

# Niagara Region Waste Management Strategic Plan Update

Public Works Committee Meeting  
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# Purpose

- A follow-up to the June 24<sup>th</sup> WMPSC/PWC workshop to:
  - Update on work completed to date
  - Explain how the ‘future thinking’ comments received by interested parties and Council were incorporated
  - Provide the long list of options currently under consideration (WMPSC-C 7-2024 Appendix 2)
  - Share information in advance of future engagement activities
  - How additional feedback is will be reflected into the next steps

# Agenda

- Mission, vision and goals for the Waste Management Strategic Plan
- Update on the development of goals, options and their categories
- Evaluation of options
- Phase Two engagement

## **Mission**

We provide fiscally responsible waste management and resource recovery services to meet the needs of the community and promote environmental sustainability.

## **Vision**

Leading the way in sustainable and innovative waste management services, to support a thriving community for generations to come.

# Goals

**Optimize waste management resources and infrastructure**

**Increase beneficial recovery of material from waste**

**Increase beneficial reuse of materials**

**Increase participation in waste management programs**

**Strive to be a zero-waste community**

**Reduce the carbon footprint of Niagara Region's waste management system**

# Generation of Options

The initial long list of options was developed based on:

- Current State of Waste Management: Including existing policies, programs and contracts
- Regulatory Framework: Current requirements and anticipated changes
- Input from Interested Parties: Engagement, including the public, members of Council, Region staff, LAM's
- Jurisdictional Scan: Other jurisdictions and industry best practices

# Options to Achieve Waste Management Goals

## Seven categories of focus



Waste Reduction and Reuse



Community Engagement and Education



Policies and By-Laws



Waste Collection and Operations



Drop-off Depots



Processing and Disposal Infrastructure



Innovation

# Preliminary Evaluation of Options

The evaluation of options:

- Categorized long list of options
- Screening questions applied to determine if options should be carried forward or evaluated further
- Triple Bottom Line analysis used to identify additional options that should be carried forward or deferred
- Identified a short list of options to be refined and further evaluated



# Short List of Options

- Short list of options to be refined and evaluated further
- Plan has a long-term outlook (20-25 years); not all options will be implemented in the short-term
- First iteration of the Plan will focus on the implementation of options over the first 5 years
- Shortlisted options will be reviewed for service levels and operating/capital planning requirements
- Some options may be deferred based on cost and timing.

# Phase Two Engagement – Next Steps

## Phase 2

- Sept – Oct 2024: Public and local municipal consultation on recommendations
  - Online public survey
  - Two online public open houses
  - Comment period for LAMs to provide feedback

## Phase 3

- Q4 2024/Q1 2025: Draft WMSP
- Q1/Q2 2025: Consultation on draft WMSP and finalization

# Thank you!

## Questions?

- For more information, please visit

[Niagara Region's Waste Management Strategic Plan](#)

**([niagararegion.ca/future-of-waste](http://niagararegion.ca/future-of-waste))**

# Attachment

Options by Category

# Waste Reduction and Reuse

- Repair programs and initiatives such as repair cafés, where you can learn to repair your own items to increase their lifespan
- Reuse programs like the Broken Spoke bicycle program, and others such as a lendery, where you can borrow different items for free and return them when you're finished using them, free markets, curbside give-away days
- Food waste reduction initiatives
- Initiatives to divert more waste in apartment and condo buildings
- Initiatives to reduce single use plastic
- Grants and funding for community-led waste reduction programs
- Rewards and recognition programs

# Community Engagement and Education

- Prioritize digital communication
- An education centre, potentially at a waste management facility
- Dashboard on Niagara Region's website showing our progress on waste management goals
- Building partnerships with local community organizations to help promote sustainable waste management

# Policies and By-Laws

- Options for User Fee and Cost Recovery (full or partial)
- Enhanced enforcement program (i.e. green bin participation)
- Modification to existing waste collection guidelines for new developments
- Review and revise Service Level Agreements with LAMs
- Provincial Advocacy campaigns, particularly around EPR (post-transition), landfill ban of organics, and ICI diversion targets

# Waste Collection and Operations

- Collect additional materials at the curb such as textiles
- Improve collection infrastructure in apartments and condo buildings
- Provide more guidance for developers and property managers for higher-density developments and multi-residential buildings
- Consider new options for curbside collection such as carts and/or clear bags
- Collaborate with Local Area Municipalities to increase waste diversion in parks, public spaces and downtown areas



# Drop-off Depots

- Automated technologies to improve the efficiency of operations at drop-off depots
- Expand reuse centres within drop-off depots by expanding the materials accepted and/or available at more sites
- Offer more services at drop-off depots, such as compost pickup and green bin pickup
- Add new drop-off depot locations
- Drop-off depots that are open only for residents and businesses
- Review service levels at drop-off depots, such as opening hours

# Waste Processing and Disposal

- Construct new facilities to capture more material such as a mixed waste processing facility
- Shift Organics processing from composting to anaerobic digestion
- Develop a leaf and yard waste processing facility
- Undertake landfill mining at existing regional landfills to remove future liabilities
- Review waste management infrastructure for potential adjustments in response to climate change (adaptation)

# Innovation

- Scale-house software review to improve data collection
- Dispose of residual waste using alternative technology, including thermal treatment and/or mechanical biological treatment
- Smart-collection technologies such as radio frequency identification tags, GPS, and smart bins to track things like missed collections and contamination rates at a household level
- Opportunities to integrate with the Region's wastewater strategy, such as co-digestion
- AI advancement and Innovation Labs – partnering with academic institutions