

For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Organics Processing Update**

FROM: Kealy Dedman, Commissioner of Public Works

OBJECTIVE

To provide Regional Council with an update on the current status of Peel's organics processing and next steps.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- On July 8, 2021, Regional Council cancelled Request for Proposal to Design, Build, Operate and Maintain Peel's proposed Anaerobic Digestion Facility (Resolution 2021-902).
 - A new long-term organics diversion plan is required to enable Peel to expand its Green Bin program to include additional materials such as diapers and pet waste, reach Peel's diversion target of 75 percent by 2034 and meet provincial organics diversion targets.
 - Staff will report back to a future meeting of the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee with options to address Peel's short and long-term organics processing requirements.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

In 2017, Regional Council approved the development of a Peel-owned anaerobic digestion facility (AD facility) as part of the Roadmap to a Circular Economy in the Region of Peel (Resolution 2017-972).

In September 2019, Staff issued Request for Proposal 2019-287P to Design, Build, Operate and Maintain a Peel-owned AD facility at 125 Orenda Road in Brampton.

On July 8, 2021, Regional Council cancelled Request for Proposal 2019-287P (Resolution 2021-902).

The Peel-owned AD facility was to be the cornerstone of the Region's long term organics diversion plan by allowing the expansion of Peel's Green Bin program to include diapers, sanitary products, and pet waste and allow the use of non-compostable plastic liners once the facility became operational which would contribute an estimated five percentage points to the achievement of Peel's diversion target.

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In June 2020, staff was directed to report on how a Mixed Waste Processing (MWP) pilot fits into the Region's long-term waste management strategy including timing, scope, costs, risks, outcomes, and options for procurement (Resolution 2020-474). In October 2020, staff provided an update on a potential MWP pilot project outlining interest amongst other municipalities, siting considerations, desired outcomes, key terms, and next steps (Resolution 2020-845).

2. Peel's Organics Processing Requirements

As a result of the cancellation of the AD facility project, a new long-term organics diversion plan is needed to address the following requirements:

- Expansion of Peel's Green Bin program to include diapers, sanitary products, and pet waste and allow the use of non-compostable plastic liners as set out in the Council-approved "Roadmap to a Circular Economy in the Region of Peel" (Resolution 2017-972);
- Regional Council's diversion target of 75 percent 3Rs diversion by 2034 (Resolution 2015-741); and,
- Provincial organics diversion targets of 70 percent waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste generated by curbside households by 2023 and 50 percent waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste generated by Peel-owned multi-residential buildings by 2025 as set out in the *Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement (2018)*.

Peel's existing composting system is aging and cannot be expanded due to area constraints and cannot be modified to process organics containing diapers, pet waste and non-compostable plastic liners. Nor are all of Peel's current contracted processing facilities capable of processing diapers, sanitary products, pet waste or organics contained in non-biodegradable plastic bags. Peel's existing organics processing contracts expire within the next 18 months.

New short-term and long-term organics processing capacity capable of reliably processing a more diverse organics stream is required.

3. Next Steps

Staff will report back to a future meeting of the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee with options to address Peel's short and long-term organics processing requirements that addresses both curbside and multi-residential needs.

In developing the strategy staff will survey existing private organics processing facilities to gather information on available capacity, capabilities (e.g., whether they can receive and process organics containing diapers, pet waste etc.) and terms. The plan will consider private processing options, including both existing and potential new facilities, and the role of Region-owned infrastructure in handling and processing organics. Feasible options will be ranked based on cost, risk, environmental and socioeconomic criteria endorsed by the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee. Top ranked options with implementation plans will be presented to Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee with recommendations.

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In addition, staff will provide a report on the results of its Mixed Waste Processing pilot investigations to Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee and Regional Council at a future date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications resulting from this report.

CONCLUSION

A new short-term and long-term organics diversion plan and new organics processing capacity is required to meet the needs of Peel's diversion goals and regulatory requirements.

For further information regarding this report, please contact Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management, Ext. 4703, norman.lee@peelregion.ca.

Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:

Department Commissioner, Division Director, Financial Support Unit and Legal Services.