



Addendum to the Works Committee Agenda

Council Chambers
Regional Headquarters Building
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

9:30 AM

7. Waste

7.1 Correspondence

- B) Email Correspondence from Linda Gasser, dated July 7, 2020, re: Memorandum from Susan Siopis, Commissioner of Works, dated June 15, 2020, re: 2018 Municipal Benchmarking Data – Waste Management Pages 2 - 5
- Recommendation: Refer to consideration of Item 7.1 A) Memorandum from Susan Siopis, Commissioner of Works
- C) Email Correspondence from Kerry Meydam, dated July 7, 2020, re: Memorandum from Susan Siopis, Commissioner of Works, dated June 15, 2020, re: 2018 Municipal Benchmarking Data – Waste Management Page 6
- Recommendation: Refer to consideration of Item 7.1 A) Memorandum from Susan Siopis, Commissioner of Works
- D) Email Correspondence from Linda Gasser, dated July 7, 2020, re: Report #2020-WR-3: Request for Approval to Enter into an Agreement with Omachron Plastics Inc. Pages 7 – 10
- Recommendation: Refer to consideration of Report #2020-WR-3 of the Commissioner of Works

July 7, 2020

Chair Mitchell and members of Durham Works Committee

Regional Municipality of Durham

Re: July 8th Agenda Item 7.1 S. Siopis Works Commissioner Memo re 2018 Municipal Benchmarking Data-Waste Management

MBN Canada data used to be provided by Works Dept. in their annual Servicing and Financing (S & F) Reports. S & F studies included information about current and future waste programs, waste generation, previous year's waste data by municipality, proposed public education and promotion programs, future initiatives as well as capital budgets.

In the past Works Committee members had more opportunities to become informed and evaluate detailed data so as to understand the main components of Durham's larger waste system. Under the former Works Commissioner, the previous year's detailed Waste Tonnage data used to be available by April or May of the following year in a stand alone Waste Management Report. Currently Works staff release much less detailed information in the fall for the previous year.

MBN data has not been included in S & F reports in the last few years and effective 2020, your Works staff did away with S & F studies altogether.

Both should be reinstated because it's challenging for Works members to evaluate many of staff's one off piecemeal "projects" without understanding the context i.e. the 'bigger picture'.

Each MBN waste report allows users to see reported year plus past two years as well as compare Durham's performance to other reporting municipalities even though there may be variations to some of the individual programs. E.g. 2018 table includes previous years 2017 and 2016.

MBN annual Waste Reports component for 2011-2018 can be found at:

<http://mbncanada.ca/practice/waster-management/>

From Cost per Tonne for Disposal data, it became very clear that Durham's costs shot up due to your incinerator. See 2016 table inserted below showing costs per tonne for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

2014 – incinerator not yet operating

2015 – incinerator underwent commissioning – Durham paid Covanta half of annual operating fee

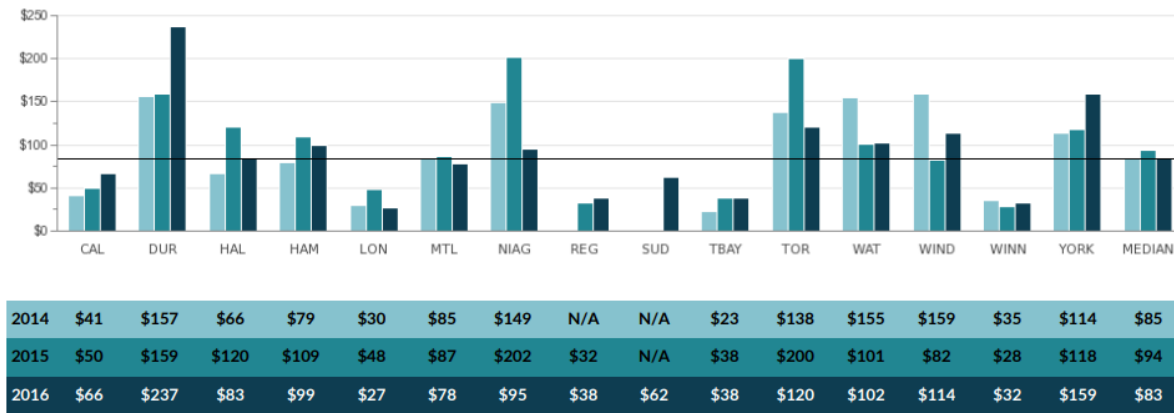
2016 -incinerator began commercial operations January 2016 -full operating fee thereafter

Fig. 34.6 Total Cost for Solid Waste (All Streams) Disposal per Tonne - All Property Classes

All Property Classes includes residential, and industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) locations.

Other impacts such as additional costs of transporting waste outside a community, aging infrastructure, capital costs, and the cost associated with the incineration of garbage, service agreements, increase in leachate treatment and fluctuating fuel costs can impact the results. In addition, declining landfill capacities typically result in increased landfill rates.

The results can be impacted significantly due to the recording of post-closure landfill liability costs.



Source: SWST325T (Efficiency)

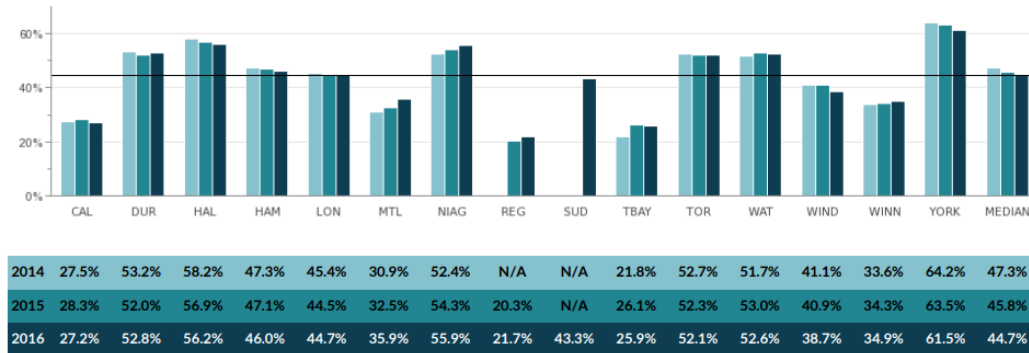
Comment:

Durham and York Region's increase is due to the first full year of operations for the Durham York Energy Centre.

Durham's focus should be on Reduction as well as Diversion. Durham's diversion rate has declined since a high of 53.2% in 2014 (adjusted following year to 53%) – see two slides below. As I have raised repeatedly, Durham has no Reduction Targets I am aware of.

Fig. 34.4 Percent of Residential Solid Waste Diverted

This measure demonstrates the percent of residential waste diverted away from landfills and incineration through programs such as organics, blue box, leaf and yard, municipal hazardous or special waste and other recyclable materials, e.g. wood, metal, tires.



Source: SWST105M (Community Impact)

Waste Management

Figure 34.4 Percent of Residential Solid Waste Diverted

This measure demonstrates the percent of residential waste diverted away from landfills and incineration through programs such as organics, blue box, leaf and yard, municipal hazardous or special waste and other recyclable materials, e.g. wood, metal, tires.



Source: SWST105 (Community Impact). Formerly SWST105M.

Calgary: The large increase in diversion was due to the implementation of the Green Cart Program and change to every other week garbage collection, which was completed in the second half of 2017. 2018 was the first full year of program results.

Hamilton: The decrease in 2018 was primarily due to the temporary shut down of the Central Composting Facility.

July 7, 2020

Chair and Members of Durham Works Committee
Durham Region

Re: July 8th Agenda Item 7.1

Works Commissioner Siopis' Memo regarding 2018 MBN information was a welcome surprise to see, and I hope that members will take the time to look at all the information closely (more is included on the MBN website at <http://mbncanada.ca/practice/waster-management/>).

This information used to be included in yearly reports to Works and to Council, but for some reason seem to have discontinued. This and other information (including changes in costs) should be reported and updated as frequently as possibly, both for the benefit of decision-making by Committee and Council, and for the benefit of the public.

There has been a lot of missing information in waste management reports and many decisions have been made in the absence of detailed information. Too often the devil is in the details.

It appears that reports are given in bits and pieces, not looking at the big picture. This is not good policy and makes for fragmentary approvals, some of which may not fit together as promised or as desired.

Request: I ask that Works Staff give Committee and that Committee give Council and the public more information as we used to receive, not less as has been the practice with new committee and council.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Regards,

Kerry Meydam
Courtice

July 7, 2020

Chair Mitchell and members of Durham Works Committee

Regional Municipality of Durham

Re: Report 2020 WR-3, Request for Approval to Enter into an Agreement with Omachron Plastics, Works Agenda Item 7.2 A

There is not enough information in this report to allow Works Committee to make an informed recommendation to Council nor should any decision be made before more information is provided by staff, including what I describe below.

Section 1.1 Purpose:

The objective of the pilot project is to develop innovative uses for blue box plastics and single use plastics by creating new products.

Recall that in February 2019 Council passed the following motion:

9.4 Report of the Works Committee

1. City of Vancouver Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy (2019-WR-1)
[CARRIED AS AMENDED]
[See Motions 76 and 77]
 - A) Whereas plastic waste is an urgent environmental issue creating waste disposal concerns and threatening the health of waterways and oceans:
 - i) That federal and provincial leadership is required to adequately address waste generation issues that are significantly beyond the control of individual municipalities;
 - ii) That Regional Chair Henry submit a letter to the Premier of Ontario and Minister of the Environment, Conservations and Parks highlighting the need for provincial leadership to encourage the development of plastics recycling markets and energy recovery solutions where recycling is not a viable option;
 - iii) Furthermore; that the federal and provincial governments undertake a full review of single use plastics and duly ban those deemed most dangerous to our environment;

- iv) That the federal and provincial governments continue to encourage producers and operators currently utilizing single use plastic to instead proactively conduct their businesses with recyclable materials in mind;
- v) That Regional Council request that the Province provide confirmation on the timing for full implementation of extended producer responsibility;
- vi) That staff investigate the legal mechanisms, including bylaws, for the possible banning of single use plastics;
- vii) That Regional Works staff, along with staff from Economic Development at both Regional and Municipal levels, investigate business opportunities, and possible savings, in helping to jump start the domestic processing of non-Blue Box plastics, and involve the plastics industry; and
- viii) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority.

Recall that in November 2019, Ajax Mayor Shaun Collier wrote to Durham Works Committee, regarding Ajax's Resolution on Single Use Plastics. On November 6, 2019 Works Committee passed this motion:

A) Correspondence dated September 18, 2019 from the Town of Ajax, re: Single-Use Plastics Ban

Discussion ensued regarding the intent of the Town of Ajax's resolution with respect to the single-use plastics ban at their facilities and buildings.

A question was raised with respect to what the Region of Durham is currently doing to ban single-use plastics. S. Siopis advised that the use of eco-containers, and proper re-useable cutlery, have been implemented at Regional Headquarters. She also advised that the Region is looking to host a meeting of the waste staff from the local area municipalities to discuss the topic of a single-use plastics ban, to develop a program that is comparable, implementable, and practical.

Moved by Councillor McLean, Seconded by Councillor Barton,
(148) That correspondence dated September 18, 2019 from the Town of Ajax, re: Single-Use Plastics Ban, be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor John Neal, Seconded by Councillor Crawford,
(149) That staff be directed to report back to the Works Committee with respect to establishing a policy regarding eliminating single-use plastics, in consultation with Durham's local area municipalities.

CARRIED

At a recent council meeting (believe it was April), in response to questions from Councillor Joe Neal, staff indicated they were able to market their blue box plastics.

Section 2.3 of report WR 3:

*Regional staff sought out domestic companies who could make use of non-blue box materials. During that process, Regional staff connected with a local company, Omachron Plastics Inc. (Omachron) of Hampton, Ontario **whose research and development work is able to make use of blue-box plastics and could have potential to expand into the non-blue-box material processing.***

Responsibility for these products will be taken up by producers **as early as 2023**. Why would Durham want to sell, and why would Omachron want to buy, blue box plastics from Durham for a limited period?

Some single use plastics like e.g. water bottles, many containers are recyclable and revenue generating for Durham. Many of these same single use plastic items, if reduction policies or bans would be instituted by various levels of government, may disappear or be greatly reduced in quantity.

Which blue box materials exactly, would Omachron wish to purchase and in what amounts and who sorts that material for them? What impact would this have on Durham's overall recycling material marketing efforts and prices received?

Durham is a price taker, not a market maker. How would "fair market value" be arrived at through negotiation, especially since staff indicate prices fluctuate, and be better for Durham than what could be achieved by selling to the market?

Section 3.2 report WR 3 Discussion

*Since that time, Regional staff have been **exchanging waste generation and materials specification data with Omachron, have toured their Hampton facility and met with the company's principal regarding Omachron's research into making products from the Region's blue box mixed plastics.***

It's rather galling that Durham staff would provide waste generation data to a private company, Omachron, but have yet to provide 2019 waste tonnage to Council and the public, who rely on such data to assess any number of regional projects, including the recently approved MWP/AD.

Section 3.3 – Durham doesn't break down the 1500 metric tonnes per month into type of plastics or prices for material categories for which there are markets.

Section 3.5

*Regional staff has been working with Omachron on opportunities to use other materials generated from the Region's **various waste management programs such as non-blue box plastics and glass.** Part of this work includes the possibility of establishing a research and development testing facility, **at no cost to the Region, for testing new products made from the Region's recyclable materials.** This opportunity has the potential to develop into a further investment by Omachron that would enable this company to produce new products and provide local employment opportunities.*

Section 4.2 *Plastics revenues received over the last 24 months ranges from a high of \$170 per tonne, to a low of \$58 per tonne, with an average of about \$98 per tonne.*

Section 4.3 *As part of the proposed Agreement, the Region would provide Omachron with plastics at fair market value. Omachron will be responsible for transporting plastics from the Regional facility.*

Section 4.4 *As stated above, the market for these plastics has become quite unpredictable; **having a more consistent revenue source** would be beneficial to the Region.*

Would that be a consistently lower or higher price than what markets offer? Why would Omachron pay Durham more than market price?

How much effort should the Region devote to monetizing the sale of materials, with blue box material out of Region's control shortly, which materials Omachron could source elsewhere and would have to source elsewhere after producers take up responsibility for blue box collection and processing? What's the attraction for Omachron of this deal with Durham?

Before staff devote any more time to this one-piece meal time limited project, Durham Works should remind staff of their previous direction, to create a policy around Single Use Plastics, which direction was also part of the February 2019 council motion.

Works Committee should ask: what is the status of that February and November 2019 direction to staff, to create a policy regarding **single use plastics**, in consultation with Durham's local area municipalities?

My request to Works Committee:

Please do not recommend approval of this project to Council.

Please direct staff to produce a draft of a policy around elimination of Single Use Plastics, as directed last November and as per clause vi) of February 2019 motion.

Please direct staff to provide more information around all potential costs to Region including staff time and the pricing strategy contemplated as well as copy of a draft agreement with Omachron to be brought back to Works Committee.

Thank you for your attention.

Linda Gasser

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