



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM**

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Regional Council accepts the Durham/York Residual Waste Study**

**WHITBY, ON** – After several hours of deliberation, and comprehensive feedback gained from numerous delegates, Durham Regional Council today approved the Durham/York Residual Waste Study Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed energy-from-waste facility that will aim to help process the household waste left over after diversion efforts.

“Public consultation was critical throughout this process, and we would like to thank residents for taking the time to provide their comments and suggestions during all stages of this project,” said Regional Chair Roger Anderson. “The number one question asked by residents throughout this process was whether this facility would be safe. We are pleased to report that the strict monitoring guidelines set by Durham Regional Council will help to ensure this is the case, both now and into the future.”

The Durham/York Residual Waste Study, which officially began in 2005, is part of the Region’s long-term vision of identifying technically feasible strategies to manage the residual waste that remains after recycling and composting programs. Following the evaluation of several alternative technologies, and feedback from the public, thermal treatment emerged as the preferred method to deal with Durham and York Region’s residual waste. Thermal treatment is a high-temperature technology used to treat waste, a process that creates energy in the form of steam, electricity and heat.

“This new facility is designed to accept less waste than what we are currently shipping to Michigan—an important feature that will ensure diversion remains a top priority in the region,” said Cliff Curtis, Commissioner of Works. “This will also help us meet the 70 per cent waste diversion target set by Regional Council and retain our number one position for waste diversion in Ontario.”

Although endorsed by Durham Regional Council, approval of the draft EA documentation is still required from York Regional Council. Submission of the final EA documentation to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment will occur only after approval of both councils.

Government and public review of the EA will be conducted during a seven-week period. In addition, there is a five-week public interpretation of the ministry’s review. Final approval of the EA rests with the provincial government. For more information on the Durham/York Residual Waste Study, visit [www.durhamyorkwaste.ca](http://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca), call 905-307-8628 (or toll-free at 1-866-398-4423), or email [info@durhamyorkwaste.ca](mailto:info@durhamyorkwaste.ca).

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