

MEDIA RELEASE

Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton – Working together for shared solutions

Niagara and Hamilton Agree to Focus on Diversion

Niagara Region, July 11, 2008 – At their meeting today, members of the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan Joint Working Group accepted the recommendations of a staff report calling to focus on waste diversion priorities and end the agreement between the two municipalities for the Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for disposal alternatives. Niagara and Hamilton entered into the formal working arrangement in 2003 to pursue alternate long term waste disposal technologies.

The report also recommends that the municipalities continue to meet on a regular basis to review opportunities for working together. The work and information resulting from WastePlan will serve as reference information for future activities relating to alternative disposal options for the two municipalities. The EA Study concluded that there are three viable alternatives for long term disposal that can be pursued by either municipality at a later date.

“We are satisfied that both municipalities have sufficient short-term landfill capacity and we recognize the current need to focus on our respective waste diversion programs,” said Councillor Russ Powers, Hamilton Co-chair. “Ending the WastePlan study will enable both municipalities to put a priority on waste diversion activities,” agreed Councillor Damian Goulbourne, Niagara Region Co-chair. “Niagara is also working on the implementation of the Level of Service Study, which will reduce the reliance on residual waste disposal capacity.”

The options available for waste management have changed significantly in the five years since the Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan was formed. Many new alternate disposal capacity options are emerging that require further monitoring.

Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton continue to be committed to 65 per cent diversion from landfill and are focusing their energies on achieving that goal.