

June 17, 2016

PW14.2.27

RE: PW14.2 – Final Long Term Waste Management Strategy

Dear Committee Members:

Toronto's waste currently generates 2.27 million tonnes CO₂eq greenhouse gas emissions annually, up 6% from the previous year.¹ Achieving Toronto's city-wide GHG emissions reduction target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 will require significant reductions from the waste sector. A new strategy is needed to get Toronto back on track in terms of increasing diversion and reducing GHG emissions in the waste sector.

TAF strongly supports the proposed Long Term Waste Management Strategy and the related staff recommendations. The aspirational goal to work towards a circular economy and zero waste future creates an ambitious framework for the strategy and aligns the City with Provincial policy under the new Waste Free Ontario Act. The proposed Strategy appropriately prioritizes waste reduction, reuse, recycling and resource recovery in a stepwise fashion that will facilitate significant greenhouse gas reductions while deferring the need for new investments in residual waste disposal facilities.

TAF commends Solid Waste Management staff and the consulting team for the thorough policy development and community consultation process, which has resulted in a comprehensive Waste Strategy that meaningfully incorporates stakeholder and community input. I had the opportunity to observe and participate in the process as a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group over the past two years and must say that it was among the most comprehensive and in-depth policy development processes I have been a part of.

The Waste Strategy rightly prioritizes initiatives that will expand and bolster the 3Rs over new capital infrastructure investments. In the event that capital investments are required, TAF supports the proposed option of creating a Mixed Waste Processing Facility with Organics Recovery. Such a facility would be an additional intervention point for waste diversion and can enhance methane recovery from the organic fraction of the waste. Should a Mixed Waste Processing Facility be pursued, the City should prioritize using the recovered biogas for Renewable Natural Gas applications, particularly in the transportation sector to replace diesel.

TAF looks forward to continued collaboration with Solid Waste Management Services to support the implementation of the Long Term Waste Management Strategy, and in particular

¹ <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-87697.pdf>

to explore GHG reduction opportunities related to renewable natural gas applications at City waste facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Purcell', written in a cursive style.

Bryan Purcell
Director of Policy and Programs
Toronto Atmospheric Fund