



October 15, 2019

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

Ms. Heather Malcolmson
Director (Acting), Client Services and Permissions Branch (Environmental Assessment and
Permissions Branch)
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Dear Ms. Trevisan and Ms. Malcolmson:

**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 2018 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/sm4rtliving. The Report summarizes York Region's continued delivery of sustainable waste management programs and infrastructure through our integrated waste management system to meet the needs 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 Council continues to endorse sustainable waste management that includes recovery (the 4th "R") which derives a beneficial use of residual waste. In 2018, the Region achieved 94% diversion from landfill, exceeding the 90% target established in the Regional Official Plan.

Since 2012, York Region and its local municipalities continue to rank first by the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority in the large urban municipal diversion category. However, the ongoing global market issues that continue to impact movement of recyclables to end markets will affect future diversion rates. In addition, increasing complexity in plastic packaging is creating greater confusion amongst residents on what goes into the blue box. As a result, York Region and local municipalities continue to focus resources towards addressing contamination through promotion and education and curbside enforcement.

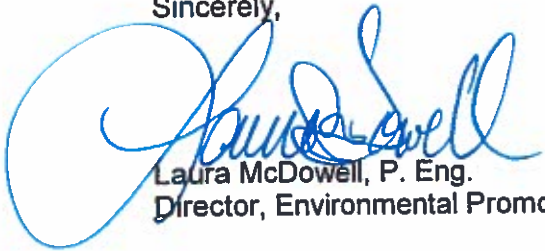
In 2018, the Region invested \$7 million in sorting equipment at the Materials Recovery Facility. Six additional staff were hired in 2018 to remove contaminants from paper products to improve overall quality. Despite these upgrades, contamination and end market restrictions continue to affect the marketability of recyclables.

Minister Yurek's August 15, 2019 direction letter to transfer responsibility for Blue Box services to producers through full producer responsibility was welcomed news to municipalities. Producers are in the best position to drive change through innovative packaging design. We anticipate that regulations to be developed to govern the new producer responsibility framework will set high recycling targets driving positive environmental outcomes and ensure seamless transition without negative impacts to residents of Ontario.

York Region will continue to provide feedback on the Regulation to support a successful transition of the Blue Box Program. The Region and its local cities and towns are leaders in sustainable waste management and will continue to identify collaborative solutions to address changes to the waste management landscape.

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. Januszkiewicz, 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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