

1

NEW TECHNOLOGIES UPDATE

The Solid Waste Management Committee recommends the following:

1. Staff prepare a report to Regional Council at its meeting on September 18, 2003, regarding a process which would allow any of the companies submitting a Request for an Expression of Interest regarding New and Emerging Technologies, to submit in the next three to four weeks a plan to implement a pilot project, which would comply with the following conditions:
 - (1) the pilot project would not require a lengthy Environmental Assessment and can be sited quickly;
 - (2) costs of the operation are less than York Region's current costs for transporting waste to Michigan; and
 - (3) the required tonnage would not put York Region at risk legally.
2. The recommendation contained in the following report, August 19, 2003, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, be adopted:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The following report be received for information by Committee and Council.

2. PURPOSE

This report is prepared to update Committee and Council on staff's progress on identifying new and emerging waste management technologies to reduce the amount of waste shipped to Michigan landfill sites.

3. BACKGROUND

On June 12, 2003, Council adopted the following resolutions:

"That staff:

- 1. Issue a Request for Expressions of Interest for new and emerging technologies for organic waste processing and residual waste disposal.*
- 2. Continue to liaise and cooperate with City of Toronto staff with regard to the City's Request for Expressions of Interest for new and emerging technologies*
- 3. Work with the other Greater Toronto Area municipalities to find an effective solution to minimize or eliminate the need to landfill waste in Michigan.*
- 4. Report back to Committee in September on the foregoing."*

Chair Fisch has also been leading a group of elected officials and senior staff from the Regions of York, Peel, Durham and the City of Toronto and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to take a coordinated approach to waste management in the Greater Toronto Area.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

To reduce the amount of waste sent to Michigan or other landfill sites there needs to be more waste diversion, further processing of waste to extract energy or other commodities or a change in consumer habits to produce less waste in the first place. The Regions of York, Peel, Durham and the City of Toronto are all pursuing the implementation of household source separated organic waste programs and modifying their blue box programs to maximize diversion efforts. Each municipality should be able to reach 50% diversion if these programs are successful. To move beyond that level, the residual waste must be further processed as is the case in Halifax. Given the volume of waste in the GTA, it is more likely a new thermal or organic waste processing technology will be required. The technology options that York Region would engage are the same as those that the other GTA municipalities would pursue, although there may be specific siting issues for each municipality. If there were no coordination between the GTA municipalities, there would be significant costs to both the ratepayers as well as the vendors as possibly four separate purchasing and review processes would be entertained. Staffs within the GTA municipalities support a coordinated approach to resolve our waste management issues.

A meeting was held on July 3rd with the Heads of Council and staff from York, Peel, Durham and Toronto and with staff from the MOE. Staff from each municipality were directed to meet to develop an action plan on how there can be a coordinated GTA effort to reduce the shipment of waste to Michigan.

The staff group also met with the MOE on July 15th and August 19th. As a result of the meetings, the following action items were developed:

1. York, Peel and Durham will evaluate new technologies through Toronto's current Request for Expression of Interest (REOI). All municipalities will share the cost of the review and have jointly retained the consulting team of MacViro and Earth Tech. It is further proposed that companies who are short-listed through the REOI review submit proposals for a technology demonstration pilot in York Region. It is expected that the outcome of this evaluation be reported to York Region Committee and Council in October so that an RFP could be issued by November.
2. York and Toronto will jointly issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for long-term source separated organic (SSO) waste processing. A total of 220,000 tonnes per year of SSO requires processing and it is expected that a minimum of three plants will be needed. This RFP will be issued in September by the City of Toronto and will close in late November. The results of the RFP will be reported to York Region Committee

and Council in January 2004.

3. York, Peel, Durham and Toronto will jointly engage a communications consultant in Michigan to ensure our waste management message is effectively stated. Marketing Resource Group, Inc. and Kelleher Environmental have been jointly retained for this work.
4. York, Peel, Durham and Toronto require long-term yard waste and possibly SSO compost finishing capacity. It was agreed that there needs to be a coordinated approach to this issue.

These initiatives are formalized through a staff Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (*Attachment 1*). It is proposed that the costs for the work undertaken be shared and based on the percentage of tonnage being landfilled. Although there are efficiencies and cost savings in the joint review and engagement of industry for these initiatives, the MOU recognizes that each municipality has the ability to determine how it wishes to implement new waste management programs as each may have specific timing, concerns or issues.

This coordinated approach will also assist us in effectively engaging the MOE. Any new technology, whether organic or thermal in nature, will need MOE approval. A demonstration project(s) will allow the MOE to develop the necessary approval conditions in the event that a permanent or larger scale facility needs to be constructed in the GTA. The siting of any full-scale facility will also require a significant public process and MOE approval.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The initiatives identified in this report are proposed to be jointly funded by the Regions of York, Peel, Durham and the City of Toronto. The distribution of costs for the projects identified in this report are as follows:

Peel	150,000 tonnes	17%
Durham	150,000 tonnes	17%
York	200,000 tonnes	22%
Toronto	<u>400,000 tonnes</u>	<u>44%</u>
	900,000 tonnes	100%

York Region's share of the costs are:

New and Emerging Technology Review	\$40,000 (excluding GST)
Communications	\$14,000 (excluding GST)

At this time only York Region is going to pursue a RFP for the demonstration pilot for new technology. The cost for this work is \$86,000 (excluding GST). The other GTA partners are considering their options with respect to this and may participate and share

the costs of the RFP in the future. There are sufficient funds in the 2003 Solid Waste Management current and capital budgets.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There are no local municipal implications for this report.

7. CONCLUSION

Working cooperatively with the other GTA municipalities will demonstrate the collective need and willingness to find a solution to shipping waste to Michigan. Joint tendering and review of technology will allow a consistent methodology to determine an appropriate range of technologies to handle our waste, and more effectively engage private sector proponents.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachment referred to in the foregoing is included with this report and is also on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)