



**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

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Sent via standard mail and email (lisa.trevisan@ontario.ca and kathleen.oneill@ontario.ca)

October 29, 2021

Lisa Trevisan, Director, 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 Ms. Trevisan 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 2020
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 2020 Report' (Report) for the activities and progress towards diversion during the 2020 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 a population of approximately 690,000 residents.

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the way people lived and worked changed drastically. As a result, waste generation was impacted in 2020. Tonnages collected for curbside garbage, green bin, leaf and yard waste all show a higher than typical increase while the blue box remained fairly static; however, the composition of blue box materials collected changed significantly. Tonnage collected at Waste Management Facilities also saw a surge in materials. An increase in disposable goods, growth in online shopping, home renovations and stay-at-home orders have contributed to the increase. COVID-19 has continued to impact waste generation rates for 2021, and impacts will likely continue into 2022. These changes have been experienced in many other municipalities, including York Region. 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 20,000 tonnes of waste at the Durham York Energy Centre for the 2020 calendar year.

As the Regions 2000 to 2020 Long-Term Waste Plan met many of the goals and objectives, waste management staff began the 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.

In 2020, staff consulted with internal staff and local area municipalities, Regional Advisory Committees, and the public on the guiding principles for the Waste Plan to develop a vision statement and objectives. Information sessions were hosted virtually due to COVID-19.

With a forward-looking approach, the Region began investigating new opportunities to manage green bin material which will include a facility that can efficiently manage a growing population and an increase in material as well as opportunities to include additional materials which are currently not permitted in the Region's green bin composting program. The Region began public consultation in early 2020 for the siting of the new Mixed Waste Pre-sort and Anaerobic Digestion facility

The updated Waste Plan and the progress towards an anaerobic digestion facility will assist the Region in meeting its long-term goals in addition to ensuring we continue to meet the new and evolving regulatory requirements laid out in Ontario's Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement, Regional Climate change initiatives and the Blue Box

Program transition. In 2020, the Region achieved 63 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:

- While most waste reduction and diversion events were cancelled in 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Region did host one compost event and three truckload sales and exchange events for blue boxes and green bins.
- Curbside battery collection resulted in the collection and recycling of 48 tonnes of single use batteries.
- Exchanged 5,188 Blue Boxes, 521 kitchen food waste containers and 3,752 curbside Green Bins for new boxes, containers or bins due to damage.
- Sold 2,008 new Blue Boxes, 521 kitchen food waste containers, 3,752 curbside Green Bins and 60 backyard composters
- Responded to more than 46,000 telephone calls and almost 31,000 emails regarding waste programs.
- Over 78,000 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.
- Provided an online survey to consult with residents on the Long-Term Waste Plan.
- Hosted a virtual Waste Plan open house to over 13,600 users.
- Hosted a virtual Town Hall to over 300 participating residents.
- Placed over 1,500 radio ads and 25 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 2020 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,

**Original signed by Peter Veiga, Manager,
Waste Operations, and Acting Director, for:**

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

- c. L. McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection, 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
- J. Butchart, Issues Project Coordinator, York Durham District Office, MECP
- G. Battarino, Special Project Officer, Project Coordination, MECP
- Energy from Waste Advisory Committee (EFWAC)
- C. Raynor, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of York
- R. Walton, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham

Enclosed