



Toronto Civic Employees' Union, Local 416

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LOCAL 416

Affiliated with the Canadian
Labour Congress and the
Labour Council of Toronto
& York Region

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Submission to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Re: IE24.7 - Long-term Residual Waste Management Work Plan
From: Toronto Civic Employees' Union Local 416

Toronto Civic Employees' Union Local 416 appreciates the opportunity to comment on the City's Residual Waste Management Work Plan.

As the union representing frontline solid waste workers, we are committed to helping Toronto meet its waste diversion and climate goals. We urge the Committee to prioritize public accountability, environmental responsibility, and a strong public role in waste management.

We echo the concerns raised by the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) regarding the risks of incineration and energy-from-waste technologies and ask the Committee to further investigate how those options could undermine Toronto's commitments to a circular economy and to achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2040.

Local 416 has long warned that privatizing waste collection and processing makes it harder for the City of Toronto to meet its diversion targets. When private contractors control what is collected and how it is processed, the City loses the ability to verify diversion rates and ensure materials are properly recovered. It is the contractors, not the City, who ultimately decide what ends up in landfill versus the recycling stream. This lack of transparency and accountability is incompatible with a credible waste diversion strategy.

We share TEA's concern about the need for more public consultation. Decisions of this scale, especially those with long-term environmental and financial consequences, must be made with full public input and Council oversight. Consultation should also include TCEU Local 416 solid waste members, whose frontline expertise in waste operations is essential to shaping effective and accountable waste management policies.

Toronto's waste strategy should be built on a foundation of public service, environmental stewardship, and transparency. We urge the Committee to delay a decision today and investigate alternative options that strengthen the City's commitment to publicly delivered, accountable waste diversion.

Respectfully submitted,
Toronto Civic Employees' Union Local 416