

Inquiries – November 2020

#	Date Received	Method Received	Comment Details / Description	Response / Remedial Action	Date Responded	Staff Initials
-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Inquires received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-
1	November 9, 2020	DYEC Project Email	<p>I have seen the Passionate Eye program (Sun Nov 8 Plastic wars) on the current situation of plastic recycling.</p> <p>Basically only 10% of plastic is being recycled for a variety of reasons. Could you describe to me the Durham York centers management of plastics so that our Five County Energy From Waste Project can include this information in our presentation to the counties and municipalities.</p> <p>Our project is to convince our 5 counties to copy your energy plant. Thanking you in advance.</p> <p>Follow-Up Email (November 10, 2020)</p> <p>Thank you for your reply</p> <p>What I am really asking about is your incineration of plastics that do not go into the blue box. Clearly they are a good source of energy. Clearly your high-tech incineration is better than filling landfills. or shipping them to countries that burn them like Indonesia or dumping them into the oceans like many Asian countries. If Michigan refuses to accept Ontario waste in the future, is EFW incineration a good alternative for mixed plastics and plastics that cannot be recycled?</p> <p>Oil companies are trying to triple the manufacturing of plastics within the next 10 years.</p> <p>From an environmental point of view, how does your EFW plant rate as a solution to the problem of unrecyclable plastics?</p>	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>This email is in response to you your inquiry received on November 9, 2020 regarding plastic waste management at the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC).</p> <p>The DYEC safely processes 140,000 tonnes per year of residential garbage that remains after maximizing waste diversion programs – reducing, reusing, recycling and composting – in Durham and York Regions. This means that plastic and other designated recyclable materials are removed from the waste stream prior to arriving at the DYEC. Materials are collected from residential curbside waste programs in Durham and York and delivered to their respective Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) where they are sorted into the various material types (e.g. paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic containers, glass, etc.). Once sorted, they are ready to be sold and shipped to various companies or end markets to be recycled. What is allowed in the blue box is largely determined by the end markets that purchase the sorted blue box materials, and also by the ability of the Region's MRFs to efficiently separate and sort these materials from other packaging types.</p> <p>For more information on Durham's Blue Box collection program, visit the Blue Box collection page on the Durham Region website.</p> <p>For more information on York's Blue Box collection program, visit the Blue Box collection page on the York Region website.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any additional questions.</p>	November 10, 2020 and November 12, 2020	DL/AE/MF

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				<p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p> <p>Follow-up Response (November 12, 2020)</p> <p>You are correct, any non-recyclable component of plastic waste will come to the Durham York Energy Centre for disposal and is a good source of energy.</p> <p>Certainly, facilities with stringent environmental regulations are a better option than dumping materials anywhere in the environment or burning without adequate air pollution control systems. Air quality from all disposal activities can be a challenge. Energy from waste (EFW) facilities are required to be equipped with several forms of air pollution control equipment and monitoring devices to ensure that emissions from the facilities are limited and well understood.</p> <p>EFW is also recognized as a net reducer of greenhouse gas emissions by the Global Roundtable on Climate Change (GROCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the Kyoto Protocol and the European Union due to the following:</p> <p>Reduced methane (CH₄) emissions from landfills. The EFW process reduces the volume of residential garbage going to landfill by up to 90 per cent thereby reducing the amount of materials that would break down over time and release methane.</p> <p>Reduced carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other emissions from transportation. Local EFW facilities mean that long-haul transportation methods for shipping garbage to distant landfills are avoided hence carbon dioxide emissions are reduced.</p> <p>Reduced carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuel combustion. When a megawatt of electricity is generated by an EFW facility, carbon dioxide emissions that would have been generated by a fossil-fuel fired power plant are avoided.</p>		

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				<p>Reduced carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from metals production. Recovering metal for recycling saves energy and avoids carbon dioxide emissions that would have been emitted if raw materials were mined and new metals were manufactured.</p> <p>While energy recovery is important, the Regions are first committed to improving waste diversion rates through reduction initiatives, reuse, recycling and organic waste programs. However, some non-recyclable plastics remain after Durham and York's aggressive diversion efforts that do not currently have an alternative disposal option. The DYEC is well suited for the disposal of these non-recyclable plastics in an environmentally responsible way until an alternative option can be found. The DYEC process reduces the volume of residential garbage by up to 90 per cent. The largest portion of the end products is an inert, non-toxic bottom ash, which resembles crushed rock and can be reused as daily landfill cover material, reducing the use of soils for this purpose. The smaller portion is fly ash and lime residue which is captured in the air pollution control equipment. Fly ash is treated on site to encapsulate contaminants and also tested to ensure it is inert and non-toxic and it is disposed of in a similar manner as bottom ash. Prior to treatment, fly ash represents about 5 per cent of the total residual ash from the garbage combustion process.</p> <p>I hope this better answers your previous question. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>Regards, DYEC Project Team</p>		
2	November 19, 2020	Phone call to the DYEC Project Team	A member of the public called with an inquiry about how the Region deals with batteries, and if the DYEC receives them.	Staff explained the Region's battery collection program, including the success Durham Region has had with that program, as well as outlined how waste is visually screened as it moves through the system, and how the DYEC is able to accommodate any small quantities of batteries that remain	November 19, 2020	AE

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3	November 20, 2020	DYEC Project Email	I am currently working on the dimension; I mean by that the acre I will need for this WTE project taking in consideration that the quantity of waste to be used will vary between 2000 to 5000 ton daily.	This email is in response to your question received on November 20, 2020 regarding land size requirements for your Energy From Waste project. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide confirmation on the acreage required for your project. There are many variables that would determine size of land required such as how high the facility would be in terms of building dimensions etc., whether you will have 24/7 shipping and receiving of materials, how you will manage waste heat and so forth. The Durham York Energy Centre resides on a 12-hectare lot which was designed to accommodate up to a 400,000 tonne facility, however, we cannot confirm if that would be reflective of your facility's situation.	November 23, 2020	DL/AE
4	November 26, 2020	DYEC Project Email	Resident noted that they had accidently thrown out their laptop.	This email is in response to your email dated November 26, 2020 regarding the accidental disposal of a laptop in the waste stream. We are sorry to hear about your situation. Durham's waste collection process does not open any black bag garbage for sorting prior to disposal at this time. Your garbage bag would have been collected with numerous others before being taken to the transfer station, compacted and reloaded into 53' walking floor transport truck. From here, the garbage is transported to the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) where it is emptied into a large waste storage pit for processing through the DYEC. Typically, waste arrives at the DYEC on the same day as it was collected. We have spoken to the facility operations staff in the event that it is observed within the DYEC and they are able to recover it. Unfortunately, once waste is collected from the curb and brought the waste transfer station, it is typically not possible to locate lost or misplaced items in the garbage. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.	November 26, 2020	DL/AE

Total Inquiries – November 2020

Inquiry Type	Total by Inquiry Type
Total Project Team Inquiries received this month by project web email / telephone:	4
Total Covanta Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Call Centre Inquiries received this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from York Region this month:	0
Total Inquiries received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	23
Total Inquiries received in 2020 to-date:	27

Complaints – November 2020

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-	-	-	The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York released a Notice of Commencement on July 3, 2019 for the Environmental Screening Process to increase the waste capacity from 140,000 tonnes of waste to 160,000 tonnes of waste per year at the Durham York Energy Centre.	Complaints received through the Environmental Screening Process will be addressed and reported to the MECP through the Record of Consultation for the Project.	-	-

Total Complaints – November 2020

Complaint Type	Total by Complaint Type
Total Project Team Complaints received this month by project web email / telephone:	0
Total Covanta Complaints received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Council / Committee Complaints received this month:	0
Total Durham Region Call Centre Complaints received this month:	0
Total Complaints received from York Region this month:	0
Total Complaints received from previous months in 2020 to-date:	8
Total Complaints received in 2020 to-date:	8