



October 9, 2018

Ms. Lisa Trevisan  
Director, Central Region  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks  
Place Nouveau  
5775 Yonge Street, 8th Floor  
Toronto, ON M2M 4J1

Mr. Mansoor Mahmood and Ms. Annamaria Cross  
Directors (Acting), Client Services and Permissions Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Dear Ms. Trevisan, Mr. Mahmood and Ms. Cross:

**Re: Durham York Energy Centre Facility  
Submission of the Regional Municipality of York Waste Diversion Program  
Monitoring Plan (Environmental Assessment Condition 10) MOE File No.: EA-08-02**

The attached *York Region 2017 Annual Solid Waste Diversion Report* is being submitted to satisfy the Durham York Energy Centre Environmental Assessment condition for diversion reporting. It has been submitted to the Energy-from-Waste Advisory Committee and posted on the York Region website [york.ca](http://york.ca). The Report summarizes York Region's integrated waste management system that delivers sustainable waste management programs and infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing communities.

In partnership with local cities and towns, York Region demonstrates leadership in sustainable waste management in Ontario, through delivery of innovative solutions and waste management services to a population of 1.2 million residents. York Region's *Integrated Waste Management Master Plan, the SM4RT Living Plan*, combines traditional waste management approaches with innovative community-driven programs that emphasize reduction, reuse and recycling before recovery. York Region continues to advocate sustainable waste management that includes recovery which derives a beneficial use of residual waste.

In 2017, the Region achieved 68 per cent diversion, calculated in accordance with the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority requirements (verification pending). Since 2012, York Region and its local municipalities have ranked first in the large urban municipal diversion category. York Region continues to be a leader with the highest verified diversion rate in 2016 in the large urban category and in the province overall with a diversion rate of 65.7 per cent.

York Region continues to drive diversion from landfill and promote waste reduction through a number of initiatives and communication campaigns including:

- Bindicator –promoting the use of an online waste directory through a Cut the Clutter campaign
- Curbside Giveaway – supporting promotion of local municipal Curbside Giveaway Days
- Fall Yard Waste Campaign – encouraging residents to place fall decorations (straw, corn stalks and pumpkins) in yard waste
- Garden Gold Composter Sales – renewing interest in backyard composting with several composter sales events taking place throughout the Region and in partnership with many of our local cities and towns
- Good Food Program – promoting food waste reduction behaviour focused on simple tips and actions including proper planning and storage of foods
- Multi-Residential Program – providing multi-residential specific education resources across the Region
- Textile Collection Pilot Program – encouraging residents to place unwanted fabric-based materials either at the curb for collection or in the collection bins provided within the Towns of Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Trash Blasters Pilot Program – delivering waste reduction education at six elementary schools in York Region
- York Region Waste Depot Upgrades - informing customers of upcoming facility enhancements at the Elgin Mills and McCleary Court Community Environmental Centres and Georgina Transfer Station

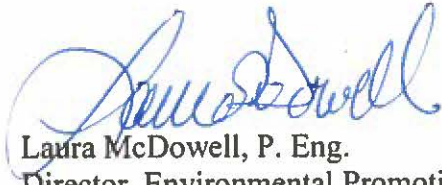
York Region will continue to promote waste reduction and reuse programs, participate in consultations with the federal and provincial governments and other stakeholders and advocate for policies and regulations that preserve the integrity of a sustainable waste management system.

Future diversion rates may be impacted by market restrictions on imported recyclables, which continue to impose increasingly stringent contamination limits. The impact of slow moving newsprint is large, accounting for over 50 per cent of blue box material. As a result of storage constraints, York Region sent 100 tonnes of fibre to external energy-from-waste facilities in September 2017 and another 815 tonnes as of July 2018. The Region is implementing technology upgrades at the Material Recovery Facility to improve quality and marketability of newsprint.

We look forward to the Province confirming timing and direction as it relates to transition to full producer responsibility as municipalities continue to be challenged by problematic materials and unstable end markets. Accordingly, clear direction from the Province is needed to help inform critical decisions regarding contract renewals and infrastructure improvements.

We trust that this satisfies Environmental Assessment Condition 10 in the Durham York Energy Centre approval, requiring annual diversion reporting. If you require additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Laura McDowell, P. Eng.  
Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection

LM/mz

Attachment

Copy to: C. Dugas, Manager, York Durham District Office, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks  
M. Januskiewicz, Director of Waste Management, The Regional Municipality of Durham  
C. Raynor, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of York  
R. Walton, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham  
Energy-From-Waste Advisory Committee

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