

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <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 |
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Date of Council Meeting: April 14, 2026

Subject: Amendment to Require On-Site Construction Waste and Debris Management Plans

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report regarding amendments to Administrative Order 2018-005-ADM to include provisions for litter management on construction sites.

Reason: Construction-related litter and debris is a persistent issue in many Halifax neighbourhoods, particularly in areas experiencing prolonged or multi-year construction. Residents regularly observe construction materials blowing from active sites into adjacent streets, parks, green spaces, waterways, rights-of-way, and onto private property, including residents' yards. Once dispersed, this debris is difficult to trace to its source, complicating enforcement and delaying cleanup. Enforcement is largely reactive and complaint-driven, costing the municipality in terms of staff time and site visits, and frustrating residents.

While existing by-laws require developers and property owners to prevent litter and to clean up debris associated with their sites, there is currently no requirement for an on-site waste or debris management plan as part of the construction or building permit process. This represents a regulatory gap, particularly when compared to other construction-related impacts such as noise, dust, and traffic disruption, which are addressed through required management plans. In practice, this results in inconsistent outcomes.

Construction-related debris entering yards, green spaces, and waterways negatively affects neighbourhood livability, creates ongoing complaints, and places an unfair burden on nearby residents to manage litter they did not generate. These impacts are magnified in communities experiencing sustained construction activity over several years.

Requiring an on-site construction waste and debris management plan should:

- Address litter and debris at the source, before it leaves the site
- Establish clear, consistent expectations for all construction projects
- Require proactive measures to prevent wind-blown debris
- Improve accountability by assigning on-site responsibility

- Support earlier and more effective enforcement
- Reduce reliance on after-the-fact cleanup and source attribution
- Protect waterways, green spaces, and neighbouring property

A management plan should outline how waste is stored, secured, and removed; identify mitigation measures for wind and weather; and provide a clear standard against which compliance can be assessed. This would shift the municipal approach from reactive enforcement to preventive management, improving outcomes for residents, the environment, and the construction industry.

Amending the Administrative Order to require on-site construction waste and debris management plans aligns with Halifax's broader litter reduction objectives, supports fair and consistent enforcement, and reflects recognized best practices in growing municipalities.

Outcome Sought: Amending the Administrative Order to require on-site construction waste and debris management plans aligns with Halifax's broader litter reduction objectives, supports fair and consistent enforcement, and reflects recognized best practices in growing municipalities.

Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttell

District 11