

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON AUGUST 13, 2020
FROM:	JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR - ENVIRONMENT, FLEET & SOLID WASTE
SUBJECT:	PROGRESS REPORT #10: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE – DECEMBER 1, 2019 to JULY 31, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Environment, Fleet and Solid Waste, this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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Relevant reports that can be found at www.london.ca under City Hall (Meetings) include:

- Update and Next Steps – Resource Recovery Strategy and Residual Waste Disposal Strategy as part of the Environmental Assessment Process (February 7, 2017 meeting of the Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #10)
- Individual Environmental Assessment Long Term Solid Waste Resource Recovery & Disposal Plans (October 6, 2015 meeting of the CWC, Item #14)

Relevant reports that can be found at www.london.ca under City Hall (Meetings – Advisory and other Committees) include:

- Progress Report #8: Community Engagement Program Update - April 1, 2019 To November 30, 2019 (December 18, 2019 meeting of the Waste Management Working Group (WMWG), Item #3.3)
- Progress Report #6: Community Engagement Program (April 18, 2019 meeting of the WMWG, Item #3.3)
- Progress Report #5: Community Engagement Program (March 8, 2018 meeting of the WMWG, Item #3.2)
- Progress Report #4: Community Engagement Program (January 18, 2018 meeting of the WMWG, Item #7)
- Update Report #4: Community Engagement Program (September 28, 2017 meeting of the WMWG, Item #6)
- Progress Report #1: Community Engagement Program (June 27, 2017 meeting of the WMWG, Item #6)
- General Framework for the Community Engagement Program for the Resource Recovery and Residual Waste Disposal Strategies as part of the Environmental Assessment Process (January 19, 2017 meeting of the WMWG, Item #7)

COUNCIL'S 2019-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Municipal Council has recognized the importance of solid waste management in its 2019-2023 - Strategic Plan for the City of London as follows:

Building a Sustainable City

London has a strong and healthy environment

- Build infrastructure to support future development and protect the environment

Growing our Economy

London is a leader in Ontario for attracting new jobs and investments

- Build infrastructure to support future development and retain existing jobs

Leading in Public Service

Londoners experience exceptional and valued customer service

- Increase community and resident satisfaction of their service experience with the City

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE:

This report provides the Waste Management Working Group (WMWG) with an update on Community Engagement Program activities for the Resource Recovery and Residual Waste Disposal Strategies that have taken place between December 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020.

CONTEXT:

In February 2017, Municipal Council directed City staff to undertake a number of actions with respect to the development of a long term Resource Recovery Strategy and a Residual Waste Disposal Strategy for the City of London. These actions included approving the general framework of the Community Engagement Program including:

- Using the following community engagement tools and forums: public notices, project website including use of the *getinvolved.london.ca* website, interested stakeholders contact and distribution list, open houses, meetings/presentations, City of London Advisory Committees, and using a range of information and communications tools; and,
- Contacting individuals and groups within the following broad stakeholder categories: the general public, the Government Review Team (GRT) and Indigenous Communities.

The Community Engagement Program began on March 30, 2017 with the release of the Notice of Commencement.

The WMWG has received community engagement activity updates for the following periods:

1. March 30, 2017 to June 5, 2017 (on June 5, 2017)
2. June 6, 2017 to September 12, 2017 (on September 28, 2017)
3. September 13, 2017 to January 10, 2018 (on January 18, 2018)
4. January 11, 2018 to March 1, 2018 (on March 8, 2018)
5. March 2, 2018 to March 30, 2019 (on April 18, 2019)
6. April 1, 2019 To November 30, 2019 (on December 18, 2019)

Addressing the Need for Action on Climate Change

On April 23, 2019, the following was approved by Municipal Council with respect to climate change:

Therefore, a climate emergency be declared by the City of London for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our eco systems, and our community from climate change.

Both the Resource Recovery Strategy and Waste Disposal Strategy (including the EA) address various aspects of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. These elements are also a requirement that must be addressed as part of EA documentation.

DISCUSSION

Overview

A formal Public Consultation Report (i.e., the title assigned by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks - MECP) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) process is required for both the Terms of Reference (ToR) and for the EA. The Public Consultation Report documents all aspects of the Community Engagement Program including information on advertising, outreach, events and activities as well as comments received.

The Public Consultation Report for the ToR was submitted in 2018. The Public Consultation Report for the EA will be submitted once the EA has been completed. A similar report will be prepared for the Resource Recovery Strategy by City staff.

Summary of Community Engagement Activities

Table 1 provides an updated summary of the community engagement activities that took place from December 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020.

Table 1 – Community Engagement Activities December 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020

Activity	Description
Project Website (<i>getinvolved.london.ca</i>)	<i>Residual Waste Disposal Strategy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over 410 visits to the website between December 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020 with over 300 unique visitors.• Total visits since community engagement program started exceeds 3,800 visits with over 2,500 unique visitors.• Opportunity for people to review and comment on the proposed service area and the preferred alternative. <i>Resource Recovery Strategy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over 450 visits to the website between December 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020 with 310 unique visitors.• Total visits since the community engagement program started exceeds 7,100 visits with over 5,100 unique visitors.
Third Series of Open Houses (February 26 & 27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advertised in Londoner and project website.• Notices sent to stakeholders (Nearby residents, government review team, Indigenous Communities, various stakeholder groups, etc.).• 26 visitors.• Many people stayed for over 30 minutes and some over an hour.• 5 completed feedback forms, numerous verbal comments.
Virtual Open House (Project Website)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The materials presented at the February 26 & 27 open houses were presented along with the opportunity to provide feedback. The feedback closed on May 28, 2020. 1 response was received.
Indigenous Communities ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A second Groundwater Work Plan Workshop was planned to be held in April 2020, but has been delayed due to the COVID situation.• Looking into the possibility of a holding virtual workshop in August 2020.
Community Liaison Committee (CLC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No in-person meetings were held during this period. All members of the CLC received a project update by email on February 25, 2020.

Table 1 – Community Engagement Activities December 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020

Activity	Description
Other	• Update provided to the W12A Landfill Public Advisory Committee on February 12, 2020.

Notes

1. First Nation communities are Aamjiwnaang First Nation (AFN), Caldwell First Nation (Caldwell), Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN), Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point (Kettle and Stony Point),), Oneida Nation of the Thames (Oneida), Delaware Nation (Delaware), Munsee-Delaware First Nation (Munsee) and Walpole Island First Nation (WIFN).

Summary of Comments Received at the Open Houses

With respect to the proposed landfill expansion, concerns were expressed about:

- Type of waste from neighbouring municipalities, and why take waste from neighbouring municipalities
- Truck traffic
- Maximizing the capture of landfill gas
- Protection of the Thames River

Concerns/comments heard at the first two series of Open Houses and repeated at the third series of Open Houses included:

- Need to update Community Enhancement and Mitigative Measures Program as soon as possible;
- Need to limit/restrict the number of neighbouring municipalities using the W12A Landfill; Need to limit how long they can use the W12A Landfill .
- The potential for more odours and which alternative design concept was likely to cause the least odours;
- The height of the landfill and what that would look like; and
- How property values in the area would be impacted.

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