

Key Waste Management Initiatives Update

Regional Council
September 14, 2023



Background

- In light of Bill 112, staff assessed key Waste Management initiatives to ensure alignment with the transition principles endorsed by Council and section 5 of the Act.
- The assessments also considered risks, including financial risks and the risk of service interruptions, to help determine whether staff should continue, adjust or pause each initiative.
- The planned direction and next steps, along with a brief description of the rationale for each decision, is included in the report.

Key Initiatives

- Blue Box Transition
- Waste Collection Contracts
- Long-Term Organics Processing
- Mixed Waste Processing
- Financial Plan
- Britannia Landfill Gas to Energy Redevelopment
- Caledon Landfill Property Acquisition

Blue Box Transition

To maximize the financial benefit to Peel, ensure a seamless transition and avoid possible service interruptions, staff will:

- Continue to negotiate with producers' representatives for the provision of collection services on their behalf until December 31, 2025, including provision of promotion and education, all on a cost recovery basis.
- Continue efforts to sell Peel's recycling carts and front-end recycling bins to private vendors.

Waste Collection Contracts

To provide the certainty during the blue box transition and the Peel governance transition and to avoid issuing procurement documents with significant uncertainty and to avoid possible service interruptions, staff will:

- Extend existing waste collection contracts to September 30, 2026.
- Delay the issuance of procurement documents for next contracts until mid-2024.
- Ensure procurement documents are flexible enough to accommodate a range of post-dissolution governance models.
- Adjust timing of other projects impacted by new collection contracts' start date.

Long-Term Organics Processing

To avoid possible service interruptions and mitigate short- and long-term risks, staff will:

- Extend existing short-term organics processing contracts in accordance with contract terms to ensure there are no service gaps between short- and long-term organics processing contracts.
- Continue preparing procurement documents for long-term 3rd party organics processing but not issue them at least until the post-dissolution structure and governance model for waste management are known and possibly until after dissolution.

Mixed Waste Processing

To position Peel households for improved diversion while mitigating long-term risks, staff will:

- Continue investigating MWP and provide recommendations to WMSAC on whether or not to proceed with pilot.
- If the recommendation/decision is to proceed with MWP, prepare draft procurement documents but not issue them at least until the post-dissolution structure and governance model for waste management are better understood.

Financial Plan

Given the uncertainty surrounding the need for, or structure of, new funding models for waste management, staff will:

- Pause work on this initiative at least until the post-dissolution structure and governance model for waste management are known and possibly until after dissolution.

Britannia Landfill Gas to Energy Redevelopment

To ensure landfill gas is safely managed, reduce GHG emissions, produce low carbon electricity and avoid possible noncompliance with Ministry regulations, staff will:

- Continue developing a recommended approach on renewing Peel's agreement with Integrated Gas Recovery Systems Inc. for the redevelopment of the landfill gas to energy infrastructure at the Britannia landfill, including a long-term low-carbon energy purchase agreement.
- Report to WMSAC in 2024 with a recommendation on how to proceed.

Caledon Landfill Property Acquisition

To clean up the title of the closed Caledon landfill site so it can be formally closed, staff will:

- Continue to work with the Town of Caledon to finalize agreements for land title transfer and formalize closure of landfill site.
- Report to WMSAC for appropriate approval/authority in 2024.

Risks

- Many of the initiatives in the report include commitments that extend past the dissolution date set out in Bill 112, which means they will need to be assigned to Peel's successor(s). The planned direction for each initiative is, however, believed to be in the public interest and is not expected to disadvantage any of the local municipalities.
- Not proceeding with the planned direction and next steps, as described in the report, may result in service disruptions, increased environmental and financial risk and, in some cases, possible noncompliance with Ministry regulations, which is, in staff's view, not in the public interest.

Questions, comments, feedback