



Halifax Harbour Bridges

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Last updated: October 2020

Purpose, Goals and Objectives

Purpose:

This environmental policy is the road map for improving the environmental performance and consciousness of Halifax Harbour Bridges (HHB). The policy will help employees and stakeholders understand how our activities impact the environment and how to reduce or eliminate these impacts. Improving our organizations environmental performance has numerous benefits including creating a healthier, safer workplace and enhancing our organizational performance.

This policy will also be used to provide guidance to internal and external stakeholders regarding our environmental position so they can be held accountable for environmental related actions and decisions.

Goals:

HHB commits to achieving three main goals as part of our long term commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

- 1) Fully commit to the short and long term effort needed to create positive environmental change within our organization, including the financial commitment that may be associated with some of the needed changes.
- 2) Evaluate the progress of the environmental policy and action plan and ensure changes and updates are communicated as progress is made and/or business goals and directional planning shift.
- 3) Communicate our environmental position and standards with all internal and external stakeholders to create positive environmental change beyond our organization.

Objectives:

The following are the objectives that will guide HHB's actions and planning over the short and long term. The objectives will be applied to internal operations and will also be held as a standard for all those with whom we work.

- Assist in keeping HRM a clean and green living environment.
- Take action to reduce emissions of CO₂ and other gases which could affect climate change.
- Reduce the dependence on non-renewable resources.
- Take action to conserve water and energy.
- Promote the re-use and recycling of materials.
- Avoid the use of potentially toxic and environmentally damaging materials and processes.
- Eliminate methods of material disposal that may negatively affect bodies of water, areas of land or air.
- Reduce the use of materials that create waste that can not be re-used or recycled and promote green purchasing.

- Eliminate processes that cause direct impacts to the environment such as land disturbance, watercourse alterations, vegetation management or removal.

Environmental Commitment Statement

Halifax Harbour Bridges (HHB) recognizes environmental protection and sustainability as one of our guiding principals and a key component of sound business performance. We are committed to providing safe and efficient transportation to users of the Macdonald and MacKay Bridges in a manner that ensure a safe and healthy workplace for our employees and minimizes our potential impact on the environment. We will operate in compliance with all relevant federal, provincial and municipal environmental legislation and we will strive to use pollution prevention and environmental best practices in all we do.

HHB in adopting this policy accepts that to create a sustainable and environmentally conscience organization it must work to meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

We will:

- Integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into all of our decision making and activities, promote environmental awareness among our employees and encourage them to work and live in an environmentally responsible manner
- Train, educate and inform our employees about environmental issues that may affect their work and their role within our organization
- Reduce waste through re-use and recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable and re-furnished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical and suitable
- Promote efficient use of materials and resources throughout our facility including water, electricity, raw materials and other resources, particularly those that are nonrenewable
- Avoid unnecessary use of hazardous materials and products, seek substitutions when feasible, and take all reasonable steps to protect human health and the environment when such materials must be used, stored and disposed of
- Purchase and use environmentally responsible products that have been selected based on the criteria including low toxicity or environmental hazard, durability, use of recycled materials, reduced energy and/or water consumption, reduced packaging and ability to be recycled, refilled or refurbished at the end of use.
- Where significant health, safety or environmental hazards exist, develop and maintain appropriate emergency and spill response programs

- Regularly communicate our environmental programs to our internal and external stakeholders including employees and bridge users and encourage their support, conciseness and participation
- Strive to continually improve our environmental performance by periodically reviewing our environmental policy in light of our current and future activities.
- Strive to be compliant with the international environmental management standard ISO14001.

Implementing Environmental Change

The environmental policy and action plan will be implemented in consultation with staff, senior management, members of the board of commissioners and environmental stakeholders and partners.

HHB will create an environmental action plan that will detail tactics to help achieve the goals and objectives outlined in this policy. The action plan will also include methods of evaluating the progress of our organization and list needs and methods for educating employees and other stakeholders about the importance of environmental protection and sustainability.

A communications strategy will also be used to ensure that all internal and external stakeholders are made aware of the environmental standards that have been outlined by our organization.