change mitigation efforts, these lands are an important part of our ability to attract business and professionals who look for quality of life in making their decisions.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. Council has already moved to reduce short-term rentals and will adhere to the provincial regulations. I'm also committed to creating a Housing Trust, funded by developers, that will allow the municipality to work with not-for-profits and leverage federal housing funds to develop affordable housing. I also believe we can move to additional incentives, such as waiving development fees, for the creation of new affordable housing. We also need to find ways to work with the province and other partners to ensure affordable housing in

communities across the municipality, to allow seniors to age in their own communities, to provide greater options for differing family sizes, and to allow more co-housing options.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I believe that our environmental goals, as well as healthy living, are supported by active transportation. That's why I support the \$25 million investment in safe bike lanes: not for the people who are biking today, but for the people who will be biking in the next five years. The council-approved Integrated Mobility Plan is clear that we must shift to more personal transportation through more environmentally-friendly means, i.e. active transportation and transit. This is an ambitious plan that will require significant municipal resources and require us to take full advantage of federal and municipal funding sources.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I believe Climate Change is one of the most critical issues facing us and we cannot meet the goals of HalifACT without these changes. This is one way that the municipality can encourage higher transit use, reduce our emissions, and demonstrate leadership in combatting climate change.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

As we move to further consultation on these initiatives we should, for a start, use the newly adopted social policy lens on our consultation and decision-making. I would also support working with the Diversity and Inclusion division of HRM on outreach and engagement with under-represented communities.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Like all good plans, they are only as effective as their resourcing. I support appropriate resourcing to ensure capable, competent professionals have what they need to implement the plan.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I've supported the purchase of lands to expand these spaces, and will continue to do so. Most recently, I worked with the area Councillor, the EAC and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to ensure the most recent opportunity to acquire land in the BCMC area got to Council where it was then approved. I do believe that it's important that we also develop an acquisition plan that will guide our decision-making, keeping in mind that we must continue to respond to opportunities when they arise,

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Few things are so frightening as the prospect of insufficient food for your family. Yet, it is estimated that as many as 1 in 5 households in Halifax experience food insecurity. The pandemic has only heightened the risk of food insecurity for residents.

My office has long had representation at the Food Policy Alliance table and my office has taken a lead role in the establishment and ongoing work of the Mobile Food Market. Indeed, food security has been a significant plank of the healthy community priority focus I brought to Council in my first term.

In the past few years, HRM has played a growing role in supporting community food security through its involvement in the Mobile Food Market, a direct initiative of my office, and in the more than 20 community gardens on municipal land. Social enterprises such as Hope Blooms, Common Roots farm, and Dartmouth's North Grove demonstrate daily what is possible to achieve when bright minds and willing hearts convene to grow and share food.

Both the municipal Public Safety Strategy and the Building Poverty Solutions Strategy include a focus on food. Recently, Halifax was selected by the McConnell Foundation as one of the three Participatory Cities in Canada, bringing another food-access focus to the municipality, working with my office, the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, the United Way, Develop Nova Scotia, and others.

In December 2019, Halifax Regional Council unanimously passed a motion committing to working with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance on the creation of a Food Action Plan to help fight food insecurity throughout the Halifax region.

I believe we must:

- **Explore the possibility of a community food hub to allow for better and more efficient distribution of community food.**

- Create a new HRM food policy staff position to lead the municipality's food work and ensure alignment with internal and external stakeholders.
- Make food security a continued priority area for the 2020-24 term.
- Continue to support the Mobile Food Market project through in-kind and direct financial assistance.
- Ensure the timely completion of the HRM/Halifax Food Policy Alliance Food Action Plan.
- Explore new zoning options that would allow for increased food production on residential land for sale at local food markets to meet needs at the neighbourhood level.

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes, on a positive recommendation from staff with appropriate expertise

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

This is an interesting proposal, and one I believe we should consider, although I'm not sure the municipality alone could manage such a program. I would work with the sector to seek federal and provincial investment in such a program.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. I believe this is something we should work toward, to build a culture within our operations of energy efficiency. I am pleased that our Energy and Environment staff are working cross-departmentally to meet the HalifACT goals.

Max Taylor's Survey Response

1. Will you prioritize spending to achieve HalifACT 2050 action plan to reduce HRM's GHG emissions by 75% by 2030 in order to do our fair share and remain below 1.5 degrees of warming? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Reducing emissions and switching to clean energy sources should be a priority. We are an at-risk province in an at-risk world.

2. As a councillor, what are two motions you would bring forward to advance a just and green recovery in HRM?

A. Make the downtown core pedestrian only. Thereby encouraging active transportation and public transit and healthier humans.

B. Reduce the speed limit. Which will reduce emissions.

C. License more water taxis.

3. African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq 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?

Invite the leaders of the African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaq and newcomer communities to the table. Ensure that there is representation before any decision is made and hold 'idea' sessions, where we listen to the community leaders.

4. The full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) requires zoning-based tools to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors and using the HGPN to guide the region's growth. Will you support the full implementation of the HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. It's the right thing to do.

5. Halifax's vacancy rate is at an all-time low, 1%, and the average rents have increased by 3.8% from the previous year. Many have declared this a housing crisis that all levels of government must act on. A number of actions are needed to tackle this crisis. As a first step, are you committed to introducing municipal regulations to limit short-term rentals and collaborating with the federal government to increase affordable housing stock? What else would you do? (optional)

Yes. I would encourage limiting short term rental companies. BUT If someone needs to rent out a room in their house or their cottage to help pay the bills, that should be allowed, they can make more money with short term rentals and should be allowed to do so. But they are not the problem. The problem is individuals and companies that own multiple units and homes. I would regulate them.

I also think that identifying homes and apartments that are purchased as investments and are left empty should be regulated and restricted and heavily taxed. Hopefully that would discourage those investors.

6. Do you support increased spending that supports safer spaces to walk, bike and roll in HRM? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Yes of course! As mentioned at the top, I believe we could create a section of the downtown core that is just for pedestrian and bikes. It would not just help the environment it would encourage people to walk more, it's a healthy solution.

7. Are you committed to completing the proposed Bus Rapid Transit network and electrifying 50% of Halifax Transit's fleet to electric by 2028? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes! It is a great idea.

8. What will you do to ensure collaboration with communities and underrepresented groups in sustainable and active transportation infrastructure development?

Include them in the process.

9. What would you do to improve the safety of HRMs roads, and ensure the implementation of the Strategic Road Safety Plan? <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/180717rc1422.pdf>

Lower speed limits by 10 KMH.

Install lights overhead in cross walks.

Increase fines for distracted and impaired driving.

10. Will you advocate to use municipal funds to buy land for parks at the three key wild spaces identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Blue Mountain – Birch Cove Lakes, the Purcells Cove Backlands, and Sandy Lake – Sackville River? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Yes of course!

11. HRM, with the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, is developing JustFOOD, the Halifax food action plan. Will you commit resources to its implementation, working with partners to increase access to good food and strengthen our local food system? Link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/halifax-food-action>

Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Yes of course! Love this initiative!

12. Will you ensure that city funds are used to expand PACE programming relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in HRM so that all municipal residents can avoid energy poverty? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes.

13. Will you ensure that as a municipality, HRM will make funds available for non-profit organizations such as housing cooperatives and shelters to retrofit their existing buildings so that they are net-zero energy ready? Explain why or why not (optional)

First we need to house the people that are still looking for shelter. I am all for retrofitting, but there are moms raising kids in motel rooms. Let's be respectful of their needs and work to find immediate solutions for those in immediate need before we make improvements.

14. Will you ensure that all staff in the Public Works and Planning Departments have basic training of energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts and practices? Explain why or why not (optional)

Yes. Yes, of course.