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Energy from Waste Advisory Committee (EFWAC) Meeting #22

Date: Friday, June 27, 2025

Location: Microsoft Teams (virtual) from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Bruce Withrow, Meeting Facilitators International

Archive: Available at: <https://www.durham.video/>

Attendees: Please see pages 6 and 7

The meeting of the EFWAC will meet the obligations as detailed under Section 8 of the Notice of Approval to proceed with the Undertaking. This meeting objective is to review the 2024 Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) Annual Report as submitted in accordance with Condition 15(1) of the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) #7306-8FDKNX, which states the following:

By March 31 following the end of each operating year, the Owner shall prepare and submit to the District Manager and to the Advisory Committee, an Annual Report summarizing the operation of the Site covering the previous calendar year.

Durham York Energy Centre Environmental Compliance Approval Annual Report – 2024 (Annual Report)

1. The topic was raised of Green House Gas (GHG) admissions.
 - Staff continue to report to the Ontario and Canada regulations. The provincial database becomes available when the province posts it. These emissions are also report to Council.
2. It was questioned if Durham produces annual climate change reports. It was suggested GHG emissions be included in the annual report.
 - Staff confirmed the DYEC does report directly to the Ministry. Since the contractor has undergone staffing changes, there have not been any new developments on how we will report the Green House Gas emissions outside of the Ministry reports.
3. Staff were asked to share GHG emissions in 2024.

- Numbers were shared by staff during the meeting
- 4. [Link to the Annual Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Report](#) was shared with attendees.
- 5. It was questioned how the slip is arrived at in terms of the total vs reported amounts as Carbon Dioxide is included under Carbon Reporting. Also questioned is how biogenic vs non-biogenic is analysed by air sampling.
 - These amounts are collected quarterly via samples and sent to a lab for analysis.
- 6. It was questioned if the reported quarterly amounts are annual sample amounts based on an average.
 - Reworld completes the sampling, and it is averaged over the year, they are submitted both provincially and federally.
- 7. For 2023 NPRI data, emissions have gone down in 2022-2023 from the pandemic years. Questions raised on the non-biogenic going down in 2023 from 2022 and how the waste stream has changed to impact this.
 - Staff report that lots of PPE and single use plastics being used in 2022 vs 2023. The results are based on samples (observed), while there is also a periodic test done for carbon sampling.
 - Enhanced Green Bin started July 1, 2024, from then onward, organics captured increased which leads to more non-biogenic waste being burned. As organic waste is removed from the stream, we would see an increase in the fraction of non-biogenic waste but less waste overall.
- 8. A voluntary Source Test was completed between Dec 2-5, 2024.
 - Staff confirmed that Reworld produces the final schedules with the Source Testing firm. The consultants did review the plant data and source test results with the plant manager.
- 9. Question raised why only two of three runs of testing were completed on Unit 2.
 - Staff confirmed test results are always submitted to the Ministry, so if there were questions regarding code, questions should be directed to the Ministry.
 - Staff confirmed the Feed chute in Unit 2 was replaced in Spring 2025, and has had significantly improved feed, reliability and operations stability. The Feed chute was replaced in March and has been in service since early April 2025.

10. It was questioned why while repairs for Feed chute started in December 2024, page 44 of report, there is no outage shown for December.

- Staff confirmed the ECA condition is looking for uncontrolled shutdowns (utility trips, as well as the two major outages). Operations do not plan to include all feed stops.

11. Is the unit up and operating 90% of the time as agreed to

- Enforcement of contract including delegation has been uploaded to staff.
- The facility has reached its permit limits consistently in terms of material permitted to be processed.

12. It was questioned if the rolling average for AMESA reporting is being done.

- Staff confirmed Reworld prepares this calculation. AMESA is sampling while the process is ongoing. There may be fluctuations in data from one month to another.

- end of discussion -

Durham Region Waste Management Services Program Update Presentation

Angela Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Operations, the Regional Municipality of Durham (Durham Region), provided a Program Update on Durham's waste management services.

Automated Cart Pilot

- The Region has been investigating and will be rolling out carts across the Region over the next 5 years with the exception of Whitby and Oshawa.
- Durham Region conducted a pilot in 2024 in Scugog and Ajax, it was intended to end in Spring 2025 but has been extended.
- Benefits of the Automated Cart Collection are:
 - One truck and one operator can complete the collection route vs. one truck and two operators with manual collection
 - Overall faster waste collection
 - Significantly improved operator health and safety and operator retention – no repetition, no heavy lifting
 - Improved ergonomics and accessibility for residents
 - Reduced wind-blown litter

- Staff presented the Pilot results to Council in March with the recommendation that collection contracts transition to automated collection when re-tendered.
- The next contract for Clarington and Townships of Brock, Scugog, and Uxbridge starts April 2028.
- The next contract for Pickering and Ajax starts April 2030.

-end of first presentation-

The following discussion ensued:

1. There was concern expressed about the container's vs clear bags and what residents are putting in their garbage.
- Staff confirmed organics carts will be over 2 times larger than the standard. There is no limit to these carts. For garbage, there is more than one size option for the carts. Large carts hold 4 bags (residential bi-weekly limit). There will be provisions in the contract that allow for smaller carts. Regardless of the colour of the bag, the cart will be used to hold the garbage. Families with 3 children under 3 or those with medical needs have been given an exemption to receive free garbage tags; we have not seen use of these since the enhanced green bin came into play.
 - There are options for cameras in the trucks that can monitor contamination, and the bylaw team continues to monitor proactively.

Multi-Residential Organics Program

- Launched June 3 in approximately 81 buildings. First collection was completed June 10.
- Work has been ongoing with property managers and building owners to communicate program parameters.
- Approximately 200 buildings outside of Oshawa and Whitby will eventually receive organics collection.
- Phase 1 is approximately 50% implemented - full implementation completed in July 2025. These are the 'green' ready to go buildings (Approx. 80).
- Phase 2 implementation will start in August/September 2025. These are the 'yellow' minor modifications needed buildings (Approx. 35).
- Phase 3 implementation will start in 2026. These are the 'red' difficult to implement buildings (Approx. 10 - 12).

-end of second presentation-

The following discussion ensued:

1. It was raised that staff produced a report in 2025 regarding curbside collection updates.
- Staff reported that a 3-5% decrease has been noted (2023 vs 2024 numbers). This will be monitored over time to see long term decreases as residents adopt to using it. We are looking at improvement over time, not immediate.

Roundtable

1. It was suggested to revise the ToR to allow for questions and resolutions. Since concerns are raised, but there is no quorum, the committee cannot vote on issues brought forward as there is not quorum to conduct business.
 - Quorum has not been met in 6-years, which questions the appropriateness of the committee.
 - The public has the option to bring forward questions to Council and committee via the appropriate channels.
 - Works Department will review these concerns and Legislation services will provide input.
2. A request was relayed to review the EFWAC Meeting procedures at the next meeting to improve the process for the group.
 - This committee has unique aspects, but it is laid out within the EA condition. Staff will review how this can be improved in the future.
 - It was questioned how the facility controls tonnage coming in from York and Durham.
 - Staff acknowledge tonnage at the facility fluctuates based on generation rates, and logistical challenges.
3. It was mentioned on report page 36, table 13, it shows the summary of ambient air exceedances at Courtice Road and Rundle Road, reflecting higher exceedances of sulfur dioxide on Courtice Road. It was questioned why there is there such discrepancy between the two monitoring stations.
 - Staff believe that there is interference on the ventilation system for a chemical storage area at the water pollution control plant on Courtice Road that is being investigated. This station may ultimately be relocated as a result. Staff continue to monitor and identify trends with our partners.

- Durham staff have discussed with the Ministry and water pollution control plant to lessen the extent of these emissions via filters and operational changes with the ventilation system. Durham staff will continue to monitor the emissions.
- **The next scheduled meeting will be held on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 10 a.m.**

Meeting adjourned 12:05 p.m.

Enclosed: June 2025 Program Update - A. Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Operations,
Waste Management Services, The Regional Municipality of Durham

Meeting attendees:

A. Evans, Director, Waste Management Services, The Regional Municipality of Durham (member)

L. Milne, Director Waste Management Forestry, The Regional Municipality of York (member)

R. Frasca, Manager, Public Works, Scugog (member)

A. Culter, Waste Management Coordinator, Town of Aurora (member)

W. Bracken, Durham Environment Watch (alternate)

R. McCormick, Sr. Waste Technologies, City of Oshawa (alternate)

N. Ratnasingam, Climate Change Response Coordinator, Municipality of Clarington (member)

C. Jones, Director, Planning Regulation, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (member)

S. Mensour, Waste Service Coordinator, Town of Whitby (member)

L. Gasser, Zero Waste for Zero Burning (member)

M. Farid, Contract Management Engineer, Waste Management, The Regional Municipality of York (alternate)

J. Bishop, Manager, Waste Services, City of Oshawa (alternate)

D. Anderson, DurhamCLEAR (member) – joined 10:38 a.m.

B. Withrow, Facilitator, Meeting Facilitators International

A. Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Operations, The Regional Municipality of Durham (guest)

N. Victor, DYEC Facility Manager, Reworld

S. Kaur, Environmental Specialist, Reworld

K. Ching, Supervisor, Technical Operations, Waste Management, The Regional Municipality of York

R. Jagannathan, Commissioner, Works, The Regional Municipality of Durham

L. Saha, Manager, Waste Services, The Regional Municipality of Durham

N. Williams, Project Manager, Waste Services, The Regional Municipality of Durham

L. Waller, Works Technician, Waste Management Services, The Regional Municipality of Durham

P. Ehidihamhen, Works Technician, The Regional Municipality of Durham

K. Crouse, Administrative Assistant, Works Department, The Regional Municipality of Durham

R. Inacio, Corporate Services – Information Technology, The Regional Municipality of Durham