



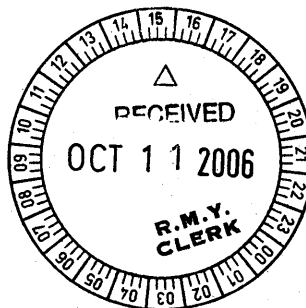
The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Clerk's Department

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Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMM I
Regional Clerk



THIS LETTER HAS BEEN FORWARDED
TO THE EIGHT AREA CLERKS

October 5, 2006

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. -

P27
B Macgregor

Mr. D. Kelly,
Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

RE: SUMMARY OF WASTE SURVEY FINDINGS (2006-WR-17)
(Our File: E08-00)

Please be advised the Works Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on October 4, 2006 Council adopted the following recommendation of the Committee:

- "a) THAT a copy of Report No. 2006-WR-17 of the Commissioner of Works be received for information; and
- b) THAT a copy of Report No. 2006-WR-17 of the Commissioner of Works be forwarded to all area municipalities as well as the Region of York for their information."

Please find enclosed a copy of Report #2006-WR-17 of C. Curtis, Commissioner of Works, for your information.

P.M. Madill, AMCT, CMM I
Regional Clerk

PMM/cb

Encl.

c: C. Curtis, Commissioner of Works, Region of Durham





Regional Municipality of Durham
To: The Works Committee
From: Commissioner of Works
Report: 2006-WR-17
Date: September 20, 2006

SUBJECT:

Summary of Waste Survey Findings

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Works Committee recommends to Regional Council that:

- a) This report be received for information; and
 - b) A copy of this report be forwarded to all Area Municipalities as well as the Region of York for their information.
-

REPORT:

Attachment No. 1: Copy of Waste Survey "What Do You Want To Do With Your Garbage?"

1. BACKGROUND

In June 2006, the Region distributed Green Bin kits for food waste composting to 130,986 households in the City of Pickering, the Town of Ajax, the Town of Whitby and the City of Oshawa. The Green Bin kits were composed of a large curbside wheeled Green Bin, a smaller kitchen Green Bin container, biodegradable liner bags, an information CD and magnet, a new waste collection calendar and a waste survey questionnaire. Residents were encouraged to complete and return the survey (Attachment No.1), in a postage-paid envelope to the Region.

The survey, entitled "***What Do You Want To Do With Your Garbage?***" consisted of four (4) questions regarding the future of "residual" waste collection in the Region. Residual waste are those materials remaining after recycling, composting, and re-use programs. The survey questions explored the following important matters:

- a) the current practice of exporting our waste out of the Region;
- b) which waste options would be best suited for the Region;

- c) where a new waste facility should be located and;
- d) should the Region partner with a neighbouring communities.

2. **RESPONSE ANALYSIS**

2.1 **Quality and Quantity of Responses**

The Region received 11,614 completed surveys, or 9% participation, and this is considered a very good response in a mail-in type survey.

Most respondents answered each of the four (4) questions and many included additional comments where requested. Others simply answered the questions without adding comments, and some did not complete the survey in its entirety. Several respondents included their own comments, some going as far as attaching an official letter. Others did their own independent research on available waste technologies and mailed in their findings, along with contact information for businesses in the industry.

Table 1 shows the number of surveys returned from each Area Municipality, including those respondents who chose not to identify in which municipality they live.

TABLE 1

Area Municipality	Number of Surveys Received
City of Oshawa	3,806
Town of Whitby	3,234
City of Pickering	1,856
Town of Ajax	1,808
Unknown	910
TOTAL	11,614

2.2 Survey Results

The results of the returned surveys are summarized in Table 2.

1. Do you think it is acceptable to truck your garbage to a landfill site outside the Region, say in Michigan or somewhere in Ontario 81% No 19% Yes
2. Instead of dumping your garbage in a Michigan landfill site, what should we do with it? 83% Burn it and recover steam and/or electrical energy 10% Build a new Regional landfill for our garbage and our neighbours' garbage 3% Ship it to another site somewhere else 2% Ship it to another landfill site somewhere else
3. If the Region was to develop a new waste facility that meets and exceeds all current Provincial environmental Regulation, where in your community should it be located? 41% On vacant rural property away from the built up areas 32% On existing vacant property zoned for industrial uses 20% Other 8% On vacant property in any new industrial park area
4. If the Region was to develop a new waste facility in your community that meets and exceeds all current Provincial environmental Regulations to process your garbage, should we partner with other municipalities? (Assume it costs less to process more garbage) 67% Yes 33% No

2.3 General Observations

Many respondents were enthusiastic about the Region's new waste management initiatives and appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the decision making process. Others were not aware that the Region is in the planning stages of a new Energy From Waste type facility and were interested in learning more about the technologies and about how to participate.

Some residents were concerned that building an Energy From Waste facility would not encourage residents and businesses to reduce or recycle their wastes, as this waste management option relies on a regular supply of residual waste to succeed. Those respondents felt that the incentive to participate in the Blue Box and Green Bin programs, as well as in other waste reduction initiatives could be lost with an Energy From Waste facility.

In Question 1, the large majority of respondents commented that it is not acceptable for the Region to export its garbage waste out of the Region. Those residents felt that those responsible for generating the garbage should be responsible for its disposal. Others clearly felt that it is not acceptable to export our garbage due to high shipping costs and taxes.

In Question 2, the majority of residents thought that burning garbage to recover steam and/or electrical energy was the best alternative to landfilling in Michigan, which they understood was not sustainable.

In Question 3, most respondents thought that a new waste disposal facility would be best developed on existing vacant industrial property or on vacant rural property that is away from the urban centre. Many residents chose both of those options. Some residents indicated that a rural location would be better since there is already a lot of traffic congestion and industrial traffic in the urbanized areas of our communities.

In Question 4, there was some confusion by residents regarding how to respond on whether or not the Region should have other municipal partners in an Energy From Waste type facility. Many respondents answered "yes" regarding a partnership agreement with other municipalities, however, most suggested another community within the Region rather than one or more of our external municipal neighbours.

3. SUMMARY

Waste Management Division is pleased with the number of responses it received from the waste survey. The Region should greatly benefit from the data generated because the results offer an insight into how Regional residents feel about the future of their residual waste materials. Further, the survey data will be useful in assisting in making a final decision about the location of a proposed new Energy From Waste type facility.

It is proposed that a copy of this report be forwarded to all the area municipalities within the Region as well as the Region of York for their information.

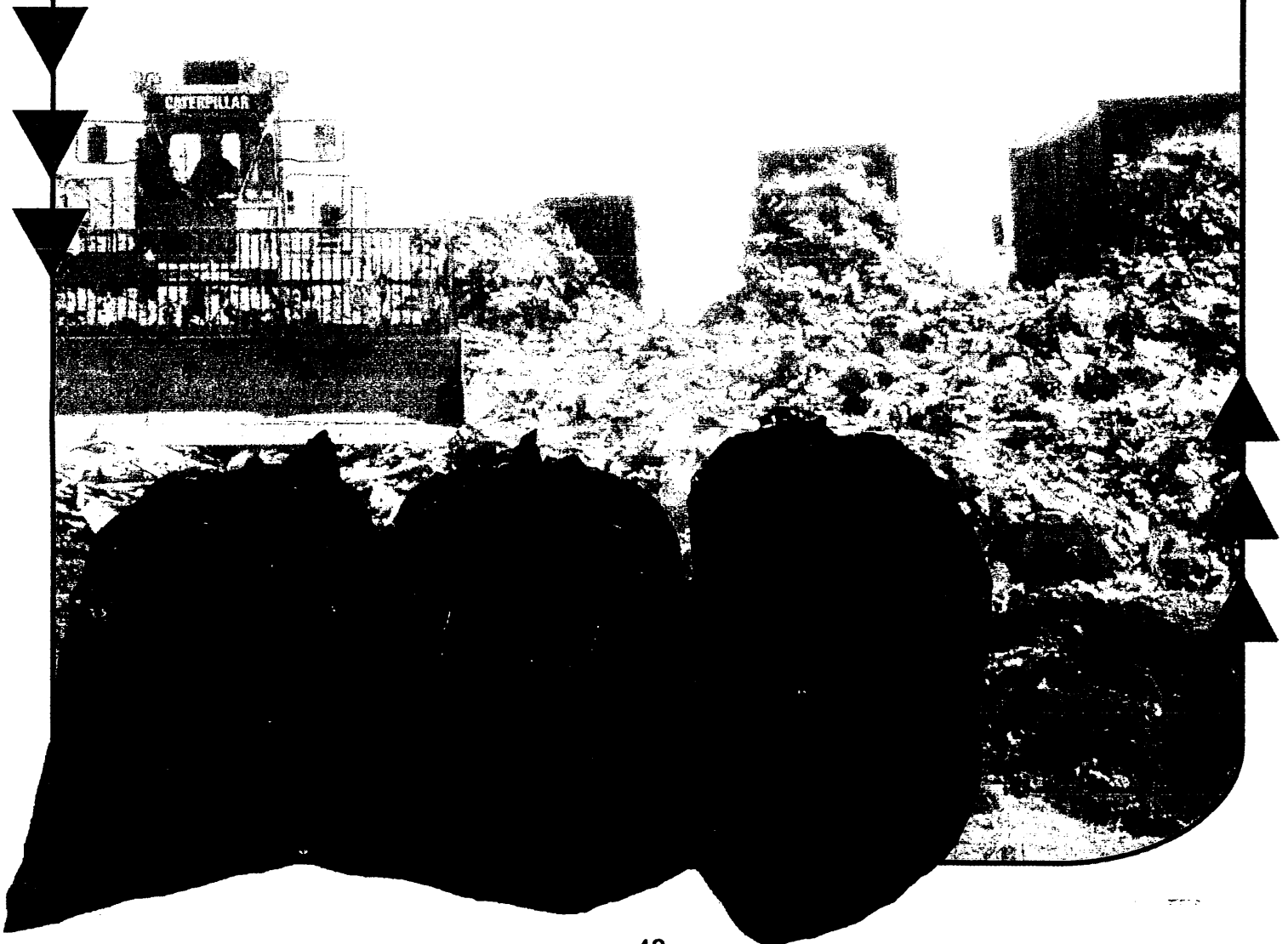
 Eric Snopce
Clifford Curtis, P. Eng., MBA,
Commissioner of Works

WM7/ps



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH YOUR GARBAGE?

A Waste Survey



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH YOUR GARBAGE?

The Region has embarked on an extensive Waste Disposal Facility study to determine ways to dispose of your garbage after recycling, composting and re-use programs. We need to find a suitable site location, an acceptable type of waste disposal technology, determine the operating capacity and costs involved.

Your comments on the following important issues will greatly assist the Region in planning for the future.

Please circle the most appropriate answer or provide a brief comment.

1. Do you think it is acceptable to truck your garbage to a landfill site outside the Region, say in Michigan or somewhere in Ontario?
 - a. Yes, why _____

 - b. No, why _____

2. Instead of dumping your garbage in a Michigan landfill site, what should we do with it?
 - a. Build a new Regional landfill for our garbage and our neighbours garbage
 - b. Burn it and recover steam and/or electrical energy
 - c. Ship it to another landfill site somewhere else
 - d. Ship it to another site somewhere else
3. If the Region was to develop a new waste facility that meets and exceeds all current Provincial environmental Regulations, where in your community should it be located?
 - a. On existing vacant property zoned for industrial uses
 - b. On vacant property in any new industrial park area
 - c. On vacant rural property away from the built up areas
 - d. Other _____

4. If the Region was to develop a new waste facility in your community that meets and exceeds all current Provincial environmental Regulations to process your garbage, should we partner with other municipalities? (Assume it costs less to process more garbage)

a. No, Why not? _____

b. Yes, Who? _____

Thank you very much for completing this waste survey.

Please fill in the next section and return this survey to us so we can review and summarize all the results and comments.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Region of Durham Works Department
Waste Management Services
June 2006