



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

November 1, 2024

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 2023  
Environmental Assessment Condition of Approval #10  
MECP File #: EA-08-02**

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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 2023' (Report) for the activities and progress towards diversion during the 2023 year.

The report highlights leadership in sustainable waste management by implementing programs centered on the 5Rs of waste: Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover. These initiatives have reached over 753,000 residents, including approximately 504,000 households and multi-residential units in Durham Region. In 2023, Regional Council approved a new Long-term Waste Management Plan 2022-2040 (Waste

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Durham**

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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 2023, progress towards the 5-year Action Plan focused on short-term goals, allowing time to evaluate our efforts to date and make adjustments to the long-term goals.

The Waste Management Call Centre migrated to myDurham311 at the end of 2022. The amount of Waste App subscribers continued to increase in 2023. In 2023, various open house events, tours, and outreach opportunities were organized to engage students from kindergarten through senior year. These initiatives focused on educating and supporting sustainable waste management practices. Education and Outreach opportunities support Objective 1 of the Action Plan – Engagement and Education on the R's of waste.

The development and refinement of a textile recycling donation program and a waste audit plan were activities undertaken to support Objective 2 of the Action Plan – Reducing Waste.

Extensive planning progress towards Objective 3 of the Action Plan – Waste Diversion and support towards a circular economy occurred in 2023 as education and planning activities were drafted and prepared in advance of the Enhanced Green Bin Program and the transition of the Blue Box system in 2024. Durham Regional Council has also approved the development of a multi-residential source-separated organics program. Collaborative meetings have commenced with property managers and building owners to support and advance this initiative. The Region has made significant progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing climate change mitigation efforts. In a progressive step, contracts have been established to ensure that waste collection vehicles operate on renewable natural gas starting in 2024. This initiative works to support Objective 4 of the Action Plan – Supporting the Region's efforts towards Climate Change Mitigation.

Objective 5 of the Action Plan supports improvements to air, land, and water quality in 2023 was captured in planning efforts towards site optimization at Oshawa Waste

Management Facility, improvements to signage and barriers to accessibility at all waste management sites. Oshawa landfill site began a bio cover pilot study, with initial test results showing a 90 percent decrease in methane concentration. These early results are promising and will be carefully evaluated to determine the feasibility of a full-scale bio cover system.

In 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, continued reviewing submissions related to advancing the streamlined environmental assessment for increasing the Durham York Energy Centre's (DYEC) capacity to 160,000 tonnes per year. 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. The additional tonnage would enable the facility to operate more efficiently, reducing the need to bypass garbage over long distances to landfills or other disposal sites.

In 2023, Durham Region experienced the lowest waste generation rate per capita (163.9 kg/capita) in the last 5 years. This represents a reduction of approximately 1.3 percent compared to the 2022 per capita rate. In 2023, the DYEC processed 140,000 tonnes of garbage, while recovering approximately 3,982 tonnes of metal for recycling and generated approximately 94,866-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 as demonstrated with two independent stack emissions tests and further exhibits our commitment to sustainable waste management solutions.

In 2023, the Region continued to hold the 2022 waste reduction and diversion targets through greater participation in its programs by providing the following programs and outreach:

- Battery collection programs resulted in the collection and recycling of 121 tonnes of single use batteries.
- Diverted and safely disposed of 1,093 tonnes of municipal Hazardous and special waste.
- Diverted and recycled 421 tonnes of electronic waste.
- 13,605 new Waste App subscribers, and a total of 136,534 subscribers.

- Education programs and presentations were given in a variety of venues to over 7,000 students and participants.
- 8 Compost giveaway events days covering each municipality.
- Participation in National Public Works Week, Environmental Day Events, Earth Day Events, and Watershed Festival Events.
- Social media campaigns using Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn used to educate and engage residents on proper waste management.

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 2023 '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. Lindsay Milne Director, Waste Management and Forestry, The Regional Municipality of York  
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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