

October 14, 2022

Dr. Rachael Fletcher
Director (Acting), Central Region
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks
Place Nouveau
5775 Yonge Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M2M 4J1

Ms. Kathleen O'Neill
Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Dear Dr. Fletcher and Ms. O'Neill:

**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 2021 Annual Waste Management 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](#).

The report summarizes York Region's Integrated Waste Management Master Plan (the SM4RT Living Plan) progress including waste reduction and diversion initiatives; diversion rate, generation rate, and total tonnages of material collected and processed.

The SM4RT Living Plan establishes a vision and long-term targets to move towards a world without waste. It guides waste policy and programming and advances the circular economy to support economic, environmental and social benefits. The Region launched the [Circular Economy Roadmap](#) to help further waste reduction efforts and decrease reliance on disposal capacity. With a focus on community capacity building, the Region successfully launched the Circular Economy Initiatives Fund (CEIF) and awarded funding of \$100,000 to six recipients with innovative, community driven projects focused on promoting circular economy practices.

In 2021, the Region achieved 92% diversion from landfill, again exceeding our 90% goal endorsed by Council. There was a slight decrease in diversion rate compared to 2020 however the Region's overall waste generation rates stabilized following sharp increases in 2020. In 2021, curbside green bin generation rate increased slightly, while there was a small decrease in

the garbage generation rate. The Region and its local municipal partners will continue to monitor waste generation trends to understand short and long-term impacts of the pandemic.

The Region continues to plan for its long-term capacity needs for organics and garbage with several third-party contracts. York Region currently utilizes multiple external contractors for aerobic and anaerobic processing of its Source Separated Organics (SSO). In 2021, York Region released a Request for Proposals to secure long-term processing capacity of the Region's SSO through anaerobic digestion. The Region supports the federal actions on single-use plastics particularly its focus on compostable packaging types. The Region continues to advocate for compatibility of compostable packaging with composting systems like the Region's future anaerobic digestion processing and current contracted composting systems. The Region is also looking forward to more direction on the Province's Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement to help advance Ontario's waste diversion outcomes.


Both York and Durham Regions continue to experience higher waste volumes compared to pre-pandemic tonnages. We are currently awaiting a decision by the Ministry to advance the streamlined environmental assessment for an increase in capacity at DYEC to 160,000 tonnes per year that was completed as outlined in the Environmental Screening Process. This would allow the Regions to make use of the existing facility more efficiently while reducing the need to by-pass garbage long-distances directly to landfill. The DYEC is capable of processing up to 160,000 tonnes of garbage annually without requiring any modifications or additions to the existing equipment or the building.

York Region and its local municipal partners continue to be leaders in sustainable waste management in Ontario. Since 2012, the Region has ranked first in the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority's annual waste diversion for a large urban municipality. In 2021, York Region continued to collaborate with its local municipal partners to reduce blue box contamination through education and enforcement efforts, with consideration to the changes in accepted materials post-transition.

Following the release of the final Blue Box Regulations, York Region is planning for changes in operations during and post-transition while our local municipalities are working with their Councils to determine their next steps for post transition services. We will also be looking to the Ministry to advise on the future direction of this annual reporting requirement given the changes in responsibility for management of the blue box and other programs including tires, electronics and hazardous waste.

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

Sincerely,



David Szeptycki
Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection

LM/mm

Attachment (1): York Region 2021 Annual Waste Management Report

Copy to: C. Dugas, Manager, York Durham District Office, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks
G. Anello, Director, Waste Management Services, The Regional Municipality of Durham
C. Raynor, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of York
A. Harras, Director of Legislative Services/Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham
Energy-From-Waste Advisory Committee

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