



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

November 3, 2025

Dr. Rachael Fletcher, 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 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 2024
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 2024' (Report) for the activities and progress towards diversion during the year 2024.

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 753,000 residents in Durham Region.

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

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In 2023, Regional Council approved a new Long-term Waste Management Plan 2022-2040 (Waste Plan) that describes Durham Region's vision, guiding principles, and objectives for waste management throughout the next 20-year period. 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.

Several significant program changes occurred in July 2024. The Blue Box program responsibilities transitioned to producers under the new Extended Producer Responsibility framework, and the Region launched the enhanced Green Bin program, which began accepting diapers, pet waste, menstrual and incontinence products for weekly collection. Preliminary data collected from July to December 2024 showed an 18 per cent increase in the amount of organic waste diverted from disposal compared to the same period in 2023. The Region also commenced an automated cart garbage collection pilot project during 2024, involving approximately 700 households in the Township of Scugog and the Town of Ajax. This initiative aimed to evaluate the impacts on the Region, the community, and collection contractors. Preliminary data suggests this improvement will streamline operations, enhance reliability, and better accommodate future growth. The final data review will be indicative of whether the program should be permanently rolled out to other area municipalities.

In 2024, 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.

Objective 1 of the Action Plan – Engagement and Education on the Rs of waste has continued to progress, with one goal to advance opportunities for alternative languages.

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. Audits continue to be conducted to gauge the effectiveness of the textile program as well as the Enhanced Green Bin.

Extensive planning progress towards Objective 3 of the Action Plan – Waste Diversion and Support towards a circular economy occurred in 2024, with the continued development of a multi-residential source-separated organics program. Collaborative meetings with property managers and building owners began prior to the roll-out of the program in June 2025 and will continue throughout its implementation.

The Region has made progress towards reducing greenhouse gases and climate change mitigation efforts through the development of contracts for waste collection vehicles to operate using renewable natural gas 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 2024 were 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 indicating a 90 per cent 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 2024, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, denied the elevation requests submitted for the Environmental Screening Report to increase our waste processing capacity to a maximum of 160,000 tonnes per year. This decision helped advance work towards the Environmental Compliance Approval amendment process for waste processing capacity increase to 160,000 tonnes per year.

In 2024, Durham Region experienced the lowest waste generation rate per capita (163.9 kg/capita) in the last 6 years. This amounts to a reduction of approximately 4.5 per cent compared to the 2023 per capita rate. In 2024, the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) processed 140,000 tonnes of garbage, while recovering approximately 3,577 tonnes of metal for recycling and generating approximately 113,381 megawatt hours (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 2024, the Region continued to meet waste reduction and diversion targets through expanding programs, promotion, outreach and education programs and delivering key messages through various media channels:

- Battery collection programs resulted in the collection and recycling of 113 tonnes of single-use batteries, demonstrating a decrease of 6% compared to 2023, most likely

attributed to the variety of drop-off and collection programs offered through retail programs.

- Diverted and safely disposed of 1,141 tonnes of municipal Hazardous and special waste, indicating an increase of 4.2% compared to 2023.
- Diverted and recycled 333 tonnes of electronic waste, representing a decrease of 21% compared to 2023, most likely attributed to the variety of drop-off and collection programs offered through retail programs.
- 17,792 new Waste App subscribers, and a total of 160,191 subscribers with an increase of 15% in new subscribers compared to 2023.
- 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, P.A. Day events at DYEC, 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.

Additionally, this Report has been posted on the [project website](#) (durhamyorkwaste.ca) and [public website](#) (durham.ca/waste).

The Region trusts that the 2024 '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,

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