




Hamilton

# INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	May 31, 2019
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	City of Hamilton Central Composting Facility Operations Update #4 (ES19019) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

This information update is to inform the Mayor and Members of Council about the first four months of operations at the City of Hamilton’s (City) Central Composting Facility (CCF), and to provide a status update on the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) amendment application currently under review by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

## CCF Operations Update

On February 4, 2019, the CCF accepted Source Separated Organics (SSO) material from the City’s Green Bin Program for the first time since the voluntary and temporary closure on June 24, 2018. During the past four months, the CCF has processed approximately 4,775 tonnes of SSO. City staff have received no odour complaints during this time and the proactive air quality inspections completed in the surrounding neighbourhoods, have detected no odours from the CCF.

As outlined in Information Update ES19012, City of Hamilton’s Central Composting Facility Operations Update #3, City staff and the operations contractor have been processing at a weekly maximum of 384 tonnes per week (or 20,000 tonnes per year) commencing on March 15, 2019. In order to comply with the ECA, the facility can only process a maximum of 384 tonnes of SSO per week, as a result, staff has diverted approximately 187 tonnes to landfill for disposal.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

On April 1, 2019, the City of Hamilton implemented a leaf and yard waste ban in the residential green bin program. Since that time there has seen a significant drop in this material at the CCF, from a high of approximately 54% leaf and yard waste, to less than 8% after the ban took effect.

#### Environmental Compliance Approval Amendment Application Update

In November 2018, City staff and the City's consultant submitted an amendment application for the CCF operations ECA to the MECP which outlined capital upgrades required for curing material in the main processing building as well as changes/upgrades to the odour handling system.

On Wednesday May 8, 2019, staff received a draft Waste ECA from the MECP which would allow the CCF to perform in plant curing of finished compost rather than shipping this material to an alternate curing location. City staff and the City's consultant reviewed this draft and provided comments to the MECP on Wednesday May 22, 2019 for consideration. This draft will undergo a number of reviews by both Ministry and City staff before being approved for issue. Additionally, staff is expecting the MECP to provide a draft Air ECA for review and comment which will approve odour handling system changes/upgrades in the facility; however, the timing of this draft is unknown.

Once both ECAs are approved and issued, staff will work to complete the necessary infrastructure upgrades required to perform in plant curing of finished compost. Under this scenario, the CCF will continue to process up to 20,000 tonnes per year of SSO. Additional infrastructure and odour handling amendments such as a stack extension, acid scrubber and carbon filters will be required to increase the yearly processing amount to 40,000 tonnes.

If you have any questions related to the operations of the CCF or the ECA amendment application, please contact Catherine McCausland, Manager of Recycling and Waste Disposal at extension 4203.

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not applicable