



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING
STEERING COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

WMPSC 2-2025

Monday, April 28, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Committee Room 4

Niagara Region Headquarters

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold ON

If you are interested in viewing this meeting please contact the Office of the Regional Clerk at clerk@niagararegion.ca.

	Pages
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
2. <u>DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST</u>	
3. <u>PRESENTATIONS</u>	
3.1 <u>Waste Management Strategic Plan Update</u>	3 - 28
Blair Shoniker and Katrina McCullough, GHD Limited	
3.2 <u>Regional Contract for Residential Recycling & Waste Drop-off Depot</u>	29 - 41
Emil Prpic, Associate Director, Waste Disposal Operations & Engineering	
4. <u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
5. <u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION</u>	
6. <u>CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</u>	
6.1 <u>WMPSC-C 6-2025</u>	42 - 45
Councillor Information Requests	
7. <u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).

Niagara Region Waste Management Strategic Plan Update

Waste Management Planning Steering Committee
April 28, 2025

Dave Yousif, Manager, Waste Policy and Planning

Niagara Region Waste Management Strategic Plan Update

Waste Management Planning Steering Committee
April 28, 2025

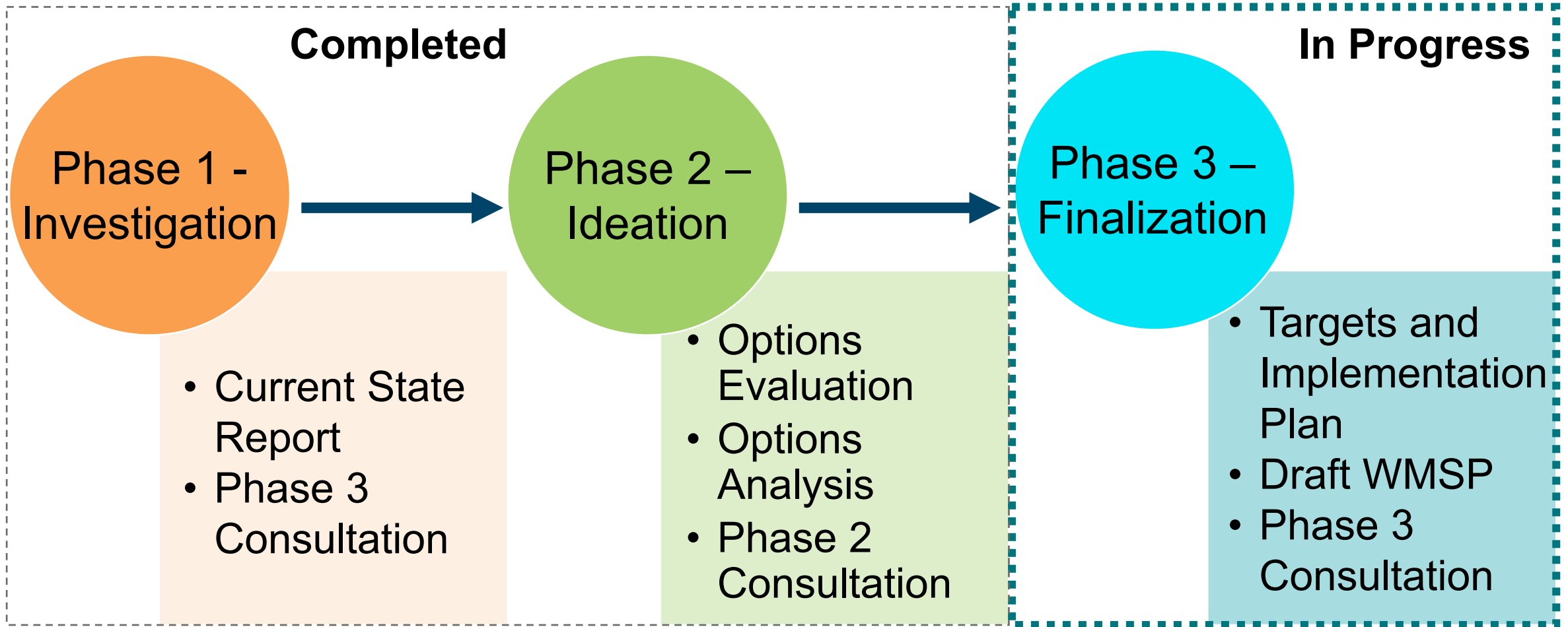
Blair Shoniker and Katrina McCullough, GHD Limited

Purpose

- Work completed since last update
- How comments have been considered
- Recommendations and targets development
- Schedule for implementation
- How feedback will be reflected in the next steps
- Share phase 3 engagement details



Strategic Plan Phases



Phase Two Public Consultation

- Surveys Returned: 1,178
- Open House Attendees: 26
- Common themes in survey responses:
 - Community in alignment with goals
 - Focus on dashboard, education, program expansion
 - Ease of participation, accessibility, affordability
- LAM Feedback:
 - Excess soils management strategy
 - Waste management in public spaces and parks
 - Population growth



Recommendations

Twenty-eight recommendations in six categories



Engagement
/ Education



Policies and
By-Laws



Reduction
/ Reuse



Collection
/ Operations



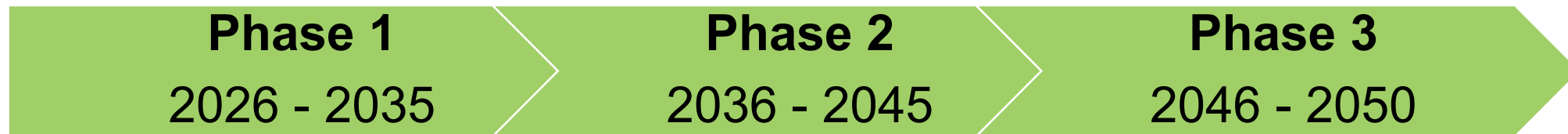
Processing
/ Disposal
Infrastructure



Innovation

Recommendations

Recommendations implemented over three phases



The WMSP and implementation progress of ongoing recommendations will be reviewed every 5 years

Recommendations (Cont'd)

A full list of recommendations with draft phasing is included in Appendix A.

Below is a subset of key recommendations:

- Explore Options for User Fee and Cost Recovery System – Depots and Landfills (2027 start)
- Explore Options for User Fee and Cost Recovery System – Collection and Diversion Program (2033 start)
- Develop Food Waste Reduction Strategy (2026 start)

Recommendations (Cont'd)

- Develop Multi-Residential Waste Reduction Strategy (2027 start)
- Review and Optimize Collection Contract (2026 start)
- Develop Public Space and Parks Strategy (2026 start)
- Develop Long-Term Disposal Strategy (2033 start)

Goals

1. Optimize waste management resources and infrastructure
2. Increase beneficial recovery of material from waste
3. Increase beneficial reuse of materials
4. Increase participation in waste management programs
5. Strive to be a zero-waste community
6. Reduce the carbon footprint of Niagara Region's waste management system

Draft Targets

- Reduce Garbage and Organics Waste Generation Rate
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Increase Organics Capture Rate
- Increase Green Bin Program Participation
- Successful Implementation of Capital Projects

Next Steps

- Finalize recommendations and phasing
- Finalize costing and resourcing requirements
- Phase Three Engagement:
 - May 26 & 29: Public Open Houses
 - May 22: LAM and Regional Staff Meeting
 - May 2 – June 6: LAM Comment Period
- Incorporate feedback and present draft Plan at Public Works Committee

Questions?



Appendix A

Recommendations Being Carried Forward in the WMSP

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Community Engagement and Outreach	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Implement Digital Public Education Incorporate public education with digital platforms (e.g., digital versions of waste guides and public diversion dashboard) to increase access.	2026		
Develop Education Centre at Waste Management Facility Partner with post-secondary institution(s) / community partners to establish educational centre, creating opportunities to collaboratively design and deliver educational programs.			TBD

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Policies & By-laws	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Develop Waste Collection Guidelines for New Developments Review / revise guidelines - mandatory design standards for waste collection and infrastructure.	2026		
Explore Options - User Fee and Cost Recovery System - Depots and Landfills Review options for cost recovery / user fees related to infrastructure.	2027		
Explore Options - User Fee and Cost Recovery System - Collection and Diversion Program Review options for cost recovery / user fees.	2033		

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Waste Reduction & Reuse	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Develop Food Waste Reduction Strategy Partner with LAMs, community-based organizations, and local businesses to prevent food waste / promote food waste prevention in the residential and IC&I sector.	2026		
Develop Multi-Residential Waste Reduction Strategy Partner with LAMs, property managers and developers, to increase diversion / reduce contamination.	2027		
Develop Single-Use Plastic Strategy Minimize use of single use plastics, aligned with Federal and Provincial regulations; may include bans on additional single use plastics not covered under Regulations.		TBD	

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Waste Reduction & Reuse (Cont'd)	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Develop Community Reduce and Reuse Programs and Initiatives Partner with local organizations/LAMs to develop reduce and reuse programs and initiatives such as a “lendery”, curbside giveaway days, repair programs.		TBD	
Develop Construction and Demolition Waste Reduction Strategy Develop guidelines for residential and or commercial developments (e.g., designing for material optimization, promoting deconstruction and reuse of materials, etc.)		TBD	

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Waste Collection & Diversion	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Conduct Waste Characterization Studies Undertake waste audits and composition studies on the garbage, recycling, and organics received at its landfills or transfer stations to help identify the quantity of waste, types of materials, diversion, and contamination rates.	2026		
Develop Public Space and Parks Strategy Focus on improving diversion and reducing litter in parks and public spaces.	2026		

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Waste Collection & Diversion (Cont'd)	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Review and Optimize Collection Contract Explore collection contract options to provide operational and financial efficiencies and support the Region's waste goals and targets, including enhancing existing enforcement efforts. May include expanding the types of materials collected curbside and reviewing container options for pick-up (e.g., carts, clear bags).	2026		

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Processing & Disposal Infrastructure	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Review Drop-off Depots Levels of Service Maximize efficiency and increase participation. This may include operational changes (e.g., adjusting operating hours), additional services (e.g., reuse spaces) and addition of a new location.	2026		
Develop Excess Soil Management Strategy Regulate and improve the management of soils currently occupying landfill space, which may consider Regional acquisition of a soils site.	2026		

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Processing & Disposal Infrastructure (Cont'd)	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Develop Long-Term Disposal Strategy Identify options to manage residual waste. This may include using alternative technologies (e.g., mixed waste processing, energy from waste, etc.), landfill expansion.	2033		
Review Feasibility for Leaf and Yard Waste Processing Facility Explore feasibility of developing a leaf and yard waste processing facility at a Region facility to provide additional in-house composting capacity.		TBD	

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Processing & Disposal Infrastructure (Cont'd)	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Shift Organics Processing from Composting to Anaerobic Digestion Transition from composting to anaerobic digestion (AD), either through development of an AD facility or contracting with an existing AD facility for organics processing.			TBD

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Innovation	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Conduct a Review of Operations Software and Maintenance Management Review operation and updating software used at various waste infrastructure facilities, and development of a maintenance management program.	2026		
Integrate Emerging Technologies for Next Collection RFP Integrate emerging technologies (e.g., smart collection technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), automated and remote technologies).	2026		

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Innovation (Cont'd)	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Conduct Study on Opportunities to Integrate with the Region's Wastewater Strategy Study the feasibility of integrating the solid waste system with the Region's wastewater strategy and consider opportunities to build upon current infrastructure and operations such as co digestion.	2030		
Contribute to Innovation Labs Partner with province, LAMs, community partners and/or private industry to support programs that develop and test new technologies focused on waste reduction, diversion and building a circular economy.			TBD

Recommendations Phasing (DRAFT)

Innovation (Cont'd)	2026-2035	2036-2045	2046-2050
Develop Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy Strategy to reduce the GHG emissions generated through the solid waste management system from the point of material extraction to end of life disposal and adapt to climate change. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• developing a plan to ensure optimized responses to address emergency events impacting communities;• developing a plan that incorporates review and planning for potential necessary infrastructure adjustments in response to the climatic stimuli and their effects.	2026		

Regional Contract for Residential Recycling and Waste Drop-off Depot

Waste Management Steering Planning Committee
April 28, 2025

Emil Prpic, Associate Director, Waste Disposal Operations & Engineering

Regional Contract for Residential Recycling & Waste Drop-off Depot

Waste Management Steering Committee
April 28, 2025

**Emil Prpic, Associate Director, Waste Disposal
Operations & Engineering**

Presentation Overview

Agenda

- Background
- Current Contract Terms & Conditions
- Available Options
- Collaborative Discussion with Walker Environmental
- Assessment of Alternative Facility Options
- Path Forward: Recommendation

Background



Closure of Glenridge Landfill (2001) –
Service gap: Niagara Falls, NOTL, St. Catharines, Thorold



Annually – 85,000 customers / 26,000 tonnes



2001 –agreement with Walker Environmental Group (WEG) - build / operate drop-off depot in Thorold



Material - household waste, construction mats, soils, leaf & yard waste, electronics, blue / grey box materials

Current Contract Terms & Conditions

Contract Terms






- Term 1: 2001 – 2011
- Term 2: 2011 – 2020
- Term 2 Ext. – Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2025







Conditions

- WEG's Responsibility - Operations & maintenance, capital upgrades
- Region's Obligation - Supply of blue/grey box bins, education & promotion for drop-off depot
- WEG Tipping Fees - Region approved, CPI provision
- Royalty - Region receives 4% of gross revenues – ~\$140K (2024)





Available Options - Renegotiation

	Contract Management, Maintain Cost Control + Revenue
	Addresses Geographic Service Gap
	Service Continuity, Maintains Operational Stability
	Non-alignment with Region Diversion Programs i.e. Less Extensive
	Physical Site Challenges + Constraints

Available Options - Tender

	Pricing Potential for Competitive Pricing (Not Guaranteed)
	Uncertainty in Vendor Response – Risk of Receiving No Bids, Less Favourable Contract Terms
	Customer Considerations - Requires Proactive Communication & Planning to Manage Customer Adjustments
	Operational & Strategic Impact – May Introduce Service Level Changes or Require Additional Time to Implement

Available Options – No Contract

	No Contract Management Requirements
	Service Gaps and Disruption May Lead to Complaints, Dumping
	Customers – Remove Cost Certainty, Lack of Service Standards
	Revenue Loss for Niagara Region

Discussions w. Walker Environmental

Key Points

- Five-year extension with possible ext. options
- Capital investment required by WEG ~\$1.32M
 - Bins, new loader, pushwalls + railings, road grading, scales
- Tip fee increase
 - 2026 - \$10 increase (\$140.55/tonne), min. fee unchanged (\$10/70Kg)
 - \$1.83 increase to average residential customer
- Region to review / approve annual CPI increase
- Region royalty payment maintained at 4% of gross revenues

Assessment of Alternate Facilities

Reviewed Available Alternate Facilities

- Limited facility options within geographic area
- Options not designed for volume of residential customers
- Will require up to 24 months to reconfigure

Recommendation

Finalize New Contract with WEG

- Established Long-Term Contract – proven history of quality service
- Strong Performance – consistently meets or exceeds expectations
- Trusted Partnership – demonstrated collaboration & commitment
- Financial & Contractual Considerations – customer cost control & revenue generation, maintain Terms & Conditions
- Ensures service continuity
- Creates opportunity for a strategic review to assess our future needs

Next Steps

- Report to Public Works Committee in July 2025
- Pending Council approval, finalize new agreement with WEG

Thank You

Memorandum

WMPSC-C 6-2025

Subject: Councillor Information Requests

Date: April 28, 2025

To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

From: Catherine Habermebl, Director, Waste Management Services

This memorandum is intended to provide Committee members with an update on the outstanding Councillor Requests from previous meetings.

Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

Meeting Date: February 24, 2024

Minute Item #7.1: Councillor Foster requested information on the types of materials that are being illegally dumped.

Follow-up Action: Based on the 2024 material composition data, the top five material categories for illegally dumped materials, in order of ranking, are: mixed residential and commercial waste, large household items, construction/renovation materials, and contained materials in garbage and recycling bags.

Status: Complete

Meeting Date: December 9, 2024

Minute Item #5.1: Councillor Ugolini requested additional options for August 25, 2025 meeting date, due to scheduling conflicts with Committee members.

Follow-up Action: In consultation with the Committee Chair, it was decided to cancel the August 2025 WMPSC meeting due to current schedule conflicts.

Status: Complete

Public Works Committee

Meeting Date: March 4, 2025

Minute Item #6.1: Councillor Whalen requested estimated cost of the enhanced recycling service for each local area municipality.

Follow-up Action: On April 1, 2025, staff provided estimated costs to the Town of Grimsby, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines, and Thorold. Additional details regarding recycling collection services for non-eligible sources will be presented to the Public Works Committee in June 2025 for further review and consideration.

Status: Complete

Meeting Date: January 7, 2025

Minute Item #4.1: Councillor Huson requested staff consider Regional statistics from Circular Materials Ontario respecting the blue box program.

Follow-up Action: Staff contacted the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) to obtain this information. Once the information is received, staff will report back to the Public Works Committee.

Status: Complete

Meeting Date: September 10, 2024

Minute Item #4.1: Councillor Huson requested staff consider funding options that are available for waste management through the Green Municipal Fund.

Follow-up Action: Green Municipal funding will be explored during the Waste Management Strategic Plan process.

Status: In Progress

Meeting Date: January 11, 2022

Minute Item #5.2: Councillor Heit requested information respecting the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario Committee strategic plan regarding waste management information sharing between municipalities.

Follow-up Action: The Regional Public Works Commissioner of Ontario Committee is updating their strategic plan in 2025. Once this plan is available publicly, a copy will be provided to Councillors.

Status: In Progress

Budget Review Committee of the Whole

No outstanding waste management related items at this time.

Committee of the Whole

No outstanding waste management related items at this time.

Council

No outstanding waste management related items at this time.

Completed Items**Waste Management Planning Steering Committee****Meeting Date: December 9, 2024**

Minute Item #6.1: Councillor Rigby requested a detailed list of items collected through Niagara Region Waste Management programs following changes to provincial regulations.

Follow-up Action: Information pertaining to this Councillor request will be included in memo WMPSC-C 4-2025 - Items Collected at Niagara Region Site Under the Extended Producer Responsibility Programs, which will be presented to the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee on February 24, 2025.

Status: Complete

Minute Item #6.1: Councillor Foster requested the current balances of the Waste Management Reserve Funds

Follow-up Action: As reported in the 2024 Q3 Financial update, the Waste Management Reserve balances are as follows as at September 30, 2024 (shown in thousands of dollars):

- Waste Management Capital Reserve \$24,557
- Waste Management Stabilization Reserve \$7,701
- Landfill Liability \$3,319

Updated reserve balances, pending councils' approval on the recommended reserve transfers, will be presented as part of the Q4 financial update at Corporate Services Committee in March 2025.

Status: Complete

Meeting Date: August 27, 2024

Minute Item #3.1: Councillor Witteveen requested to revisit proposed tip fee rate for contaminated soil deposits in landfills and consider implications of charging at the proposed general waste tip fee rate.

Follow-up Action: Rate adjusted and has been submitted as part of the User Fee By-Law which will be considered by Council on December 12, 2024.

Status: Complete

Minute Item #3.1: Councillor Foster requested to revisit the proposed minimum tip fee rate and the implications of increasing this rate further to better reflect costs.

Follow-up Action: Rate adjusted and has been submitted as part of the User Fee By-Law which will be considered by Council on December 12, 2024.

Status: Complete

Public Works Committee

Meeting Date: September 10, 2024

Minute Item #8.1: Councillor Bateman requested information respecting ways to expedite cleanup of waste materials and receptacles left at the curb following collection and options to manage repeat offenders.

Follow-up Action: Waste Management By-Law Enforcement memo submitted to Council Weekly Correspondence Distribution on October 11, 2024. (CWCD 2024-168)

Status: Complete

Meeting Date: June 11, 2024 Closed Session

Minute Item #1.1: Councillor Bateman requested the circulation of the letter distributed by Chair Bradley respecting Producer Responsibility

Status: Complete

Minute Item #1.1: Councillor Witteveen requested the number of Municipalities that have chosen to provide recycling collection to non-eligible sources.

Status: Complete

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Catherine Habermehl
Director, Waste Management Services