

# Peel Renewable Natural Gas Centre – Decision Making History

**Anaerobic Digestion Facility** 

Regional Council June 24, 2021

Norman Lee, Director Waste Management Region of Peel

### **Peel Organics Processing: Current Status**

- Peel currently processes half of its Green Bin material in-house and uses private processors for 1/2 of its Green Bin material through a number of small tonnage short-term contracts.
- Peel's organics processing needs have outgrown our existing composting system.
- Peel's system is aging and requires significant maintenance.
- Peel's system does not separate contamination effectively.
- A new process or approach is required to manage Peel's current and future Green Bin organics processing needs.
- Previous decisions of Council were driven by this need.

## **Regional Council Decision History**

2014

Endorsed Waste Management Infrastructure Plan including a Peel-owned AD facility. 2017

Approved long-term Waste Management Strategy including a Peel-owned AD facility.

Approved the Strategic Terms of the Peel-owned AD Facility including size of facility, use of DBOM contract, production of RNG and contract with Enbridge.

Endorsed rationale for Peel-owned AD facility.

Endorsed plan to acquire property for the AD facility.

2015

Approved addition of diapers and pet waste to the Green Bin program once AD is operational.

Approved 125 Orenda Rd. as the facility site.

Approved the issuance of RFP.

2019

#### **Basis for Decision: Technology**

#### **Composting**

- Requires significant separation distance from residents and other uses to prevent odour impacts
- Requires larger footprint
- Retains materials on-site for longer periods
- Cannot process an expanded list of organic materials

#### **Anaerobic Digestion (AD)**

- Better odour control
- Smaller footprint allowing it to be sited in an urban area close to the source of the Green Bin organics
- Better ability to separate contaminant materials, which allows new materials to be added to the Green Bin, increasing diversion
- Produces RNG, which reduces GHG emissions
- Council selected AD as preferred option

## **Basis for Decision - Ownership**

| Private Ownership<br>Multiple Contracts   | Private Ownership<br>Single Dedicated Facility  | Peel-Owned Facility  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul> <li>Lowest cost, highest risk</li> <li>Short-term contracts</li> <li>Access to capacity ends at end of term</li> <li>Risk inability to secure capacity, at least locally or at the same price</li> <li>Risk increases with quantity of processing needed</li> <li>Excess capacity is not expected in the province</li> <li>No control over the design or operation of the facility</li> <li>Acquire no environmental attributes</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Cost dependent on term and requirements (i.e. odour control, processing efficiency, environmental performance)</li> <li>Facility owner retains environmental attributes</li> <li>Facility ownership provides leverage in disputes</li> <li>History of shutdowns due to odours, control orders, improper/incomplete maintenance</li> <li>Loss of access to capacity in the event of business failure</li> <li>Access to capacity ends at end of term</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Highest cost, lowest risk</li> <li>Guarantees reliable long-term processing capacity</li> <li>Access to capacity extends beyond the original contract term</li> <li>Peel owns the environmental attributes</li> <li>Council selected Peel-owned facility as preferred option</li> </ul> |
|   | 10.1-15   |  |

## **Achieving Peel's Climate Change Goals**

- A key environmental attribute is the production of renewable natural gas (RNG).
- This facility will produce 600,000 m3 of RNG per year which contains 215,000 gigajoules of energy.
  - This could be sold to generate an estimated \$4.3M per year, which would reduce net operating costs by \$48 per tonne.
  - Alternatively, it could be used by Peel to offset a third of its natural gas needs, which would result in \$2M per year in savings from reduced natural gas purchases.
  - If used by Peel it would reduce Peel's GHG emissions by 12,500 tonnes per year, which would bring Peel halfway to its 2030 target.

#### **Role of Mixed Waste Processing**

- Key risks still exist with MWP.
- MWP complements and supplements AD and the Green Bin program.
- In the EU, MWP was initially supported by policy and economic drivers to reduce the impact of landfills.
- In the EU, source separation is still the predominant way of recovering organics for use as a fertilizer, as confirmed by more recent regulatory changes that limit the use of organics derived from MWP.
- MWP is not recommended as a sole method for processing organics

#### **AD Team**



#### **Steering Committee**

- Director of Waste Management
- Director of Business and Financial Planning and Deputy Treasurer
- Manager, Procurement



· Procurement Advisor

Team

- Project Manager, New Infrastructure
- Senior Legal Counsel, Business Law Practice Group



#### **Project Team & Supports**

- Manager, Infrastructure
- Program Manager, New Infrastructure
- Manager, Waste Planning
- Advisor, Waste Reduction Policy
- Supervisor, Budget Support
- Senior Treasury Portfolio Manager
- Procurement Advisor
- Advisor, Office of Climate Change and Energy Management



- Aird & Berlis
- GHD
- Ernst and Young

## **Conclusion and Next Steps**

- Previous decisions to proceed with Anaerobic Digestion are just as appropriate today.
- Lower cost alternatives come with risks.
- A report for the AD project will be brought to RC July 8.
- A report on a potential MWP pilot will be brought to a future Committee meeting.

## Thank you

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