

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT  
RAPPORT

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DATE                        27 January 1998

TO/DEST.                 Coordinator  
                              Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee

FROM/EXP.                Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET           **ORGANIC WASTE TRANSFER STATION -  
TRAIL ROAD LANDFILL SITE**

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### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee and Council confirm the establishment of a fee for services related to the use of a temporary organic waste transfer facility located at the Trail Road Landfill Site.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

On 20 November 1997, a temporary organic waste transfer station was established at the Trail Road Landfill Site. During the operation of this pilot project, a handling fee of \$10 per tonne for organic waste is being charged, under the delegated authority of the Environment and Transportation Commissioner.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Environment and Transportation Department is engaged in a continuous process of looking for methods of delivering solid waste services to the residents and businesses of Ottawa-Carleton, in a fiscally, environmentally and socially responsible manner.

Since October 1996, organic waste material collected from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) facilities in Ottawa-Carleton was composted by Ottawa Valley Farms Ltd. operating at the Huneault Waste Management landfill site in Navan. On 10 October 1997, Huneault Waste Management Inc. ceased organic composting operations at the Ottawa Valley Farms facility, due to operational problems. The cessation of these activities left a void in a solid waste service previously available to the IC&I sector.

The current Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Certificate of Approval (C of A) for the Trail Road facility allows the Region to compost only source-separated leaf and yard waste.

## DISCUSSION

The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC) is committed to maximizing diversion from waste disposal, and composting organic waste is a major component in achieving this goal. With the closure of Ottawa Valley Farms Ltd., there were no other operating composting facilities within the Ottawa-Carleton region to support the diversion of IC&I organic waste.

To meet the short-term demand for composting the IC&I organic waste, the RMOC requested and received temporary approval, effective 20 November 1997, from the MOE to operate a temporary transfer station for organic waste at the Trail Road Landfill Site. This temporary transfer station allows uninterrupted service to the commercial customers and ensures that the infrastructure developed to collect this material will not be lost. This transfer station will, in the immediate future, help avoid landfilling the organic waste at Trail Road and other landfill sites in Ottawa-Carleton.

To meet the long-term need, the RMOC will continue to promote the development of private sector facilities to support the diversion of IC&I organic waste.

In order to establish a fee schedule to cover the RMOC's cost of running the temporary organic waste transfer station at Trail Road, an analysis of the composting process was conducted by Solid Waste Division staff. The process involves hauling the organic waste material to the Trail Road Landfill Site, at the expense of the hauler; off-loading the material in an area that is currently part of the existing compost facility; and mixing the material with a bulking agent such as compost reject material or wood chips. When sufficient quantities are received, the stabilized material is loaded into trailers for transport to licensed facilities, at the haulers' expense.

The cost is estimated to be \$10 per tonne, taking into account the cost of the compost reject material used to stabilize the organic waste, and the labour and equipment used to haul the organic waste to the composting area, mix the materials together, and load the resulting mixture onto the trailers for shipment. All the above-noted work can be done using existing staff, equipment and materials on site.

The fee of \$10 per tonne has temporarily been established under the Commissioner's delegated authority. The Environment and Transportation Department, under the delegation of the Commissioner as set out in Sections 5.3.6 and 5.3.7 of the *Regional Regulatory Code*, "may from time to time prescribe rates or charges for the use of the waste disposal facility and provide for terms of payment thereof".

Regional consents to operate waste services and facilities are granted to private facilities by the RMOC in accordance with "Part X" of the *Regional Municipalities Act*. The RMOC is not permitted to give Consent to an operation within its own organization. Notwithstanding this, the RMOC will abide by the same principals used when granting a Consent.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The operation of a temporary transfer station at Trail Road for IC&I organic waste has been established with the intention of being revenue neutral. It will enable the RMOC to divert compostable material from the landfill site and thus contribute to the extension of the life of the existing facility. At the same time, it will provide business in Ottawa-Carleton, via the haulers, with a cost-competitive option to sending divertable organic waste to landfill.

## CONSULTATION

The major haulers of organic waste involved in the previous organic waste composting operation in Navan will be invited to participate in the Trail Road Transfer Station.

During an Open House held at the Trail Road on 25 October 1997 for the purpose of informing the public of the operations of the Landfill Site, information was made available on the proposed temporary organic waste transfer station. Following the Open House, residents and interested parties within the immediate vicinity of the Landfill Site were notified of the request for an amendment to the Trail Road Site C of A. Comments were summarized and provided to the MOE as part of the application for the amendment of the C of A to allow for the operation of the transfer station.

As well, all calls to the 24-Hour Service and Information Line and the Trail Road Landfill Site will continue to be monitored as part of an ongoing assessment of the public's and customers' reaction to the establishment of a temporary transfer station for IC&I organic waste.

## CONCLUSION

The operation of a temporary transfer station for IC&I organic waste material at the Trail Road Landfill Site is intended to support a developing private sector infrastructure and diversion initiative. The temporary transfer station will sustain the commercial organic waste program at a break-even rate to the RMOC.

*Approved by*  
*M. J. E. Sheflin, P.Eng.*

JC/TJC/mm