

Appendix B: Summary of Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement and Proposed Amendments

Section	Status	Policy Statement Element	Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement	Examples How Niagara Region Aligns or Plans to Align
1.0	No change	Ontario Food Recovery Hierarchy	<p>Supports an Ontario Food Recovery Hierarchy in order to prioritize the highest and best use of our food resources in Ontario.</p> <p>Consists of the following steps in order of importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reduce: prevent or reduce <i>food and organic waste</i> at the source. ii. Feed People: safely rescue and redirect surplus food before it becomes waste. iii. Recover Resources: recover <i>food and organic waste</i> to develop end-products for a <i>beneficial use</i>. 	<p>The hierarchy will be considered when implementing the Framework in Niagara.</p> <p>Niagara Region is a participating member of the Ontario Food Collaborative (OFC) which mission is to bring together stakeholders to take a holistic food system approach in supporting individuals and families to eat well and prevent avoidable food waste.</p> <p>Niagara Region collects food and organic waste through the Green Bin/Cart and leaf and yard waste which is processed at the Walker Environmental composting facility which is turned into compost.</p>

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2.0	New	Flexibility in meeting direction provided.	Added wording to clarify that the Policy Statement is an outcome based tool that provides entities with flexibility in meeting direction provided as they work towards achieving their outcomes including targets.	Niagara Region will leverage the flexibility provided by the province.
2.1	No change	Target for municipalities with curbside collection of source separated food and organic waste	Niagara Region's target would be set at 70 per cent waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste generated by low density residential dwellings (referred to as single family in the Framework) by 2023.	Currently, Niagara Region provides curbside food and organics collection service to low density residential properties and the participation rate prior to implementation of every-other-week garbage collection was estimated to be around 48%. The implementation of every-other-week garbage is a mechanism to achieve this target along with other food waste avoidance and other reduction initiatives. participation is estimated
2.1	No change	Target for multi-residential buildings and IC&I facilities	Multi-residential buildings have a target of 50 per cent waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste generated at the building by 2025	Niagara Region currently provides curbside food and organic waste collection through the Green Bin/Green Cart program to

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			<p>IC&I facilities subject to O.Reg 103/94 that generate more than 300 Kg of food and organic waste per week- target of 70 per cent waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste generated in the facility by 2025</p> <p>IC&I facilities not subject to O.Reg103/94 that generate more than 300 Kg of food and organic waste per week- target of 50 per cent waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste generated in the facility by 2025</p>	multi-residential buildings and to small-medium sized IC&I properties.
2.3 and 2.4	Change to material list	Mandatory material ('shall')	<p>There are proposed changes to the types of material that count towards targets.</p> <p>The words 'organic waste' have been replaced with 'inedible parts of plants and animals'. Pet food waste has been added. Soiled paper has been removed. New text is underlined.</p> <p>The list now includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food waste; • <u>Inedible parts of plants and animals</u> resulting from food preparation; • <u>Pet food waste</u>; • Leaf and yard waste; 	Niagara Region provides year round curbside collection of food waste including inedible parts of plants and animals resulting from food preparation, pet food waste, leaf and yard waste, flowers and houseplants and seasonal collection of outdoor waste (i.e. branches) occurs twice per year. Christmas trees are collected one week per

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal outdoor waste; Flowers and Houseplants. 	year on residents' collection day.
2.5	Change to material list	Optional material ('should')	<p>Section 2.5 previously listed organic waste materials that entities were 'encouraged' to make waste reduction and resource recovery efforts to achieve their target. This language has been updated to 'should'.</p> <p>This list previous consisted of 'personal hygiene wastes'. This has been removed and the list is now as follows (new text underlined):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Soiled paper including paper towels, tissues, and napkins;</u> <u>Organic waste that results from the preparation of coffee and tea; including tea bags, coffee filters, and certified compostable coffee pods;</u> <u>Soiled paper food packaging including soiled pizza boxes, flour bags, sugar bags, microwave popcorn bags, paper takeout containers, and paper ice cream boxes;</u> <u>Wooden chopsticks, stir sticks, and toothpicks;</u> <u>Certified compostable bags that are used to contain food and organic waste.</u> 	Niagara Region collects paper towels, tissues and napkins, tea bags, coffee filters, soiled pizza boxes, paper flour and sugar bags, paper microwaveable popcorn bags, paper drink trays, paper take-out containers, paper plates, egg cartons, wooden chopsticks, stir sticks and toothpicks in the Green Bin/Cart. Residents are permitted to use certified compostable bags to contain their food and organic waste in the Green Bin/Cart. Compostable coffee pods are currently not compatible with our composting technology, and do not breakdown in a typical municipal composting facility.

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2.6	Change to material list	Optional material ('encouraged')	<p>The list of materials that entities are 'encouraged' to make waste reduction and resource recovery efforts has been revised.</p> <p>Shredded paper, paper fibre products and pet foods and waste have been removed. The list is now as follows (new text underlined):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Pet waste including animal bedding, cat litter and dog feces</u> • <u>Sanitary and hygiene product waste such as diapers, incontinence products and feminine hygiene products</u> • <u>Certified compostable products and packaging not captured under policy 2.5.</u> 	<p>Pet waste is currently accepted in Niagara Region's Green Bin/Cart program. Personal hygiene waste, sanitary products and certain compostable packaging are currently not compatible with our composting technology, and do not breakdown in a typical municipal composting facility.</p>
2.7	No change	Means of achieving targets	<p>The targets referred to in policy 2.1 shall be achieved through waste reduction activities and resource recovery activities, relating to one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The prevention or reduction of food and organic waste at the source. The safe rescue and redirection of surplus food before it becomes waste. The recovery of food and organic waste to develop end-products for a beneficial use. 	<p>Niagara Region recovers food and organic waste via the Green Bin/Cart program and leaf and yard waste collection. Organics processed at Regional landfill sites and through a contract with Walker Environmental are processed into compost.</p> <p>Niagara Region is a participating member of the OFC which includes the</p>

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				objective to prevent avoidable food waste.
2.9	New Section	Timeline for targets	Persons and entities subject to policy 2.1 shall continue to meet their target after the dates set out policy 2.1.	Currently, Niagara Region provides curbside food and organics collection service to low density residential properties and prior to the implementation of the every other week garbage collection, the participation rate in the Green Bin program was around 48%. The 70 percent target could be achieved through the implementation of every-other-week garage collection, food waste avoidance and other reduction initiatives.
2.10	New Section	Public notice of results	Persons and entities subject to policy 2.1 should make the results of their <i>waste reduction</i> and <i>resource recovery</i> activities listed under policy 2.7 publicly available on a website, which could include making the results publicly available through an industry, municipal, or institutional organization or association website.	Niagara Region will make results of their waste reduction and resource activities public through reports and/or information posted on Niagara Region's website.

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5	New wording	Promote changes in current processing technology over time to move towards effective management of compostable products and packaging.	The province recognizes that the current food and organic waste processing infrastructure built, maintained and operated by municipalities and other owners and operators of resource recovery systems was built primarily to handle and recover nutrients and energy from food and organic waste. However, new ways of thinking are required in order to help ensure compostable products and packaging are recovered rather than sent to landfill. As a result, changes in current processing technology is needed over time as we move towards the effective management of compostable products and packaging in Ontario.	Niagara Region regularly monitors and reports information to Committee/Council on alternative waste management technologies. The upcoming Waste Management Services Strategic Plan will build upon the research already completed and do a further review of alternative technologies including those for organic waste.
5.2	New Section	Encourage municipalities and owners or operators to support use of pilot projects and research on processing	Municipalities and owners and operators of resource recovery systems that process food and organic waste, and persons or entities that are brand holders of or market compostable products and packaging, should support pilot projects and research on the processing of compostable products and packaging in order to maximize resource recovery and minimize contamination resulting from the recovery of compostable products and packaging.	Niagara Region currently has a contract with Walker Environmental to compost organic waste and they have participated in pilot studies in the past for compostable products and packaging; however, it is at the discretion of the Walker Environmental.
5.3	Change to wording	Encourage municipalities and owners or operators	Municipalities and owners and operators of resource recovery systems that process food and organic waste, are encouraged to support	Niagara Region has a contract to process organic waste with Walker

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		to examine feasibility of updating existing technology	new <u>examine the feasibility of updating existing processing technology and innovation to recover</u> maximize the diversion of compostable products and packaging <u>and minimize contamination resulting from the recovery of compostable products and packaging.</u>	Environmental until April 1, 2029 via windrow and using GORE™ technology and certain compostable packaging are currently not compatible with their composting technology. There are currently no plans or provisions in the contract to change or update the existing processing technology.
5.4	New Section	Encourage municipalities and owners or operators to consider adopting technology to collect and process food and organic waste when planning for new technology	A municipality or owner or operator of a resource recovery system that processes food and organic waste, that is planning for new processing technology or expanding capacity, is encouraged to consider adopting technology that is capable of collecting and processing compostable products and packaging in their system.	As stated above, Niagara Region regularly monitors new alternative waste management technologies including those for organic waste and a further review will be completed as part of the Waste Management Services Strategic Plan. This review will assist in planning for future processing of materials such as organics when the contract with Walker Environmental expires.
	No Change	Other key policies with no proposed	Policies that direct municipalities to:	Niagara Region will develop promotion and education

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		amendments. WMPSC-C 28-2018 contains a more detail summary of all policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement their own promotion and education programs aimed at preventing food waste; • Maintain existing municipal curbside collection services of source separated food and organic waste for the low density residential sector; • Ensure all collected food and organic waste is sent for resource recovery; • Ensure that approvals for new or expanded resource recovery systems address the D- series Land Use Compatibility Guidelines and Ontario's Compost Quality Standards and Guideline <p>Policies that encourages municipalities to implement the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue regional approaches to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -facilitate effective collection of food and organic waste from urban settlements -address food and organic waste resource recovery capacity needs with a regional approach, including supporting resource recovery systems that build economies of scale for food and organic waste processing; 	<p>programs aimed at preventing food waste by leveraging work completed through the OFC and other initiatives.</p> <p>Niagara Region provides the required curbside collection of source separated food and organic waste to low density residential properties and has expanded the service to eligible multi-residential, mixed-use properties and small-medium IC&I properties.</p> <p>Planning and Development Services are aware of the Policy Statement.</p> <p>Organics processed at Regional landfill sites and through a contract with Walker Environmental are processed into compost.</p> <p>Niagara Region provides a regional approach to the food and organic waste collection from all twelve</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with other levels of government to facilitate timely approvals for new resource recovery systems; • Ensure that their official plans, zoning by-laws, plan of subdivision approvals and site plan support the resource recovery of food and organic waste for their residents; • Protect existing and planned resource recovery systems from incompatible uses and plan for new systems, where appropriate, to meet projected needs; • Plan for the management and beneficial use of biosolids, including considering new and enhanced processing technologies and co-management practices that support volume minimization and nutrient recovery; • Encourage the use of compost, digestate and other soil amendments; • Provide promotion and education materials to residents that support and increase participation in resource recovery efforts available to residents of their community; 	<p>local area municipalities, as it assumed jurisdiction for waste management in 1996.</p> <p>Staff will support Planning and Development Services in the development of Niagara Region's Official Plan where connections exist, an example of which is having a Waste Management staff member participate in the internal climate change working group.</p> <p>Niagara Region evaluates projected tonnage requirements annually to determine ability of existing system/contract to accommodate future needs.</p> <p>Niagara Region does not utilize wastewater infrastructure to process source separated food waste.</p> <p>When reviewing existing policies and procedures,</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish performance indicators to monitor the implementation of the policies in their official plans. 	<p>Niagara Region will consider the use of compost in upcoming work.</p> <p>Niagara Region utilizes performance indicators to measure and monitor the performance of policies. Indicators may include, but are not limited to tonnages, participation rates, surveys, etc.</p>