
Memorandum

WMPSC-C 1-2026

Subject: W2RO 2025 State of Waste in Ontario - Landfill Report

Date: April 27, 2026

To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

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

This memorandum provides Committee members with an update on Waste To Resource Ontario's (W2RO) 2025 State of Waste in Ontario - Landfill Report, focusing on waste generation and the status of landfills in Ontario.

Background

W2RO (formerly the Ontario Waste Management Association, or OWMA) is Canada's largest waste and resource management trade association, representing both private and public sector members. Over the past nine years, W2RO has published a number of State of Waste reports, with the most recent prior release in 2021. The 2025 edition marks the fourth report in the series. These reports assess Ontario's remaining landfill capacity to support more informed policy decisions for the waste management sector. Previous editions of this report have been used by W2RO to inform the Province of Ontario about the growing importance of increasing waste diversion in order to preserve remaining landfill capacity and support long-term disposal planning.

2025 Report Findings

The W2RO 2025 State of Waste in Ontario - Landfill Report, (the Report) is based on 2024 data and focuses on two key factors – the amount of waste generated in Ontario and remaining available landfill capacity in the province based on current practices.

In 2024, Ontario generated 16.88 million tonnes of waste, of which 12.75 million tonnes were landfilled. About 73% (9.3 million tonnes) remained in Ontario, while 27% (3.4 million tonnes) was exported to U.S. landfills, mainly in Michigan.

Ontario has 125.61 million tonnes of approved landfill capacity remaining, with 57% concentrated in just seven sites (three public and four private). As of the end of 2024, municipal landfills hold 62 million tonnes (49.5% of remaining capacity), typically restricted to waste acceptance from within their own municipalities. Private sector landfills contain slightly more capacity at 63.4 million tonnes (50.5% of remaining

capacity), increasingly accepting municipal residential waste as municipalities look to extend their landfill sites or no longer have their own landfill capacity.

Since the 2021 W2RO report, Ontario's waste generation has increased by 17% and landfilling by 10%, while available landfill capacity has fallen by 18% increasing pressure on the disposal system. At current export levels, Ontario's landfill capacity will be exhausted by 2037, or as early as 2034 if U.S. access is restricted. Table 1 provides a comparison of the last three reports.

Table 1. Ontario State of Waste Report Comparison

Report Year	Annual Waste Landfilled Provincially (millions of tonnes)	Remaining Provincial Landfill Capacity (years)*	Waste Exported to U.S. Provincially (%)	Municipal vs. Private Remaining Landfill Capacity (%)
2018	11.50	22	30%	Municipal 40% / Private 60%
2021	11.99	18	27%	Municipal 38% / Private 62%
2025	12.75	12	27%	Municipal 35% / Private 65%

Notes

*Assumes waste export continue at same rate.

As shown in Table 1, between 2018 and 2025 Ontario landfilled an additional 1.25 million tonnes of waste per year, while remaining landfill capacity declined by approximately ten years over the same period. During this time, the province's dependence on private landfills has increased, with these sites now handling nearly two-thirds of Ontario's disposal needs.

Status Of Niagara Region's Capacity

Through operational best practices, use of alternative daily cover materials, strong diversion programs, and the transfer of a portion of waste to a private third-party landfill, Niagara Region is well positioned in terms of landfill capacity at its two operating municipally owned sites: Humberstone in Welland and Niagara Road 12 in West

Lincoln. As of Q4 2025, Humberstone has 31 years of capacity remaining, while Niagara Road 12 has approximately 40 years.

Niagara Region generates approximately 116,000 tonnes of waste each year, with 54,000 tonnes landfilled at Humberstone and Niagara Road 12. The Region also maintains a third-party waste disposal contract with Walker Environmental Group, through which approximately 62,000 tonnes of waste are directed to their Thorold landfill annually. This contract is scheduled to expire in 2031. In advance of the contract expiring, staff have begun evaluating a variety of short-term disposal options to ensure continuity of disposal capacity.

Conclusion

Niagara Region is in a strong position with landfill capacity for the foreseeable future. However, the 2025 W2RO landfill report highlights mounting pressures on Ontario's disposal system and the need for proactive municipal planning. These findings provide important context through the development and implementation of the new 25-year waste management strategic plan, which will review long-term disposal options including Energy-from-Waste (EFW) technologies. Considering both topics together supports a more informed long-term planning discussion.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Emil Prpic

Associate Director, Waste Disposal Operations and Engineering