

The Oshawa Express

## Energy-from-waste facility pushing on

By Katie Strachan

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It is the next step in the process of constructing a proposed energy-from-waste (EFW) facility in the backyard of Oshawa residents. The Region of Durham has submitted the Environmental Assessment (EA), which is related to the facility, to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The EA outlines the steps that were taken in the Durham/York Residual Waste Study. The study began in 2005, when the regions of Durham and York began working together to examine ways to manage residual waste, which is the waste that is left over after recycling and composting efforts. The EA could only be submitted to the MOE after Durham Regional Council and York Regional Council both approved the study.

Durham Regional Council approved the study in late June after a 16-hour long meeting where 51 delegates spoke. Forty-nine argued diligently against the proposed facility. York Region Council also approved the study in late June. The EA outlines thermal treatment, which is a high-temperature combustion technology, as the preferred method in handling the two regions waste. The waste is burned to create energy in the form of steam, electricity and heat, states Durham Region. The proposed EFW facility has a maximum design capacity of 400,000 tonnes, with the initial stage scheduled to handle about 140,000 tonnes of waste from Durham and York. It will be designed, built and operated on the 'Clarington 01 site,' which is a 12-hectare parcel, located between Courtice Road and Osbourne Road in Clarington.

Durham Region will own the land. The primary focus of the facility will be to process household garbage, which is left over after Durham's diversion efforts like the blue-box recycling and the greenbin composting programs. As required under the Environmental Assessment Act, the EA will be available to the public should they wish to review it from Aug. 7 to Sept. 25. The documents can be read at public libraries and local municipalities within Durham and York Region. It can also be seen at the Durham/York Residual Waste Study website [www.durhamyorkwaste.ca](http://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca). Anyone wishing to provide comments on the EA must submit them in writing and/or by fax to the MOE by Sept. 25.

Comments can be sent to Gavin Battarino, project officer for the Ministry of the Environment at the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch at 2 St. Clair Ave. W., Floor 12A, Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1L5. You can also email him at [gavin.battarino@ontario.ca](mailto:gavin.battarino@ontario.ca)

<http://www.oshawaexpress.ca/story2042.html>

