



Sent via standard mail and email (Rachael.Fletcher@ontario.ca and kathleen.oneill@ontario.ca)

October 28, 2022

Dr. Rachael Fletcher, Director (Acting), Central Region. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Place Nouveau
5775 Yonge Street, Floor 8
Toronto, Ontario M2M 4J1

and

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

Dear Dr. Fletcher and Ms. O'Neill:

**RE: Durham / York Energy from Waste Project
Submission of the Regional Municipality of Durham's
Waste Diversion Program Monitoring Report for 2021
Environmental Assessment Condition of Approval #10
MECP File #: EA-08-02**

In accordance with Condition 10 of the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) Environmental Assessment (EA) Notice of Approval, the Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) submits the Annual Waste Diversion Report titled 'Waste Management Annual 2021 Report' (Report) for the activities and progress towards diversion during the 2021 year.

The Region demonstrates leadership in sustainable waste management in Ontario, through delivery of waste management programs which focus on the 4Rs of waste: reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering, to over 675,000 residents.

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

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Durham Region, like municipalities across the world, has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, starting in 2020. In 2021, waste generation in the Region continued to be elevated as workplaces and schools were closed for portions of the year and various restrictions remained in place. Labour shortages have been ongoing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They have impacted all aspects of waste collection, transfer and haulage, and processing operations. However, Durham has successfully worked with its contractors and other partners to ensure that Durham residents continue to receive the waste management services upon which they rely.

Most in-person community events were cancelled due to COVID-19. Consultation planned on the Long-term Waste Management Plan pivoted to virtual community engagement. Throughout 2021, Durham Region remained involved in consultations and provided advocacy for various legislative changes, including Blue Box transition, Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement and Hazardous and Special Products regulations.

Tonnages collected for curbside garbage, green bin and leaf and yard waste are consistent with the levels experienced in 2021, while the blue box remained fairly static. In response to the increase in waste generation the Region made a request to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for an Emergency EA Amendment to the existing approval to allow for the processing of an additional 2,000 tonnes of waste at the Durham York Energy Centre for the 2021 calendar year.

As the Region's 2000 to 2020 Long-Term Waste Plan met many of the goals and objectives, waste management staff began developing a new Long-term Waste Management Plan for 2021 – 2040 at the request of Regional Council. Council endorsed a vision for the new plan that enhances the rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle and recover principles and incorporates the vision of waste as a resource in a circular economy as a foundation of the plan. Waste management staff began consulting on a new Long-term Waste Management Plan (Waste Plan) in 2020 to guide decisions for the next 20 years. Regional Council approved the plan on January 26, 2022.

The Waste Plan guides the Region in developing innovative ways to use waste as a resource in a circular economy, while demonstrating leadership in sustainability and mitigating environmental impacts. It emphasizes using the 5Rs (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover) as the first steps in reducing waste generation. The plan also outlines working with producers and importers of products and packaging to implement Extended Producer Responsibility and adjust the Region's waste programs, as required. The approved guiding principles, vision and objectives will be achieved

through Action Plans with measurable targets and accompanying actions for the short-term (2022 to 2026), mid-term (2027-2033) and long-term (2034 to 2040) time periods.

In 2021, the Region achieved 62 per cent diversion (pending verification), as calculated in accordance with the Datacall program managed by the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority.

The Region strives towards meeting waste reduction and diversion targets through greater participation in its programs by providing the following programs and outreach:

- In 2021, COVID-19 pandemic resulted in changes to the Region's typical waste management related to Promotion and Education and outreach programs. In-person events and drop-off events were cancelled, and the Region shifted its focus to COVID-19 protocol education focused on providing essential services and associated messaging.
- Curbside battery collection resulted in the collection and recycling of 46 tonnes of single use batteries.
- Exchanged 5,118 Blue Boxes, 686 kitchen food waste containers and 4,107 curbside Green Bins for new boxes, containers or bins due to damage.
- Sold 1,791 new Blue Boxes, 281 kitchen food waste containers, 643 curbside Green Bins and 122 backyard composters
- Responded to more than 55,000 telephone calls and almost 42,000 emails regarding waste programs.
- Over 93,000 Durham Region Waste App downloads with 106,00 weekly waste set-out reminders.
- Social media campaigns using Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn to educate and engage residents on proper waste management.
- Hosted a virtual Waste Plan open house to over 9,300 users.
- Placed over 1,500 radio ads and 30 newspaper ads in local radio stations and newspapers.

The Region continues to promote waste reduction and reuse programs within its area municipalities and participates in efforts to advocate for policies and regulations that provide sustainable waste management practices and services to residents.

In accordance with EA Condition 8.8 (e), the Region will submit the subject Report to the Energy from Waste Advisory Committee for information concurrently. In addition, this Report has been posted on the [project website](http://durhamyorkwaste.ca) (durhamyorkwaste.ca) and [public website](http://durham.ca/waste) (durham.ca/waste).

The Region trusts that the 'Waste Management Annual 2021 Report' meets the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) expectation as outlined in the DYEC EA Notice of Approval. If you require further information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Gioseph Anello, M.Eng., P.Eng., PMP
Director, Waste Management Services

- c. L. McDowell, General Manager, Interim Transition, The Regional Municipality of York
C. Dugas, Manager, York Durham District Office, MECP
P. Martin, Supervisor, Air, Pesticides, and Environmental Planning, MECP
E. Lee, Regional Environmental Planner, MECP
P. Dunn, Senior Environmental Officer, York Durham District Office, MECP
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J. Butchart, Issues Project Coordinator, York Durham District Office, MECP
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Energy from Waste Advisory Committee (EFWAC)
C. Raynor, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of York
A. Harras, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham

Enclosed