

Memorandum

WMPSC-C 8-2024

Subject: Walker Environmental Residential Waste and Recycling Drop-off Depot Agreement

Date: August 27, 2024

To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

From: Emil Prpic, Associate Director, Waste Disposal Operations & Engineering

Purpose

This memorandum is to inform members of the Waste Management Planning and Steering Committee that the current agreement with Walker Environmental Group Inc. (WEG) for the operation of the Residential Waste and Recycling Drop-off Depot is expiring on December 31, 2025. Additionally, the memorandum outlines next steps.

Background

In 2001, Niagara Region entered into an agreement with WEG to construct and operate a residential waste and recycling drop-off depot. WEG constructed the residential waste and recycling drop-off depot at their Townline Road property on the border of Niagara Falls and Thorold. This location was selected to fill a service gap following the closure of the Glenridge Landfill at the end of 2001. WEG's residential waste and recycling drop-off depot services primarily residents from Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines and Thorold.

Every year, approximately 85,000 customers drop off 26,000 tonnes of material comprised of household waste, construction and demolition materials, electronics, soils, leaf and yard waste and blue / grey box materials. There is no charge to dispose of recyclable materials while a tipping fee is applied for the disposal of waste materials.

The contract with WEG expires on December 31, 2025 with no further extensions included. Staff have begun reviewing options for the operation of a residential waste and recycling drop-off depot in that area of Niagara region.

Operations Agreement

Under the terms of the agreement, WEG manages all aspects of the operation including customer service, capital upgrades and maintenance. Niagara Region receives 4% of

all gross revenues, which was approximately \$140,000 in 2023. Minor costs incurred by Niagara Region through this agreement are partially offset by revenues. Niagara Region is required to provide carts and/or bins for the receipt of recyclable materials, and to recognize WEG's facility as part of Niagara Region's Solid Waste Management System, including signage and advertising / communications.

Next Steps

With the contract expiring, staff have begun reviewing options for a residential waste and recycling drop-off depot to continue to service this area. The review includes assessing need, conducting a scan of private sector depots and service providers and performing a cost-benefit analysis. Staff also engaged in initial conversations with WEG to better understand their future direction regarding the operation of the residential waste and recycling drop-off depot. The results of the review will be provided to this Committee, expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Emil Prpic
Associate Director, Waste Disposal Operations & Engineering