

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE MASTER PLAN AND THE ENERGY EVOLUTION MODEL

PRESENTATION BY WASTE WATCH OTTAWA

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A BRIEF PRESENTATION HERE TODAY.

WASTE WATCH OTTAWA ENCOURAGES YOU TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE CORPORATE CITY OF OTTAWA GHG EMISSIONS BY 100% BELOW 2012 LEVELS BY 2040. THIS IS A CHALLENGING TARGET BUT ONE THAT IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH COUNCIL'S DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATION AND TO ENSURE THAT THE TARGET IS WOVEN INTO ALL THAT THE CITY DOES WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT THE SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN THAT IS UNDERWAY EXPLICITLY ADOPT A SIMILAR 2040 ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET. ALL FUTURE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS THAT ARE IDENTIFIED DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND EVALUATED THROUGH A CLIMATE CHANGE LENS AND WITH THE GOAL OF A ZERO EMISSION WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BY 2040, IF NOT EARLIER.

THE STAFF REPORT STATES THAT SOLID WASTE REPRESENTS 9% OF THE CITY'S CORPORATE GHG EMISSIONS OR AN ESTIMATED 21.2 KILOTONNES OF CO₂E. WHILE 9% MAY SEEM SMALL IN THE OVERALL CONTEXT OF THE CITY'S OPERATIONS, WASTE IS AN AREA WHERE REDUCTIONS TO GHGS ARE CLEARLY POSSIBLE AND THE TOTAL GHG GENERATION IS NOT INSIGNIFICANT. IT IS NOTED THAT WASTE GHGS WILL INCREASE OVER THE COMING YEARS AS A RESULT OF THE AMOUNT OF WASTE IN PLACE AT THE TRAIL ROAD LANDFILL AND WITH THE OPENING OF A NEW LANDFILL CELL.

WASTE WATCH OTTAWA WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION TWO KEY IMPLICATIONS OF THE EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS:

FIRSTLY, ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2040 MEANS THAT **NO** ORGANIC MATERIALS FROM THE GREEN BIN PROGRAM OR FROM ANYWHERE ELSE SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF AT THE TRAIL ROAD LANDFILL. AS WE KNOW METHANE IS 25 TIMES MORE POTENT A GHG THAN CO2. WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THE METHANE GAS PRODUCED AT TRAIL ROAD IS CAPTURED FOR POWER GENERATION, SOME IS LOST TO THE ATMOSPHERE AND SOME IS FLARED. A ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET MEANS THAT ALL ORGANIC WASTES MUST BE DIVERTED FROM DISPOSAL.

SECONDLY, ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2040 ALSO MEANS THAT INCINERATION OF WASTE WILL **NOT** BE A WASTE MANAGEMENT OPTION FOR THE FUTURE. INCINERATION OF WASTES PRODUCES CO2. ACCORDING TO A STUDY OF UK ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DATA, FOR EVERY 1 TONNE OF GARBAGE BURNED BY A TYPICAL INCINERATOR BETWEEN 0.7 TONNES AND 1.7 TONNES OF CO2 ARE PRODUCED. THESE ARE RELATIVELY SMALL TONNAGES OF CO2 COMPARED TO LANDFILL METHANE GENERATION BUT THE GHG IMPACT OVER THE LIFE OF A 150,000 TONNE/YEAR INCINERATOR WOULD MEAN AT THE WORST CASE OVER 7.5 MILLION TONNES OF CO2 OVER A 30 YEAR INCINERATOR LIFE.

SO TO CONCLUDE – A ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET FOR 2040 MEANS NO ORGANICS DISPOSAL AND NO INCINERATION. THERE ARE VIABLE ALTERNATIVES FOR BOTH ORGANICS DISPOSAL AND INCINERATION AND WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS THAT THE WASTE PLAN WILL IDENTIFY AND PURSUE THEM AS PART OF A WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY DESIGNED TO HELP ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY.

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