

Residential Mixed Waste Processing Facility for the City of Toronto

September 2009

What is being proposed?

Residential Mixed Waste Processing Facility

- Facility recovers any recyclables and organics from residential mixed waste
- Facility generates Compost-Like-Output
- Anything left after this process is "true garbage" and is sent to landfill
- Process reduces amount of material going to landfill
- Facility developed and operated at approximately 150,000 tonnes/year (tpy) is projected to result in 75,000 tpy of diversion

Residential Mixed Waste

- Portion of waste remaining after residents separate materials for recycling and composting. Mixed waste also includes materials that have not been separated (i.e. materials not captured, recyclables and compostables incorrectly placed in garbage, or diversion program not fully implemented, etc.)

Where will it be located?

The preferred site is City of Toronto owned land adjacent to Green Lane Landfill. Green Lane Resources is the interim name for the proposed facility.

Why this site?

Factors in site selection

- City of Toronto owns site (within or outside City boundaries)
- Site qualifies for Ministry of the Environment Certificate of Approval
- Land needed between 3 to 12 hectares
- Land uses for site and surrounding area are suitable for this type of facility
- Site easy to access
- Site has access to water, waste water treatment and energy

Screening considerations and results

- 12 City of Toronto-owned potential sites considered
- Nine located within the City of Toronto
- Two of the Toronto sites already selected as the locations for new organics processing facilities
- Site screening process excluded all sites except for lands adjacent to Green Lane Landfill
- Only site with the property to accommodate the size of the facility

Technology Selection

Seven technology scenarios were considered and evaluated. Considerations included a proven operating history for the technology and a realistic ability to market the recovered materials.

- Recommended category: Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) with Anaerobic Digestion (AD) or Aerobic Composting
- Preliminary facility concept includes allowance for a covering system for final curing compost windrows

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

A process used to assess or predict the health effects of a project or policy; inform or influence the decision-making process; and mitigate any health consequences of a decision.

Results of the Health Impact Assessment screening

- MBT with AD had the lowest impact overall
- Both MBT options may have an impact on several aspects of health through impacts on the environment
- The impacts predicted for MBT were much less of a concern than the impact of landfilling residual waste with no pre-treatment
- Many of the environmental factor impacts can be mitigated (lessened) with engineering technologies
- Local community members should participate in further HIA screening efforts to give their input in early 2010
- A more in-depth HIA may be done to guide in the assessment of possible mitigation strategies

Community Input

- Discussions with Public Liaison Committee (Green Lane Landfill Community)
- Meetings with First Nation Liaison Committee in the Green Lane Landfill area
- Briefing with local Mayor and Councillors
- Southwold Township open houses for site neighbours and public
- Web site www.toronto.ca/garbage/mwp - detailed information and study reports
- Your comments will assist the project team moving forward. Please submit your comments by October 15, 2009

Next Steps/Timeline

- Consultation with the community at the proposed Green Lane Resources site, MOE and interested stakeholders – September 2009
- Send in your comments by October 15, 2009
- Issue Request for Expressions of Interest to solicit vendors interested in providing the selected technology – Early 2010
- Issue Request for Proposals and evaluate technology submissions – Mid to late 2010
- Complete and submit Environmental Protection Act documentation to obtain final MOE approvals and conditions for development and operation of the proposed facility – Mid 2010 or mid 2011
- Recommendation report to Public Works and Infrastructure Committee and City Council - Early to mid 2011
- Begin constructing the facility – Late 2011

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why does the City of Toronto need a residential mixed waste processing facility?

The City of Toronto has many initiatives underway to reduce the amount of material going to landfill (e.g., organics program in apartments/condos, volume-based fees for garbage, improved recycling capacity, etc.). Residential mixed waste processing is a significant component of the City of Toronto's Target 70 Diversion Plan.

Have a technology and a site been selected for the residential mixed waste processing facility?

The Residential Mixed Waste Processing Study recommends mechanical biological treatment (MBT), with either aerobic composting or anaerobic digestion as the preferred technology. City of Toronto owned land adjacent to Green Lane Landfill in Southwold Township, is the preferred location for the facility.

Why isn't the facility being built in Toronto?

Of the 12 potential sites considered, nine were located within the City of Toronto. Two of the Toronto sites were screened out because they had previously been selected as the locations for Toronto's new source separate organics facilities, which will process Green Bin materials. During the site screening process all sites except for the land adjacent to Green Lane Landfill were excluded, primarily because they had insufficient property to accommodate the size of the required residential mixed waste processing facility.

What will the facility be called?

Green Lane Resources is the proposed name. Green Lane is already the name of the site/location and Resources refers to materials (recyclables, compost-like-output) that will be recovered for beneficial use and diverted from landfill, in conjunction with Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Waste Policy diversion objectives.

Who is the Residual Waste Working Group?

The Residual Waste Working Group is a City of Toronto citizen advisory group that provides input and advice to staff and the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the management of residual waste. The group came into effect on January 1, 2008 and is comprised of eight members.

More information: www.toronto.ca/garbage/mwp

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