

Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities: Discussion Paper

Public Work Committee

April 16, 2019

Niagara Region

A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan

- A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan was released on November 29, 2018 with a 60 day review period
- Niagara Region's response incorporated input from Planning and Development Services, Public Works, Public Health and Emergency Services, and some Local Area Municipalities
- The plan focused on:
 - Protecting our Air, Lakes and Rivers
 - Addressing Climate Change
 - Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities & Keeping Our Land and Soil Clean
 - Conserving Land and Greenspace

Niagara Region

Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities: Discussion Paper

- Delivering on the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan
- Offers commitments aimed at reducing litter and waste including:
 - Reducing and diverting food and organic waste from households and businesses
 - Reducing plastic waste
 - Reducing litter in our neighbourhoods and parks
 - Increasing opportunities for the people of Ontario to participate in waste reduction efforts
- The paper asks a number of questions for which Waste Management staff have coordinated a response

Section 2.1 Prevent and Reduce Litter in Neighbourhoods and Parks

- Partner with local organizations and LAMs
- Anti-litter campaign
- Hotspots
 - Highway on/off ramps and medians
 - Cigarette butts in parking areas and spaces around public buildings
 - Subdivision streets that act as wind tunnels
 - Hydro corridors with fencing
 - School yards
- Problematic materials
 - Coffee cups
 - Cigarette butts
 - Fast food packaging
 - Syringes

Section 2.2 Increase Opportunities for Ontarians to Reduce Waste

- Extend producer responsibility to all sectors including Multi-Residential and ICI with mandatory diversion programs
- Consistent approach for materials accepted in the Blue Box Program, as part of change over to producer responsibility
- Broadening the list of obligated materials and designating all packaging
- Support RPWCO's position to streamline processes for data collection
- Provincial textile diversion program

Section 2.3 Make Producers Responsible for their Waste

- Previous support for producer responsibility continues to apply
- Transition must address municipal contract implications, assets, service standards, roles, funding, etc.
- Consumer convenience should be maintained or improved, and access to existing services should not be negatively impacted
- Designated materials should be banned from disposal after waste diversion plans are in place and when a viable alternative to disposal exists
- List of obligated materials should be expanded

Section 2.4 Reduce Food and Organic Waste

- There is a need to involve experts in development of food safety guidelines to support safe donation
- Preferred focus is on prevention of waste
- The ICI sector could potentially achieve better diversion rates through policies that reduce risk to retailers donating food and incentives to reduce food waste at the producer/retail level
- Bans are supported and program should be expanded to include compostable packaging and other materials
- Targets and planning considerations

Section 2.5 Reduce Plastic Waste Going into Landfills or Waterways

- Focus on reduction and reuse
- Eliminate the use of problematic products and packaging (e.g. micro-plastics),
- Reduce consumer and industrial use of single-use plastics and promote design for the environment
- Shift to full producer responsibility and set targets for packaging including plastic
- Support public education and programs to encourage choosing reusable alternatives over plastic

Section 2.6 Provide Clear Rules for Compostables

- Legislation and policies should ensure producers are responsible for all packaging, including compostable, to ensure the problem is not shifted to a new stream
- Costs and tonnage processing requirements are a concern for Municipalities who currently absorb all costs
- Additional capacity will be required in future to accommodate tonnages
- Standards are required to reduce resident confusion and decrease level of contamination

Section 2.7 Recover the Value of Resources

- Incentives to promote waste reduction (avoid waste generation) followed by reuse and recycling/composting are priority
- Assessments needed to demonstrate the highest value end use and appropriate processing technology for various materials
- Niagara Region has previously responded to EBR postings on soil management
- Soil must be beneficially reused from construction projects where possible
- Provincial framework for development of Excess Soil Management Plans (ESMP) would benefit municipalities

Section 2.8 Support Competitive and Sustainable End-Markets

- Past reports have flagged instability of offshore markets pricing and requirements for cleaner, uncontaminated materials
- Modernize environmental approval processes to ensure infrastructure and capacity is available for processing divertable materials
- Development and retention of recycling end markets in Ontario
- Funding for waste processing infrastructure to allow for better sorting and processing of material

Questions ?