

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Energy From Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 25, 2021

A meeting of the Energy From Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 25, 2021 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

1. Roll Call

Present: G. Gordon, Whitby, Chair
V. Daram, Ajax
S. Elhajjeh, Clarington
R. Fleming, Pickering
P. Haylock, Clarington, Vice-Chair
K. Meydam, Clarington
G. Rocoski, Oshawa
J. Vinson, Clarington

Absent: W. Baszytk, Brock

Non-Voting Members

Present: A. Burke, Senior Planner, Special Projects, Municipality of Clarington
M. Neild, Facility Manager, Covanta
D. San Juan, Environmental Health Specialist, Health Department, Durham Region

Staff

Present: G. Anello, Director of Waste Management Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist – Information Technology
L. Malyjasiak, Works Technician 3, Waste Services, Works Department
A. Porteous, Supervisor of Waste Services
S. Glover, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Elections

A) Election of the Chair

S. Glover, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee (EFW-WMAC).

Moved by G. Rocoski, Seconded by S. Elhajjeh,
That G. Gordon be nominated for the position of Chair of
the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory
Committee.

Moved by K. Meydam, Seconded by J. Vinson,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

S. Glover asked if G. Gordon wished to stand. G. Gordon indicated
he wished to stand.

G. Gordon was acclaimed to the position of Chair of the EFW-
WMAC.

B) Election of the Vice-Chair

S. Glover, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the position of
Vice-Chair of the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory
Committee.

Moved by K. Meydam, Seconded by J. Vinson,
That S. Elhajjeh be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair
of the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory
Committee.

S. Glover asked if S. Elhajjeh wished to stand. S. Elhajjeh indicated
he did not wish to stand.

Moved by K. Meydam, Seconded by G. Gordon,
That P. Haylock be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair
of the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory
Committee.

Moved by K. Meydam, Seconded by G. Rocoski,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

S. Glover asked if P. Haylock wished to stand. P. Haylock indicated
he wished to stand.

P. Haylock was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair of the EFW-WMAC.

G. Gordon assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by G. Rocoski, Seconded by S. Elhajjeh,
That the minutes of the EFW-WMAC meeting held on
Tuesday, March 25, 2021, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Announcements

There were no announcements.

6. Presentations

A) Angela Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Services, The Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding the Draft Waste Plan for Durham Region's Long-Term Waste Management Plan (2021-2040)

Angela Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Services, and Christine Roarke, HDR Consultant, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Draft Waste Plan for Durham Region's Long-Term Waste Management Plan (2021-2040).

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Council Approved Guiding Principles
- Council Approved Vision
- Council Approved Objectives
- Targets and Actions
- Objective 1: Engage with Residents to Build an Understanding and Awareness of the 5Rs and the Region's Waste Management Programs and Services
 - Target 1A: Increase Public Engagement on the 5Rs Through Partnerships, Increased Accessibility, and Different Media
- Objective 2: Reduce the Quantity of Waste We Create
 - Target 2A: Support Residents in Making Behavioural Changes to Reduce Food Waste
 - Target 2B: Support Residents in Making Behavioural Changes to Reduce the Amount of Waste Generated
- Objective 3: Increase Diversion of Waste from Disposal and Support the Circular Economy
 - Target 3A: Increase Diversion of Organics from Disposal

- Target 3B: Revise Waste Management By-law 46-2011 to Reflect Changes to Regional Collection and Processing Programs and Services
- Target 3C: Develop a Transition Plan that Supports EPR Programs
- Target 3D: Advocate for the Expansion of Existing EPR Programs and for Additional EPR Programs to Manage More Materials
- Objective 4: Support the Region's Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation Efforts
 - Target 4A: Develop Initiatives to Offset or Reduce GHG Emissions from Solid Waste that Contribute to Corporate GHG Emissions
- Objective 5: Protect or Improve Water, Land and Air Quality in Durham Region
 - Target 5A: Optimize the Operations of Waste Management Facilities (WMFs)
 - Target 5B: Increase Accessibility of Waste Management Programs and Services
 - Target 5C: Explore Options to Reduce Environmental Impacts of Closed Landfills and Potential for Future Community Use
- Next Steps
- Discussion – Targets and Actions

In response to a question from the Committee regarding how the EFW-WMAC could assist the Region with submitting comments to the Ministry, G. Anello advised that once the Long-Term Waste Management Plan (LTWMP) has been implemented, staff will look to the EFW-WMAC for any potential improvements to the Plan. He also advised that staff will look to the Committee for suggestions on what other waste materials might be eligible for the program. He further advised that the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) will be a stranded asset and staff will need to determine if there is another use for it.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding the amount of people that engaged with the online survey, staff advised that there were over 2,300 responses received during the month the survey was available. A. Porteous advised that staff will be bringing the LTWMP back to the September 28, 2021 EFW-WMAC meeting which will allow the Committee time to review the LTWMP in more detail.

Further discussion ensued regarding how the survey was advertised and if going forward, the EFW-WMAC could be notified when there are public consultations; and if the Committee could receive a copy of the comments from the survey. A. Porteous advised that staff will review the comments first and then most likely summarize those

comments into an information report for Council which would be available to the public.

The Committee was asked to review the LTWMP between now and the next EFW-WMAC meeting and forward any comments to G. Anello.

7. Delegations

There were no delegations.

8. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items.

9. Administrative Matters

A) Discussion on the EFW-WMAC Work Plan (2021-2022)

G. Anello advised that in recent Works Committee Report #2021-WR-2, it included areas that staff are working on which could be included in the EFW-WMAC Work Plan. These areas include organics management, expansion of the green bin program, the transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), the Long-Term Waste Management Plan, infrastructure improvements, and the Energy from Waste facility performance updates.

Discussion ensued regarding a Work Plan being drafted by G. Gordon (Chair), P. Haylock (Vice-Chair), and G. Anello, for inclusion on the September EFW-WMAC meeting agenda for the Committee's consideration.

10. Other Business

A) Update by Gioseph Anello, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Durham Region's Organics Management Project

G. Anello provided an update regarding Durham Region's Organics Management Project. He advised that Durham Region's Organics Management project will move to an anaerobic digester that would create methane biofuel which would be made into a renewable natural gas.

G. Anello advised that the mixed waste pre-sorting facility would take the contents of the black garbage bag/multi-residential waste and sort out the organics, the non-combustibles, and the recyclables. The residual waste would be taken to the Durham York Energy Centre

(DYEC). This process would divert 30,000 tonnes of waste from the DYEC. He advised that organics from that facility would be sent through two separate lines and would go through a process to turn it into a slurry, remove any plastics or grits, and then go through the anaerobic digester next (where bacterial organisms will eat away at the organics materials and create a methane gas and digestate like a nutrient rich liquid). The digestate can then be used to create an organics compost or it can be used as a liquid fertilizer.

G. Anello advised that a staff report is being presented to the Committee of the Whole and Council in June. He advised that the next steps include a Request for Proposal (RFP) that seeks a Design, Build, Operate and Maintain proponent for the facility. He further advised that the site for the mixed-waste pre-sort facility has been approved just west of the DYEC which will allow for synergies between the two facilities.

G. Anello advised of the timeline for this project and noted that staff hope to have the RFP out by the end of July, award the contract for the project in June of 2022, and then start the permitting, design and construction. He advised that operations would begin in the 2024-2025 timeframe.

B) Update by Gioseph Anello, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding Extended Producer Responsibility

G. Anello provided an update regarding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

G. Anello advised that the principle of EPR is for the producers to be 100% responsible for the collection, marketing, and repurposing of their products and packaging for their products. The goal is for the producers to make more environmentally friendly products and packaging. He advised that currently producers pay the Region 50% of the costs for the collection and processing of their products, and that it is costing municipalities between \$8-9 million a year above the revenues that are received to collect and process of the Region's recycled waste.

G. Anello responded to questions from the Committee regarding which level of government is pushing for EPR; the auditing measures that will be put in place to ensure the producers are complying with the regulations; why the local municipalities would not accept the cost of disposing of the products waste in order to reduce the cost to the residents; and who is responsible for the products that are imported.

C) Update by Gioseph Anello, Director, Waste Management Services, the Regional Municipality of Durham, regarding the Durham York Energy Centre

G. Anello provided an overview of the operations at the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC). He advised that once in-person events have resumed, he would arrange a tour of the DYEC for those who are interested.

G. Anello advised that the DYEC is jointly owned by the Regional Municipality of Durham and the Regional Municipality of York. The capacity at the DYEC is 140,000 tonnes/year of which 110,000 tonnes is for Durham's waste, and 30,000 tonnes is for York's waste. He also advised that an emergency Environmental Compliance Approval amendment request has been submitted to increase the DYEC's capacity to 160,000 tonnes for 2021. In addition, the Region is currently undertaking a streamlined Environmental Assessment to permanently increase the capacity to 160,000 tonnes per year. There are no infrastructure upgrades required and this would allow the facility to work at a more efficient rate. This would also allow the delay of expanding the DYEC for quite some time.

G. Anello advised that the facility is operated under negative pressure, where the waste is fed into two boilers that run at 1000+ celcius. He also advised that the DYEC generates approximately \$8 million a year in electrical revenue.

G. Anello advised that the Region monitors air, soil, groundwater, odour and noise at the DYEC and that to date there has not been an odour complaint associated with the operations of the DYEC.

G. Anello advised that a source stack test will occur in June and the results will be provided to the Committee. He advised that all of the results of the monitoring programs, along with the continuous emissions monitoring in real time, the source stack test reports, and the annual report that speaks to the operations at the DYEC are available on the DYEC website. He also noted that there is a report coming to the Works Committee meeting on June 2, 2021 with respect to the AMESA Long-Term Sampling Systems for dioxins and furans.

G. Anello responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the monthly AMESA results would be posted to the website; whether removing items such as the organics or metals from the waste stream would impact the total operating cost at the DYEC; whether the East Penn Battery Distribution facility beside the DYEC may benefit from the Durham Region programs; and whether the site

selection for the anaerobic digestion facility has been approved by Regional Council.

11. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EFW-WMAC will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 in Council Chambers, at 7:00 PM, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by K. Meydam, Seconded by R. Fleming,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

G. Gordon, Chair, Energy from Waste –
Waste Management Advisory Committee

S. Glover, Committee Clerk