



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG
OFFICE OF ENGINEERING & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

***MISSION STATEMENT:** Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.*

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| Author's Name: Antonietta Giofu and Eric Chamberlain | Report Date: June 1, 2023 |
| Author's Phone: 519 736-3664 ext. 2320 | Date to Council: June 26, 2023 |
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To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

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

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. Council **RECEIVE** the presentation from the County of Essex and Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority regarding the concept of a regional approach to waste management;
2. Council **ENDORSE** the concept of a regional approach to waste management for further exploration; and
3. Council **DIRECT** Administration to report back at a future Council meeting with further information on a regional waste management program, including the required legal and logistical steps required to upload the waste management service as well as cost and service implications.

2. BACKGROUND:

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.

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 Amherstburg) 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 representative from the Town of Amherstburg is Antonietta Giofu.

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

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 presentation titled “Regional Food, Organic and Biosolids Waste Processing” from Michelle Bishop, General Manager (GM) of EWSWA was presented to Council at the November 22, 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.

At that meeting, Council approved the following motion:

*“The Town of Amherstburg **SUPPORT** a regional approach to organic and bio-waste processing”*

3. DISCUSSION:

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 June 26, 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.

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 Seaclyff 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 EWSWA, City of Windsor and County municipalities from November 2022 to February 2023.
- The final Organics Strategic Plan was shared with area municipalities on May 31, 2023. EXP will be attending the July 12th EWSWA Board meeting to provide a presentation.

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 under an agreement established in 1994 to 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) collection
- 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 for waste collection from local municipalities to the County and ultimately EWSWA to manage waste collection services for the County municipalities.

That Essex County Council directs Administration to conduct consultations and seek concurrence from each local municipality, in accordance with Section 189(2) of the Municipal Act, 2021, to transfer the jurisdiction of waste 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 for the local municipalities to the County is outlined in Section 189 and 190 of the *Municipal Act*.

Next Steps at the Regional Level

If the consensus among the local municipalities is that the County of Essex should assume 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 invoice the local municipalities for the regional organic program; and,
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 regionalized 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 Amherstburg

Amherstburg 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.

Amherstburg Administration will report back at a future Council meeting with additional information and recommendations for Council's consideration on a regional waste management program once the County's bylaw has been passed regarding uploading the waste management service. At this time, Administration recommends Council endorsing the concept of a regional waste management service.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

There is no risk arising from this report.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. CONSULTATIONS:

Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority
The Corporation of the County of Essex

7. CONCLUSION:

Administration recommends Council endorse the concept of a regional waste management service.



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Eric Chamberlain
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Report Approval Details

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| Document Title: | Food, Organics and Biosolids Waste Management Update and Regional Waste Management Proposal.docx |
| Attachments: | |
| Final Approval Date: | Jun 21, 2023 |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Tracy Prince



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Kevin Fox