



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

October 31, 2023

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 2022
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 Report 2022' (Report) for the activities and progress towards diversion during the 2022 year.

The report demonstrates leadership in sustainable waste management through the delivery of waste management programs that focus on the 5Rs of waste: Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recovery of materials, to over 740,000 residents in Durham Region.

In 2022, Regional Council approved a new Long-term Waste

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

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Management Plan 2022-2040 (Waste Plan) that describes Durham Region's vision, guiding principles, and objectives for waste management over the next approximately 20 years. The guiding principles will be achieved through Action Plans which include measurable targets and actions in 5-year incremental periods. The Waste Plan will guide 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.

In June 2022, Durham Region made the decision to delay the implementation of a Regional Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility, by cancelling the Mixed Waste Pre-sort and Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Facility procurement process. This decision was guided by a recommendation from staff due to significant cost increases as a result of the current economic state. In the short-term, Durham Region will work with an existing AD facility to process the organic material. The cancellation of the AD procurement does not change the need for a sustainable organics (green bin) management plan. Durham Region continues to advance efforts to meet the requirements as detailed in Ontario's Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement.

The Province of Ontario continued to implement the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA) in 2022. The RRCEA establishes Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Ontario with the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) as Registrar that oversees reporting and compliance of programs developed under the RRCEA. Durham Region's Blue Box program transition date for blue box recycling is July 1, 2024. On this date, the producers of the paper and packaging that go in the Blue Box become responsible for residential collection and processing of the Blue Box from single-family residences and in multi-residential buildings currently serviced by the Region.

As a demonstration of Durham's leadership in sustainability, Durham Region was presented with the Ontario Public Works Association 2022 Project of the Year Award in Transportation, less than \$2 million category for the Newtonville Road (Regional Road 18) Rehabilitation with Recycled Materials Project. This pilot project provided an opportunity to explore the reuse of glass processed from blue box collections in road construction. Using recycled materials from blue box collections helps reduce the volume of aggregate materials mined and trucked in for road construction while increasing the strength, durability, and overall life cycle of the road network resulting in reduced long-term maintenance costs.

The Ministry is currently reviewing submissions related to advancing 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 additional tonnage would allow the facility to be operated 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.

As COVID restrictions were lifted in 2022, waste generation in the region began to decline, moving to a steadier state. In 2022, Durham Region experienced the lowest waste generation rate per capita (166 kg/capita) in the last 5 years. This amounts to a reduction of 5.7 per cent compared to the 2021 per capita rate. In 2022, the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) processed 140,000 tonnes of garbage, while recovering approximately 3,952 tonnes of metal for recycling and generated approximately 99,980-megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity for sale to the provincial grid. By using pollution control systems and proven, reliable energy-from-waste technology, the DYEC continues to meet stringent environmental standards and demonstrates our commitment to sustainable waste management solutions.

In 2022, 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:

- Curbside battery collection resulted in the collection and recycling of 120 tonnes of single use batteries.
- Exchanged 5,111 Blue Boxes, 510 kitchen food waste containers and 3,569 curbside Green Bins for new boxes, containers, or bins due to damage.
- Sold 3,351 new Blue Boxes, 397 kitchen food waste containers, 1,450 curbside Green Bins and 75 backyard composters.
- Responded to more than 53,000 telephone calls and 47,150 emails regarding waste programs.

- Over 112,750 Durham Region Waste App downloads with 126,650 weekly waste set-out reminders.
- Social media campaigns using Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn used to educate and engage residents on proper waste management.
- Placed over 1,500 radio ads and 35 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 2022, outreach focused its targeted messaging to reduce residential food waste through behavioural change, safe with waste practices, community events and promotion of the Durham Region Waste App as the Region transitions to paperless waste calendars in 2023. Durham's Waste Management school outreach program continued offering in-class programming through online virtual presentations and resources.

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 2022 'Waste Management Annual Report' meets the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) expectations as outlined in the DYEC EA Notice of Approval. If you require further information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Andrew Evans, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Director, Waste Management Services

- c. L. McDowell, General Manager, Operations and Services, 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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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