

Key Developments in The Region's Waste Management Strategy 2002 to 2006

Dates	Milestone
December 2002	Closure of Keele Valley Landfill.
January 2003	Small Vehicle Transfer Station and HHW Depot at Keele Valley commenced operation.
January 2003	The Region assumed costs for waste transfer, disposal and recycling diversion processing from the local municipalities.
March 2003	Centralized composting facilities identified as a significant investment and commitment for the Region. Other potential partners and technologies were investigated as an alternative.
June 2003	Staff developed a sample waste collection by-law for local municipalities to ban the disposal of compostable yard waste.
June 2003	Staff directed to search for sites within the southwestern and southern parts of the Region for a HHW depot and Small Vehicle Transfer Station respectively.
September 2003	Council identified that the amount of solid waste being shipped to Michigan needs to be reduced. The Region requested Provincial assistance to decrease the amount of packaging used by manufacturers.
September 2003	The Region began working jointly with the City of Toronto to solicit Expressions of Interest on New and Emerging Technologies.
December 2003	Small Vehicle Transfer Station and HHW Depot at Keele Valley are shut down and a search for a new location has begun.
January 2004	Results of a joint litter study by the City of Toronto and Regions' of Durham, Peel and York were presented. Staff were directed to begin development of an anti-litter campaign including strengthened anti-litter by-laws.
January 2004	Council adopted motions to introduce a Goodwill reuse center at the Georgina transfer station and establish an electronics recycling program.
January 2004	Council accepted a proposal by Halton Recycling to process 60,000 tonnes/yr. of household SSO and 20,000 tonnes/yr. of yard waste at their Newmarket facility for two years.
February 2004	Council approved banning receipt of leaf and yard waste in plastic bags.
March 2004	Council approved a pilot project to test implementation of SSO and commingled blue box diversion in the Town of Markham.
March 2004	Council approved establishment of an Asian Long-Horned Beetle yard waste processing facility within the regulated area of the City of Vaughan.
April 2004	Council closed out RFP's P-03-80/81 awarding a contract to Dongara Developments Inc. process up to 70,000 tonnes of residual waste per year.
April 2004	Council approved development of a public communication strategy to inform resident of pending changes to the Region's waste management system.
May 2004	Contract extensions for the operation of Miller Waste Systems and Roger LaRues Enterprises Ltd. material recovery facilities were approved
June 2004	Council adopts a strategy to educate residents, government agencies and businesses about proper management of radioactive wastes.
June 2004	Staff is directed to work with Federal and Provincial governments and industry groups to reduce packaging waste.
June 2004	Council approved development of a 3 year public outreach promotion and education campaign.

June 2004	Purchase of lands in the City of Vaughan are authorized for the establishment of a household hazardous waste depot.
June 2004	Council authorized receipt of Asian Long-Horned Beetle yard waste from businesses within the quarantined area of the City of Vaughan for processing.
June 2004	Expansion of the Region's blue box program to include rigid 3-7 plastic containers was approved by Council.
September 2004	A pilot project by the Region and local municipalities to subsidize backyard composter distribution to local residents was approved.
September 2004	Implementation of a 5 year anti-littering strategy was approved by Council.
September 2004	The results of the Toronto led SSO processing capacity RFP are reviewed by Council.
September 2004	Council authorized diverting 75% of WDO funding in 2005 and 50% of funding between 2006 and 2008 to the local municipalities with the balance being used to establish a capital replacement fund for the Garfield Wright WMC.
October 2004	Council bans receipt of leaf and yard waste in plastic bags.
October 2004	The Solid Waste Management By-Law was enacted to address changes in Michigan waste disposal legislation.
December 2004	Council authorizes a delay in implementation of SSO collection by the local municipalities until January 2006 or renewal of their collection contracts.
February 2005	Council authorized execution of a contract with Miller Waste Systems to operate a Waste Management Centre in East Gwillimbury for a period of 5 years.
February 2005	Council approved development of a campaign promoting Source Separated Organics (SSO) and new blue box materials diversion.
April 2005	Council agreed to enter into a joint residual waste management environmental assessment (EA) with Durham Region.
April 2005	Early start up of town-wide SSO collection in Markham is approved in conjunction with a short term SSO processing contract with GSI Environnement.
May 2005	MacViro Consulting and Jacques Whitford are hired to develop the Terms of Reference for the York/Durham EA.
May 2005	Vaughan HHW depot begins operations.
July 2005	Waste Management Centre in East Gwillimbury begins operations.
September 2005	Council authorized provision of financial and technical support for the City of Vaughan's "Greening Vaughan" waste management plan.
September 2005	Establishment of Community Environmental Centres in Richmond Hill and Vaughan is approved. Expressions of interest for a similar facility are sought from Aurora, King and Whitchurch-Stouffville.
September 2005	Council authorized a 10 year contract with Orgaworld B.V. and 3 year contingency capacity contract with GSI Environnement to process SSO.
September 2005	A 10 year contract with Miller Waste Systems to manage the Region's yard waste and provide a public drop off site at their Bloomington Rd composting facility was authorized.
October 2005	Development of a curbside textiles and reusable goods collection pilot in partnership with Goodwill Industries was approved.
November 2005	Guiding principles to be considered when establishing new diversion programs and marketing recyclable materials were adopted by Council.
November 2005	Processing of blue box recyclables from the York Region District and Catholic school systems at the Garfield Wright WMC was approved.

December 2005	Council approved the proposed York/Durham residual waste EA Terms of Reference.
December 2005	MacViro Consulting was retained to complete the EA process.
December 2005	Preparation of contract documents with Dongara Developments Inc to receive 100,000 tonnes of waste per year for a term of 20 years was authorized.
December 2005	The Waste Management Branch received awards from the Recycling Council of Ontario for both its litter reduction and yard waste promotion campaigns.
January 2006	Council approved development of a joint municipal waste diversion strategy.
January 2006	Council authorized execution of a 7 year contract with Unical-Gaudreau Group to process the mixed broken glass from the Regional Waste Management Centre.
February 2006	The Region received awards from the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators for the Best Promotion and Education Campaign, Best Print Ad and was a finalist in the Best Promotional Tool category.
April 2006	Council authorized establishment of a Community Environmental Centre at McCleary Court in Vaughan subject to securing the necessary approvals.
May 2006	Council approved, in principle, the draft waste diversion strategy developed by staff of the Regional and local municipalities.
May 2006	Council received the consultant's report on the outcome of the technology review for the Environmental Assessment recommending thermal treatment of MSW with energy recovery and recovery of materials from the ash/char.