



CAFES Ottawa
Community Associations for
Environmental Sustainability

Presentation to: Environment and Climate Change Committee,
City of Ottawa

Agenda Item 5.1

Solid Waste Master Plan

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About CAFES

- Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) was founded in 2010 and is a network of local and neighbourhood environmental leaders and community builders
- Our members include representatives from urban, suburban and rural communities
- The network includes over 200 individual and organizational representatives from across 20 wards and over 50 neighbourhoods





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1. Context


- CAFES has been engaged in the SWMP as a key stakeholder from the beginning
- In 2020, CAFES and Waste Watch Ottawa presented a series of 29 recommendations for the SWMP
- CAFES has consistently pushed for:
 - Prioritizing waste reduction and diversion
 - Keeping plastics out of the organic waste stream
 - Implementing a user-pay system that incentivizes residents to reduce and divert their waste
 - Promoting lower-cost, environmentally sustainable alternatives to waste-to-energy incineration



2. Observations / Questions

2.1 The SWMP is taking Ottawa in the right direction

- CAFES supports the general thrust of the SWMP
- All bases covered / no key elements missing
- More emphasis given to waste reduction through reuse and diversion than ever before
- Long-range financial plan a valuable planning tool
- Metrics chosen for SWMP targets appropriate



2. Observations / Questions (cont'd)

2.2 We are concerned by slow implementation of waste reduction and diversion measures

- ▶ Many actions start with development of strategies and Implementation Plan not clear on timelines for roll-out
- ▶ “SWMP Action Descriptions” document still a wish list of potential actions rather than definite costed proposals
- ▶ Result: hard to ascertain how many of CAFES’ recommendations from 2020 will be implemented
- ▶ Would like to see expedited timelines for strategy completion such that work can begin as soon as possible



2. Observations / Questions (cont'd)

2.3 Missed opportunity for synergies by developing multiple sub-strategies for waste reduction and diversion

- CAFES has called for decentralized depots for all divertable materials not covered under the Blue Box, reusable items and hazardous waste.
- The SWMP postpones mobile or permanent depots into the future, despite strong public support and diversion impact potential
- Separate strategies for each type of item is likely to lead to less efficient implementation (more costly & less user-friendly).
- Would like to see consolidation of these sub-strategies, allowing for a more comprehensive approach centred around depots, potentially combined with reuse centres.



2. Observations / Questions (cont'd)

2.4 Residual waste treatment options need reframing


- Long-range Financial Plan helpful in clarifying timelines for new capital investments in residual waste treatment technologies
- Anaerobic digestion needed for 2030, and no further funding until 2048-2050 when a new landfill will be needed to replace Trail Road landfill.
- If a waste to energy incinerator is pursued, it will also be at that same time. So it would be in addition to the new landfill, not instead of it. An incinerator cannot be seen as a means of prolonging Trail Road Landfill, as it will already have reached capacity.
- A waste-to-energy incinerator would still require a new landfill to process the 25% of ash produced. In addition, it would require another special facility to contain and process the highly toxic component of the ash residue produced.
- The feasibility study on residual options asks for detailing of 5 options, but none of them include WTE AND landfill and toxic waste containment facility.



2. Observations / Questions (cont'd)

2.5 Community partnerships will be critical to achieving results


- Waste reduction and culture change entail high levels of effort and in a decentralized way – yet reap tangible benefits downstream
- We welcome references to possible community partnerships under several waste reduction actions (objective #1)
- Community organizations require sustained funding, including overheads, to make initiatives viable over the long term
- Partnerships also require sufficient City staff capacity to manage them
- We look forward to shifting to a more mature relationship with the City as implementation partners in making these a reality.



2. Observations / Questions (cont'd)

2.6 Is the GHG Analysis Methodology accurately capturing full lifecycle emissions?

- We welcome City's efforts to gain precision around the GHG impacts & greater alignment with City's climate goals
- However, it is not clear if the WARM methodology used accurately tracks full lifecycle emissions (and their avoidance through reduced consumption). Results are counterintuitive.
- Is ECCC's Organic Waste GHG calculator the best tool to measure WTE emissions, given that its input material should contain minimal organic waste?



2. Observations / Questions (cont'd)

2.7 Is the Long-Range Financial Plan striking the right balance?

- Historical underfunding of waste management means Ottawa is lagging behind other comparable cities on waste diversion
- SWMP once again risks not allocating sufficient resources to achieve ambitious results we need to catch up
- Reducing landfilled waste per capita by 23% and increasing organics diversion by 20% over 10 years shifts the needle but not by much (esp. with 13.5% population increase projected)
- Question: while building up the Reserve Fund over time makes sense, is the right balance being achieved by saving funds toward big-ticket capital costs in the future, when those same funds could be used today towards reducing or further delaying the need for these residual waste technologies? (i.e. cost-benefit)

5. Recommendations

1. Expedite completion of all strategies that relate to waste reduction and diversion by end of 2024 in order to start implementation in early 2025.
2. Consider grouping all of these sub-strategies into one Circular Economy Strategy to save money and time and support operational synergies among these elements.
3. Expedite action on waste depots as a key early measure to divert waste in a comprehensive and accessible way for residents (one-stop shops).
4. Revisit Residual Waste Feasibility Study Terms of Reference to ensure that the WTE option includes costs and siting arrangements for a new landfill and toxic waste facility.
5. Ensure that community partnerships are adequately resourced, both with City staff to manage contracts, and with stable long-term funding to organizations, including staffing and overhead costs.



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Thank you for your
consideration

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