

[Oakville Green Conservation Association](#)

Press Release

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Healthier options now open to Halton as Region rejects incinerator

Oakvillegreen Conservation Association is pleased Regional Council decided at its June 20 meeting not to pursue incineration as a means of dealing with Halton's waste concentrating instead on waste reduction and diversion initiatives. They also agreed to not consider incineration again for at least five years.

"Citizens made it clear that they did not want Halton to build an incinerator. They understood that turning valuable resources that could mostly be reused and recycled into toxic emissions and toxic ash didn't make sense economically or environmentally," said Liz Benneien, president of Oakvillegreen.

Oakvillegreen, along with Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.) of Halton Hills and Miltongreen have been opposing the Region's plan to build an incinerator since it was made public last year. The groups organized a Public Forum in Oakville in February featuring Dr. Paul Connett, a professor of toxicology and chemistry, who has lectured worldwide on the dangers posed by incinerators, to raise public awareness about the issue.

The forum and other public education efforts paid off. As Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette noted, the Region's politicians heard from citizens from all over Halton who were against the incinerator. "I think the public's spoken on this one," he said.

Oakville's Ward 4 Councillor Allan Elgar is commended for putting forth the motion to end the incinerator. Oakvillegreen is also pleased that Regional Chair Gary Carr stood by the statements he made during his election campaign when he said it was too early for Halton to consider incineration as an option.

It is expected that once the recently approved Halton-wide Green Cart program is implemented the life of Halton's landfill will be extended to 2030.

Oakvillegreen believes that it, and other waste reduction and diversion initiatives, could increase Halton's diversion rate from 43% today to 80% or more, adding years more to the landfill.

The Administrative Services Committee is to be congratulated for listening to the delegations from Oakvillegreen, P.O.W.E.R. and Miltongreen who, councillors said, "did their research", "brought us new information we hadn't heard before" and "made compelling arguments".

A peer review of the environmental and health impacts as presented in the business case, initiated by Halton's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Nosal, was also critical in the Regions' decision to kill the facility. The report identified flaws and omissions in the information in business case that councillors couldn't ignore.

Oakvillegreen, Miltongreen, and P.O.W.E.R. will now turn their attention to lobbying federal and provincial governments for laws that reduce packaging and extend producer responsibility so manufacturers must take back their products once consumers are done

with them. Such laws have been used in other countries to significantly reduce the amount of waste being generated.

The groups will work in partnership with the Region, and their respective communities, to develop new waste diversion initiatives.

"Although this particular battle is won, there is still much work to be done," says Enver Domingo, Oakvillegreen's expert on waste management. "Our society doesn't have a waste disposal problem, it has a waste generating problem. There are many things we can do to deal with that."