



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Public Works & Engineering Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Phil Bartnik, Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Date to Council: March 14, 2023

Report Number: PWES-2023-23

Subject: Food, Organics and Biosolids Waste Management Update & Regional Waste Management Proposal

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Public Works & Engineering Services Report PWES-2023-23 titled “Food, Organics and Biosolids Waste Management Update & Regional Waste Management Proposal”, **be received**;

And that Council endorse the concept of a regional approach to waste management and **direct** Administration to report back at a future Council meeting with additional information on a regional waste management program, including the County’s by-law and the logistics of uploading the waste management service.

Executive Summary

Decomposition of organic materials in landfills, such as food, yard waste and paper, produce methane, a greenhouse gas with significant global warming potential. According to [Canada’s Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#), in 2020, emissions from Canadian landfills accounted for 24% of national methane emissions.

Diverting organic waste away from landfills and processing it at composting or anaerobic digestion facilities avoids the generation of landfill methane and extends the lifespan of the landfill.

The [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016](#), identifies the provincial interest in having a system of waste reduction and resource recovery in Ontario and allows the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to issue Policy Statements to further the provincial interest.

In 2018, the Province issued a [Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement](#) that provides direction to provincial ministries, municipalities, industrial, commercial and institutional establishments, and the waste management sector to increase waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste.

Background

The Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement (Policy Statement) gives direction to prevent and reduce food and organic waste at each stage of the food supply chain, including the production, distribution, consumption and recovery of food and organic waste. The Policy Statement sets sector-specific waste reduction and resource recovery targets, based on population and population density figures:

- Municipalities with a population greater than 50,000 and a population density greater than or equal to 300 persons per square kilometer (i.e., the City of Windsor) are required to provide curbside collection of food and organic waste to single-family dwellings in an urban settlement area and to achieve a target rate of reduction of 70% by 2025.
- Municipalities with a population greater than 20,000 but equal to or less than 50,000 and a population density greater than or equal to 100 persons per square kilometer (i.e., the Town of Tecumseh) are required to provide collection of food and organic waste to single-family dwellings in an urban settlement area and to achieve a target rate of reduction of 50% by 2025.

Based on guidelines of the Policy Statement, the City of Windsor will be required to provide curbside collection, while the Towns of Amherstburg, LaSalle, Leamington and Tecumseh are to determine whether to provide curbside collection or if public drop off depots will be established in key locations.

In October 2020, the Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA) Board approved the development and implementation of a Regional Food and Organics Waste Management Plan.

A Food and Organic Waste Oversight Committee was formed as well as a Technical Working Group, each comprised of representatives from the EWSWA, the City of Windsor and the County of Essex. Representatives from the seven County municipalities participate in meetings of the Oversight Committee to observe provide information, pose questions and act as resources to the process. The representatives

from the Town of Tecumseh are the Manager Public Works & Transportation, Kirby McArdle, and the Director Public Works & Engineering Services, Phil Bartnik.

In November 2020, the City of Windsor retained the consulting firm GHD Limited undertake Phase 1 of the project which includes consulting and project direction.

At the February 9, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, Public Works & Engineering Services [Report PWES-2021-06](#) titled “Food and Organic Waste Management Plan, Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority” provided an update to Council on the progress of the Food and Organic Waste Management Plan for Essex-Windsor municipalities.

In April 2021, GHD Limited completed their analysis and recommendations, which is detailed in their report titled “[Organics and Biosolids Waste Management and Processing Project Phase 1 – Consulting and Project Direction Analysis and Recommendations.](#)”

A follow-up presentation titled “[Regional Food, Organic and Biosolids Waste Processing](#)” from Michelle Bishop, General Manager (GM) of EWSWA was presented to Council at the November 23, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council that summarized the steps taken by the Oversight Committee and Working Group, including a review of the findings by GHD Limited and possible industry solutions for considerations.

Town of Tecumseh Council at its Regular Council Meeting held February 22, 2022 approved Tecumseh’s participation in the EWSWA led regional organics program as recommended under [Report PWES-2022-10](#) titled “Regional Food and Organics and Biosolids Waste Management Project” (Motion: RCM-61/22).

March 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Presentation

Since the onset of discussions regarding a regional organics program, the regional Chief Administrative Officers have expanded the conversation to include a regional approach to waste management. Representatives from EWSWA and the County of Essex will be in attendance at the March 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting to make a presentation that summarizes the Regional Waste Management Proposal. The presentation includes an overview of the proposal and the progress to date including next steps and is appended to this report as Attachment 1.

Comments

Food, Organics and Biosolids Waste Management Update

The regional organics program has progressed since 2022 with several key highlights, as summarized below:

- In August 2022, the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the “Provision of Processing Source Separated Organic Waste” was awarded to **Seacliff Energy Corp.** for a five-year term commencing in spring 2025 with the option to renew the contract for three additional one-year extensions.
- From September to November 2022, the development and issuance of the RFP for a “Review of Existing Municipal Waste Collection Logistics and Transfer Sites and Development of a Strategic Plan as it relates to the Commencement of an Organic Waste Collection Program and Regional Solid Waste Collection Program” was completed. The successful proponent, **EXP Services Inc.**, was retained.
- EXP Services Inc. collected data from and conducted site visits at ESWSA, City of Windsor and County municipalities from November 2022 to February 2023.
- The draft Organics Strategic Plan report was received from EXP Services Inc. with the final report anticipated to be submitted by end of February 2023.

The final Organics Strategic Plan will be shared with area municipalities once received from EXP Services Inc.

Regional Waste Management Proposal

The Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority is a joint board of management created by the Corporation of the County of Essex and the Corporation of the City of Windsor pursuant to a 1994 agreement to establish, operate and manage the regional landfill, recycling, and waste diversion programs. With the exception of waste collection, all other waste programs are already managed on a regional basis, under By-law No. 2847, which includes:

- Regional landfill management;
- Regional leaf and yard waste composting;
- Regional appliance (white goods) pickup;
- Regional recycling collection and processing;
- Regional depots and disposing of waste, recyclables, electronics, chemicals.

At the June 15, 2022 County Council Meeting, the members unanimously resolved the following:

That Essex County Council direct Administration to work with the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority to prepare a report on potential cost savings to be realized by transferring the jurisdiction of garbage collection from local municipalities to the County and ultimately EWSWA, to manage garbage collection services for the County municipalities.

That Essex County Council direct Administration to conduct consultations and seek formal concurrence from each local municipality, in accordance with Section 189(2) of the *Municipal Act*, 2021, to transfer the jurisdiction of garbage collection, and examine the individual potential impacts of recovering fees for all waste and/or organic collection and disposal from a user fee pay system to a tax levy billing system.

An update to By-law No. 2847 would be required should the local municipalities decide that the County assume responsibility for waste collection. The precise process for uploading a service such as the collection and delivery of waste from the local municipalities to the County is outlined in Section 189 and 190 of the *Municipal Act* (see Attachment 2).

Next Steps at the Regional Level

If the consensus among the local municipalities is that **the County of Essex should take over waste collection and operate it as a regional program**, the following would be required:

- 1) The County would have to pass a By-law that is eventually supported by (a) a majority of the local municipalities and (b) those local municipalities that pass a resolution in support would have to comprise a majority of all electors in the County;
- 2) If the County chose to contract with EWSWA to handle waste collection, an amendment to the EWSWA Agreement to permit this would be required;
- 3) Direction would have to be given to EWSWA to stop invoicing the local municipalities and invoice the County instead;
- 4) EWSWA would need to revise its operational plan and obtain City of Windsor and County of Essex approval for same.

If the consensus among the local municipalities is that **the County of Essex should NOT take over waste collection and operate it as a regional program**, the following would be required:

- 1) Based on direction from County Council, the County would still need to pursue a regional approach to organics collection, and would need input from the local municipalities about the issues with having charges for a regional organics program added to the general levy;
- 2) Direction would have to be given to EWSWA to invoice the County and not to invoice the local municipalities for the regional organics program;

- 3) EWSWA would still need to revise its operational plan and obtain City of Windsor and County of Essex approval for same.

There are anticipated advantages to regionalizing waste collection, which include:

- Economies of Scale
- Streamlining service delivery and improving administration efficiencies
- Standardization of service levels
- Incentivizing green household practices.

Next Steps for the Town of Tecumseh

Tecumseh Administration recognizes the benefits for a regional waste management approach and working collectively with our municipal partners. Additional discussions between the Town, EWSWA and the County of Essex are warranted to obtain details on the implementation plan and to identify potential opportunities and impacts to the Town.

Tecumseh Administration will report back at a future Council meeting with additional details and a recommendation for Council's consideration on a regional waste management program once the County's by-law has been passed regarding uploading the waste management service. At this time, Administration recommends Council endorse the concept of a regional waste management service.

Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer
Legislative Services & Clerk
Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority
The Corporation of the County of Essex

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh’s current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh’s plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town’s “continuous improvement” approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town’s leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable

Website Social Media News Release Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Cheryl Curran, BES
Project Technician

Reviewed by:

Kirby McArdle, P.Eng.
Manager Public Works & Transportation

Reviewed by:

Robert Auger, LL.B.
Director Legislative Services & Clerk

Reviewed by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.
Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Town of Tecumseh Regional Waste Discussion - Presentation
2	Section 189 and 190 of the Municipal Act