

Report To:	Regional Chair and Members of Regional Council
From:	Andrew Farr, Commissioner, Public Works
Date:	May 25, 2022
Report No:	PW-10-22
Re:	Halton Region Solid Waste Management Strategy 2023-2030

## RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Regional Council endorse the Solid Waste Management Strategy (the “Strategy”) and the recommended key initiatives as outlined in Report No. PW-10-22 re: “Halton Region Solid Waste Management Strategy 2023-2030”.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. PW-10-22 to the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville and the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks Halton/Peel District Office for their information.

## REPORT

### **Executive Summary**

- In July 2021, Regional Council approved Report No. PW-19-21: “Draft Medium-Long Term Solid Waste Management Strategy” which included a Public Engagement Plan.
- Public engagement was undertaken in the fall of 2021 to obtain input and feedback on the proposed Draft Strategy and to determine the level of support for specific key initiatives.
- The Solid Waste Management Strategy public consultation webpage received over 15,000 views between November 8 and December 10, 2021.
- The online survey form was accessed approximately 11,000 times and over 6,900 respondents completed the survey. The results identified that the majority of respondents are supportive of the Solid Waste Management Strategy.

- Three virtual Public Information Centres were held in November 2021 to provide additional information and directly answer questions from participants.
- Staff met with several Halton Advisory Committees and other community stakeholders to share the proposed Draft Strategy including the results of the public engagement, and to confirm their support for the recommended Solid Waste Management Strategy.
- Based on the level of support identified by the public and community stakeholders, Region staff recommend Regional Council approve the Solid Waste Management Strategy 2023-2030 and key initiatives.

## Background

Since 1992 when the Halton Waste Management Site opened, the Solid Waste Management Strategy has been updated and enhanced several times, leading to the successful implementation of programs and services supported by the Halton community. By placing a priority on the diversion of solid waste from landfill (58 per cent in 2021) and enhancing landfill site operational procedures, the landfill lifespan has been extended by more than 30 years.

In July 2021, Regional Council approved Report No. PW-19-21: “Draft Medium-Long Term Solid Waste Management Strategy”. Applying a sustainability framework that measured potential economic, environmental and social results, the Draft Strategy identified a number of proposed key initiatives to extend the lifespan of the Halton Waste Management Site, increase diversion of waste from landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Attachment #1 – Executive Summary Recommended Solid Waste Management Strategy). The objectives of the Solid Waste Management Strategy are:

- Extend landfill lifespan and preserve landfill capacity;
- Minimize and divert waste;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Prepare for future waste collection contracts;
- Support pending Federal/Provincial Environmental Legislation; and,
- Maintain a sustainable waste management program that meets and adapts to the demands of the present and future.

Report No. PW-19-21 also provided details on a public engagement plan to be undertaken during the fall of 2021 to obtain input and feedback on the proposed Draft Strategy and to determine the level of support for specific key initiatives that are proposed to meet the objectives of the Strategy.

An electronic copy of a detailed report on the Draft Medium-Long Term Solid Waste Management Strategy is available on the Region website <https://www.halton.ca/For-Residents/Recycling-Waste/Solid-Waste-Management-Strategy>. Once approved by

Regional Council, the recommended Solid Waste Management Strategy will be posted on Halton Region's website.

## **Discussion**

### ***Public Engagement Results***

#### Webpage and Public Information Centres

In the fall of 2021, Halton Region created a new webpage that provided a summary of each of the proposed key initiatives identified in the Draft Strategy, along with their forecasted impacts on waste diversion, extended landfill lifespan, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and estimated costs. The webpage included information on their opportunities to participate and how to provide feedback on the Draft Strategy. The webpage also included links to the Executive Summary and full report on the Draft Strategy, as well as links to Federal, Provincial and Regional initiatives specific to environmental sustainability and climate change.

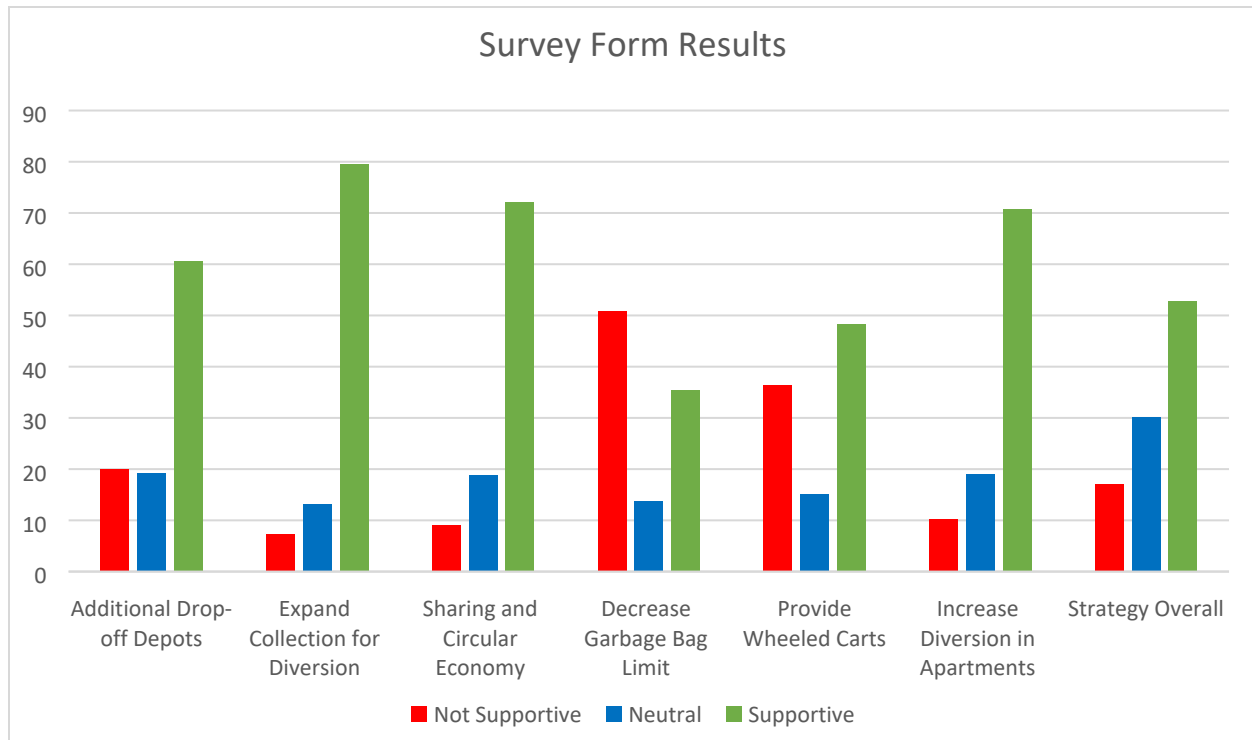
The webpage and opportunities to participate were promoted through Halton Region's communications channels, including social media, the halton.ca homepage, newspaper advertisements, Regional Chair's communications and by email to those subscribed through ReCollect. A mix of targeted social media and digital media advertising, including a postcard mailed to residents in Halton's rural community, were used to reach intended audiences and drive people to the webpage to find more information. Regional partners were also engaged to help share information, including Local Municipalities, Regional Council and waste management stakeholders.

Residents were also informed of scheduled virtual Public Information Centres, which they could register to attend to learn more about the Draft Strategy and ask questions of staff. The three Public Information Centres were held in late November 2021. The virtual Public Information Centre held on November 24, 2021 was recorded and posted on the Strategy webpage.

#### Online Survey

An online survey form was developed to provide residents with an opportunity to identify their level of support for the proposed key initiatives and offer suggestions on additional waste reduction and diversion initiatives for consideration. There were over 11,000 views of the survey form and approximately 6,900 individuals filled out the survey. Residents indicated their level of support for proposed initiatives that would have an impact on how waste management programs and services are delivered in Halton.

While support for specific initiatives varied, the majority of residents supported the overall Solid Waste Management Strategy. The bar graph below indicates the level of support for the proposed initiatives identified through the online survey.



As stated above, the responses from the public indicate a general support for the Waste Strategy. However, to address certain initiatives where public support was not as strong; the final Strategy recommends additional study and public engagement for several specific initiatives prior to implementation.

- Provide wheeled carts; and,
- Decrease garbage bag limits.

The results of the Public Engagement Survey are attached to this report (Attachment #2 – Survey Results). An electronic copy of the Public Engagement Summary Report and the Public Webinar Questions and Answers Summary are available upon request through the Regional Clerk’s office.

### Consultation with Advisory Committees and Community Stakeholders

In late September and early October of 2021, staff presented the Draft Strategy to the following groups for their information and opportunity to provide initial feedback:

- Halton Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee;
- Halton Older Adults Advisory Committee;
- Halton Accessibility Advisory Committee; and,
- Halton Environmental Network and Burlington Green.

The Advisory Committees and community stakeholders were supportive of the proposed key initiatives. The Halton Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was asked to endorse the recommended Solid Waste Management Strategy.

The Halton Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee met in February 2022 to review the results of the public consultation and approved the following:

- “Our primary role, as an advisory committee, is to assist Halton Region in maintaining priority of the efficiency and environmental integrity of the Halton landfill site and increased diversion of waste from landfill; therefore, the Halton Waste Management Advisory Committee endorses the recommended Solid Waste Management Strategy, as it will extend the lifespan of the Halton Waste Management Site, increase diversion of waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

### **Recommendation**

Based on results of the public engagement and level of community support for the proposed initiatives, staff recommend that Regional Council approve the Solid Waste Management Strategy as presented to Regional Council in Report No. PW-19-21.

The recommended Strategy provides the framework to develop policy directions that meet the environmental, economic and social outcomes that established the key initiatives. Once implemented, the key initiatives have the ability to increase the total diversion of waste generated in Halton from landfill from the current 58 per cent to between 64 per cent and 70 per cent by the year 2030. In addition, the Strategy proposes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 13,000 tonnes per year and extend the lifespan of the landfill out to 2050-2054. The environmental impacts are equivalent to annually removing:

- 2 million bags of garbage;
- 3,980 vehicles; and,
- 5.5 million litres of gas.

The table below, identifies the key initiatives, forecasted year(s) for when they will be evaluated and/or implemented as well as the environmental benefits.

**Table 1: Recommended Solid Waste Management Strategy**

<b>Key Initiative</b>	<b>Forecasted Year of Implementation</b>	<b>Environmental Benefit</b>
Implement waste management community ambassadors (formerly alternatives to by-law enforcement)	2023	Impact on Diversion 2 per cent – 4 per cent
Pilot and evaluate automated collection	2023/2024/2025	GHG Reduction 2,940 tonnes
Review garbage bag limits (formerly decrease garbage bag limits)	2024/2025	

Implement multi-residential waste management improvements	2024	Impact on Diversion 0.75 per cent - 1.5 per cent
Review "Smart City" initiatives	2025/2026	
Track waste containers	2024	GHG Reduction 870 tonnes
<b>Support the circular/sharing economy</b>		
Support the circular/sharing economy	2023	Impact on Diversion 3.0 per cent - 5.5 per cent  GHG Reduction 3,510 tonnes
Implement enhanced contractor collection services	2025/2026	
Expand existing collection services	2025/2026	
Promotion and education for residential waste diversion	2023/2024	
Promotion and education for ICI waste diversion	2024/2025	
Evaluate additional public waste drop-off depots	2023 to 2030	
<b>Evaluate alternatives to petroleum-based fuels for waste management vehicles</b>		
Evaluate alternatives to petroleum-based fuels for waste management vehicles	2023/2024	Impact on Landfill Lifespan 20 Additional Years
Optimize the utilization of landfill gas	2023-2027	GHG Reduction 5,700 tonnes
Review and implement options to extend landfill capacity	2024-2030	

Following approval of the recommended Solid Waste Management Strategy, staff will begin developing programs and services to support the key initiatives.

As the initiatives in the Strategy move forward, staff will report back to Regional Council prior to moving forward with detailed implementation plans including the results of further review of options, capital and operating cost impacts and other service level impacts.

A comprehensive communications and marketing strategy will be developed to ensure awareness of new initiatives, promote the benefits of the enhanced services and program changes, and support change management.

Costs associated with each of the key initiatives will be included for Regional Council's consideration in the annual Budget and Business Plan. Report No. PW-19-21 provided total estimated cost projections for the proposed initiatives. However changes to Halton Region's waste management programs and services due to the impending transition to producer responsibility for the Blue Box and the future waste collection contracts, do limit the ability to accurately quantify annual budget impacts at this time.

**FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS**

The completion of the Solid Waste Management Strategy was funded from the approved capital budget G3081A.

Following approval of this report, staff will begin a comprehensive analysis of costs for the recommended key initiatives to be implemented, including undertaking a number of

studies that are proposed to further refine the estimated one-time, capital, and annual operating costs, impact on waste and greenhouse gas reduction, and recommended next steps for implementation.

As stated above, staff will report back prior to implementation with further implementation details, once available, for Regional Council's consideration and approval. Once initiatives are approved, the financial impacts will be brought forward for Regional Council's consideration through the annual budget process based on the timing of the implementation plan.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Rivers CET  
Director, Waste Management and Road  
Operations



Andrew Farr  
Commissioner, Public Works

Approved by



Jane MacCaskill  
Chief Administrative Officer

If you have any questions on the content of this report,  
please contact:

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Attachments: Attachment #1 – Executive Summary Recommended Solid Waste Management Strategy  
Attachment #2 – Survey Summary