

September 27, 2023

Dr. Rachael Fletcher  
Director, Central Region  
Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Place Nouveau  
5775 Yonge Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M2M 4J1

Ms. Kathleen O'Neill  
Director, Environmental Assessment Branch  
Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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 2022 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 continues to advance waste reduction, diversion and circular economy through the completed Circular Economy Roadmap and new initiatives such as the Circular Economy Working Group and Single Use Innovation Challenge. The first round of Circular Economy Fund projects were completed and seven new projects were selected and received funds of approximately \$108,000 for waste reduction projects.

The Region supports the federal action plan to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030. The Region awaits further direction from the provincial Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement to help advance Ontario's waste diversion outcomes. This includes ensuring compatibility of

compostable packaging with industrial organics processing systems like the Region's current and future contracted processors. York Region currently utilizes multiple external contractors for aerobic and anaerobic processing of its Source Separated Organics (SSO). In January 2023, York Regional council approved a 20-year contract with Convertus Group for transportation and anaerobic processing of the Region's curbside organic waste. The contract is set to commence on March 1, 2027.

York Region and its local municipal partners continue to be leaders in sustainable waste management in Ontario, achieving 94% diversion from landfill in 2022. Since 2012, the Region has ranked first in the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority's annual waste diversion for a large urban municipality category.

The Region continues to advance procurement for its long-term capacity needs for garbage with several third-party contracts. We continue to await a decision by the Ministry to advance the streamlined environmental assessment for a permit limit increase to the processing capacity at DYEC to 160,000 tonnes per year that was completed as outlined in the Environmental Screening Process and submitted in 2022. 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. Completion of the Environmental Screening Process for the Project will ensure sufficient and reliable waste disposal infrastructure is in place for the construction of additional homes within the Regions and supporting the existing and future populations.

In 2022, York Region continued to collaborate with its local municipal partners to navigate the blue box transition process. 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,



Lindsay Milne  
Director (Ag), Waste Management and Forestry Operations, Operations and Services, Public Works

LM/sf  
Attachment (1): York Region 2022 Annual Waste Management Report

Copy to: C. Dugas, Manager, York Durham District Office, Environment, Conservation and Parks  
A. Evans, 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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