



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.3.1

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: May 27, 2025		
Subject: FireSmart Vegetative Debris Management		
<p>Motion for Council to Consider: That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to develop a staff report exploring options to support vegetative yard waste and debris disposal pursuant HRM sanctioned community FireSmart events, and include a recommended option, with costing, for consideration.</p> <p>Reason: Currently, the disposal of brush and vegetative debris from FireSmart community cleanups are left to the individual or the community at large. In practice, this is not practical. The volume of vegetation coupled with and the lack of means to transport brush debris present as a real and overwhelming barrier to the success of the program and the communities who participate. By not having municipal support for FireSmart cleanups, communities and individuals face a high barrier to entry, and many homeowners leave vegetative fire fuel on their property as they have no means to dispose of it safely, easily, or affordably.</p> <p>We are experiencing longer fire seasons, stronger winds, prolonged droughts, and more frequent extreme weather events. These conditions are intensifying the scale and severity of disasters. With municipal leadership, we can make FireSmart home maintenance and community cleanups as routine as garbage collection.</p> <p>Outcome Sought: Establish regular brush pickup services, chipping, or designated drop-off points to assist homeowners and communities working towards FireSmart cleanup goals. A municipal brush cleanup program would encourage participation, community engagement, as well as reduce illegal dumping, unsafe burning, and continued piling of vegetative fuel.</p>		
Councillor Nancy Hartling		District 13