Dufferin County

Long Term Waste Management Strategy (LTWMS) Update

September 2026

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Attention: Melissa Kovacs-Reid
Manager of Waste Services

Long-Term Waste Management Strategy (LTWMS) Update – FINAL

Please find enclosed the Final Report for the Update to the Dufferin County's Long-Term Waste Management Strategy (LTWMS Update), prepared by Dillon Consulting Limited on behalf of Dufferin County.

This Update builds upon the County's 2018 LTWMS and provides a strategic framework to guide waste diversion efforts over a 5-year planning period (2027-2031). The LTWMS Update was developed through a multi-phased process encompassing data gathering and assessment, a review of existing goals and recommended options, options development and evaluation, financial analysis, and a public and stakeholder engagement program. The report presents recommended options, an implementation framework, and updated Key Performance Indicators to guide the County in waste management over the next five years and thereafter.

Sincerely,

Dillon Consulting Limited

Lori Andrews, P. Eng
Project Manager

CPB:kml

Our file: 25-2058

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Appendix A: 2018 LTWMS Options: Existing LTWMS Goals and Recommendations

Acronyms, Abbreviations, Definitions

AI	Artificial Intelligence
EFW	Energy-from-Waste
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
E-waste	Electronic Waste
GFL	Green For Life (Contractor)
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
HSP	Hazardous and Special Products
IC&I	Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LTWMS	Long Term Waste Management Strategy
MHSW	Municipal Hazardous Special Waste
P&E	Promotion and Education
PSEP	Public/Stakeholder Engagement Plan
RFP	Request for Proposal
RPRA	Resource Productivity and Resource Authority
RRCEA	Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act
SSO	Source Separated Organics

Executive Summary

Dufferin County's 2025 Long-Term Waste Management Strategy (LTWMS) Update serves as a comprehensive, strategic roadmap designed to guide the municipality's waste diversion, collection, and disposal services over the next five-year planning horizon (2027–2031). Building upon the foundational successes of the original 2018 Strategy, this Update responds to a rapidly changing waste sector. Most notably, the provincial transition of the residential Blue Box recycling program to full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act* (RRCEA). This has fundamentally altered municipal historical solid waste management responsibilities. Concurrently, the County must adapt to shrinking landfill capacities, escalating cross-border disposal costs, and a growing public appetite for climate action and circular economy solutions.

A Clear Mandate for Circularity
With 88% of residents supporting the County's waste diversion mission, residents have provided a clear mandate to prioritize highly accessible, service-based circular economy initiatives.

Mission Statement

The core strategic direction of the County remains highly relevant and strongly supported by the community. As such, the 2025 Update carries forward the original 2018 LTWMS Mission Statement: "*To update and enhance the County's waste management system to maximize the diversion of waste from disposal in an economic, environmental and socially responsible manner*".

Current System Performance and Public Engagement

Currently, Dufferin County residents generate approximately 19,781 tonnes of solid waste annually, with a diversion rate plateauing near 60% and significant opportunities remaining to capture organic materials still ending up in the garbage stream. To address this, the County executed a robust Public/Stakeholder Engagement Plan, revealing overwhelming community support for service-based, circular economy initiatives. Residents expressed strong demand for modernized, accessible systems—such as permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) access, Curbside Giveaway Days, and Textile Programs—while advocating for an education-first approach to correct sorting behaviours rather than immediate punitive enforcement.

Recommended Solid Waste Management Options

A triple bottom line evaluation framework was applied to assess potential new options based on their social, environmental, and economic potential impacts. The evaluation prioritized options that maximize diversion potential while maintaining manageable costs and public acceptance. The highest-ranking six options of the ten options based on the triple bottom line evaluations combined results that are recommended for immediate planning and implementation over the 5-year planning horizon include:

- **Textile Collection Program:** Establishing formal, accessible collection for used clothing and textiles.
- **Curbside Giveaway Days:** Formalizing community exchange events to divert reusable goods from the landfill.
- **Take It Back Program Expansion:** Leveraging a local "Share, Reuse, Repair Hub" model.
- **Enhanced By-law Enforcement:** Adopting an education-first approach (e.g., "Oops" stickers and set fines) to improve sorting behaviours.
- **Disposal Services for Solid Waste:** Proactively evaluating disposal options to mitigate potential cross-border disposal risks and decreasing Ontario landfill capacity.
- **Expanded MHSW and E-waste Access:** Assessing mobile or permanent drop-off centres

Implementation and Contingency Planning

The successful initiation of these options relies on a structured timeline that explicitly designates an upfront planning period followed by implementation or active execution. Because the County no longer has the provincial RPRA Datacall report for benchmarking waste diversion rates across Ontario municipalities, progress will now be tracked using localized Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These include per-capita disposal, contamination rates, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which can be supported directly by ongoing seasonal waste audits. Supported by a future contingency plan to navigate cross-border export of waste risks and EPR funding shifts, Dufferin County will be well-equipped to monitor its real-world performance, adapt to regulatory changes, and advance towards its Net-Zero climate targets.

1.0 Introduction

This Long-Term Waste Management Strategy (LTWMS) Update serves as a foundational assessment of the core elements guiding Dufferin County's waste management planning. The purpose of this document is to review the existing strategic framework established in the 2018 LTWMS and evaluate its current relevance against the County's evolving priorities and the changing waste management landscape.

By assessing the original mission, goals, and recommended options, alongside the development of a new performance monitoring framework, a baseline has been established upon which the 2025 LTWMS Update is also built. This assessment confirmed that the newly recommended options for the 5-year short-term planning horizon (2027–2031) are aligned with County priorities and supporting strategies.

This Update acts as the most recent shorter companion document to the 2018 LTWMS.

2.0 Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives

The Mission Statement established in the 2018 LTWMS is "to update and enhance the County's waste management system to maximize the diversion of waste from disposal in an economic, environmental and socially responsible manner".

As outlined in Interim Update Memo #2, this mission is still highly suitable for the County's long-term waste management planning. Feedback from the Fall 2025 Long-Term Waste Management Strategy Update public survey showed that 87% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the 2018 LTWMS mission and goals. Based on this strong public support, it is recommended that the 2018 Mission Statement and the four high-level strategic goals be carried forward for this Update.

Goal #1: Maximize diversion of waste from disposal.

While the goal remains important, the previous objective to track a 60% weight-based diversion rate is no longer feasible. The County is no longer responsible for, nor has access to, data regarding Blue Box recycling tonnages collected by producers under the new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model, thus requiring a shift to new metrics.

Goal #2: Explore waste management opportunities that are either local or located within Central Ontario.

This goal remains important, though the original specific objectives under this goal have largely been implemented and should be reviewed for potential updates over the next five years.

Goal #3: Involve stakeholders and the public through continual education and feedback to support and facilitate individuals and businesses taking responsibility for their waste.

No changes are suggested for this goal. Public involvement remains critical for system implementation, evaluation, and participation.

Goal #4: Continue with waste diversion programming that is consistent with provincial waste management policy.

This goal remains highly relevant, particularly as the Province is expected to undertake a comprehensive review of its "Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario" by 2027.

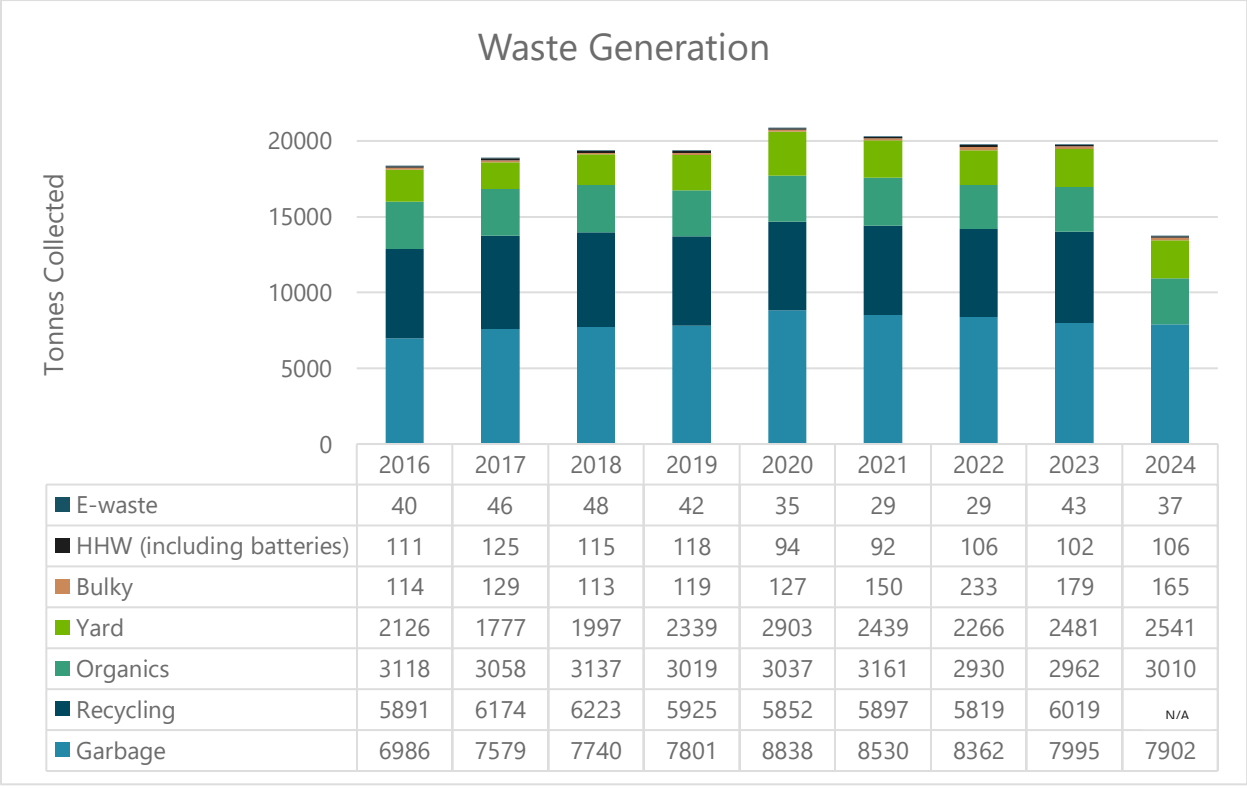
3.0 Dufferin County's Current Waste Management System

As detailed in Interim Update Memo #1, this section provides an overview of Dufferin County's current solid waste management system and updates changes that have occurred since the original 2018 LTWMS. The information presented in this section serves to establish the groundwork for the 2025 LTWMS Update by identifying areas for improvement, confirming compliance with upcoming legislative requirements, and adapting to changes in the waste management industry.

3.1 Waste Generation and Diversion

In 2023, the County's solid waste management program served an estimated population of 66,257, comprising approximately 23,210 single-family and multi-residential households. Residents generated approximately 19,781 tonnes of solid waste, of which approximately 11,787 tonnes (or about 60%) was diverted from disposal. **Figure 1** illustrates the tonnes of waste generated from 2016 to 2024.

Figure 1: Waste Generation Tonnes by Waste Stream from 2016 to 2024



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
E-waste	40	46	48	42	35	29	29	43	37
HHW (including batteries)	111	125	115	118	94	92	106	102	106
Bulky	114	129	113	119	127	150	233	179	165
Yard	2126	1777	1997	2339	2903	2439	2266	2481	2541
Organics	3118	3058	3137	3019	3037	3161	2930	2962	3010
Recycling	5891	6174	6223	5925	5852	5897	5819	6019	N/A
Garbage	6986	7579	7740	7801	8838	8530	8362	7995	7902

Note: N/A. On July 1, 2023 recycling was transferred over to Circular Materials per new provincial legislation, therefore data on those tonnes for the full year is not available to the County going forward.

Between 2016 and 2024, the amount of waste collected across all streams remained relatively consistent, though garbage collection showed the most change, increasing steadily to a peak in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the diversion rate has plateaued during this period, fluctuating between 58% and 62% without an upward trend. Waste generation per capita and per household also peaked in 2020; however, unlike historical trends (2012 to 2015) which showed declining per capita waste generation, the 2023 generation per capita remained at a level higher than in 2016, driven largely by increases in garbage and yard waste volumes collected.

3.2 Waste Profile

Insights from the 2024-2025 Seasonal Single-Family Residential Curbside Waste Composition Study highlighted a noticeable difference in participation between programs. The garbage participation rate averaged 96% across the study period, while the Green Bin (organics) participation rate averaged only 61% participation. There were large municipal variations in organics participation, ranging from a low of 21% in some rural areas to a high of 76% in Orangeville.

The material composition of the waste streams revealed:

- **Garbage Stream:** Comprised primarily of non-divertible landfill material (44%), but contained a significant portion of eligible divertible materials, including 31% organic material (such as avoidable and unavoidable food waste) and 15% recyclable materials.
- **Organics Stream:** Well sorted, consisting of 95% organic material with minimal contamination from landfill materials (3%), and recyclables (2%).
- **Textiles:** The waste audit highlighted that textiles accounted for 4.5% of the total weight in the garbage and organics streams.

3.2.1 Changes to Current Programs and Facilities

While most of Dufferin County's waste management services remain consistent with the 2018 Strategy, several operational updates have occurred. GFL continues to provide curbside collection for garbage, organics, bulky items, and white goods. Updates include a collection fee increase for bulky waste collection to $25 and shifting the bi-annual curbside battery collection to run alongside garbage and organics.

The most significant update is the change of residential recycling from the County's responsibility and provision of services they were legislatively responsible for providing to residents. Following the

provincial transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in July 2023, producers of designated printed paper and packaging materials are now fully responsible for managing and funding the residential Blue Box program in Ontario. Consequently, the County is no longer responsible for this program's promotion, contamination reduction, or collection logistics. However, because this provincial shift excludes most Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (IC&I) businesses and locations, the County continued with a dedicated, cart-based recycling route service for these mostly small businesses, non-profits and municipal locations in January 2026.

To identify and explain curbside collection rules, the County's contractor uses "Oops Stickers" at the curb to notify and inform residents of set-out violations. Data from 2025 showed the most common infractions are garbage-related: failing to use a clear garbage bag (33%), exceeding the one-bag limit without a tag (20%), and improperly setting out bulky items (17%). Organics-related issues, such as unacceptable green bin liners, were much less frequent an occurrence.

The County has weekly garbage bag limit exemptions, providing extra tags for households with specific medical, diaper, or accessory dwelling needs. Additionally, eligible condominiums that participate in the Green Bin and provincial Blue Box programs can receive rebates to offset their private garbage collection costs.

Finally, looking toward future facility and service updates, the County completed a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Service Review in 2023. This review assessed alternative service models for household generated hazardous materials that have special management and handling needs due to their toxicity, exploring and assessing additional or other options such as transitioning from the current seasonal "Event Days" to a potential mobile or permanent depot drop off.

3.2.2 System Performance

With the shift to the new EPR model for Blue Box recycling collection, jurisdictions in Ontario no longer report their waste management program data to the previous RPRA provincial annual Datacall. Hence, the County can no longer compare their system performance (i.e. waste diversion rate) to other similar municipal jurisdictions, therefore requiring the establishment of new future performance metrics.

3.3 Phase 1: Public Consultation

A Public/Stakeholder Engagement Plan (PSEP) was developed to guide the engagement and consultation activities throughout the project to reflect the priorities, needs, and perspectives of the community.

Phase 1 of the engagement process focused on gathering broad baseline input regarding the current waste management system, identifying existing barriers, and understanding the community's future

priorities. Engagement activities during this initial phase included a Fall 2025 online survey hosted on the "Join In Dufferin" platform and interactive, small-group Table Talk focus groups held in early December 2025.

3.3.1 Community Alignment and Priorities

The Phase 1 consultation revealed strong community alignment with the County's strategic direction. Among the 554 responses to the Fall 2025 Survey, 88% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the existing LTWMS mission statement. When asked to evaluate their long-term goals for the system, residents ranked 1. waste reduction and reuse as their highest priority, followed closely by 2. cost to taxpayers and service efficiency, and 3. environmental sustainability and climate change.

3.3.2 Current System Challenges and Barriers

Despite robust support for overarching environmental goals, the consultation highlighted several operational challenges and barriers to participation in the County's current programs. Feedback through some written comments on the existing system identified the following themes in the first survey:

- **Organics Diversion Barriers:** Organic waste remains a major issue for residents. Many participants described the current Green Bin system as unpleasant to use, citing concerns over odours, pests, maggots, and frequent cleaning requirements. This feedback may provide context for the ongoing gap between the community's high support for environmental sustainability and the low actual participation rates in the curbside organics program.
- **Diversion Benefits:** Residents expressed frustration with the current partial user-pay system. Some noted that the $2.00 garbage bag tag fee feels more like a tax than an environmental incentive. This may suggest that the County can more clearly communicate the link between waste reduction, diversion incentives, and the benefit to household waste cost savings.
- **Climate-Related Service Shifts:** Some residents noted that due to shifting climate patterns, leaves are falling later in the season, requesting that the County re-evaluate whether the current mid-November cutoff for yard waste collection remains appropriate.
- **Concerns Regarding Cart-Based Collection:** Nearly 40% of the written survey comments focused on potential transitions to the large blue automated collection carts for recycling (which was not part of the fall survey, however was on the mind of some residents with the upcoming rollout of recycling carts by Circular Materials in 2026). Rural residents raised logistical concerns about moving heavy carts along long, snowy driveways or narrow road shoulders, while urban residents, multi-residential households, seniors, and residents with mobility limitations raised concerns about the physical burden and lack of storage space.

3.3.3 A Vision for the Future

During the December 2025 Table Talk sessions, participants were asked to envision what a successful waste management system would look like by the year 2035. The community described a desired future state that is "clean, simple, and used without thinking". To achieve this, residents emphasized a desire for modernization that reduces confusion, highlighting the need for clear sorting instructions, consistent rules across communities and stronger EPR programs to address waste at the source.

4.0 Regulatory Environment

As detailed in Interim Update Memo #4, this section provides an analysis of the regulatory and strategic landscape impacting the County's waste management system. The information presented in this section aims to assess that the LTWMS Update remains compliant, flexible, and aligned with broader provincial and federal sustainability goals.

4.1 Regulatory Impacts and Circular Economy

Significant changes to waste management in Ontario have been driven by the provincial Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA), which establishes a framework for EPR. Under EPR, producers are held individually responsible for the full lifecycle of their provincially designated products, shifting the historical financial and operational burden of end-of-life management away from municipalities going forward.

While the most visible operational impact of this legislation has been the removal of the residential Blue Box program from County responsibilities, the RRCEA has also transitioned the management of other designated materials—including tires, batteries, electronic equipment, and hazardous and special products (HSP) to EPR frameworks. Strategically, this regulatory shift has impacted the County's ability to monitor system-wide diversion performance using historical data methods (such as tracking recycling tonnages and performance), necessitating the adoption of new performance metrics for the future.

At both the federal and provincial levels, there is a strong strategic push away from the traditional linear "take-make-dispose" model and toward a Circular Economy. A Circular Economy seeks to extract maximum value from resources by prioritizing reduction, sharing, reuse, and repair to keep materials in circulation for as long as possible.

This shift aligns directly with the *Dufferin Climate Action Plan*, which targets waste reduction and circularity as key strategies to help the County reach Net-Zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. Given this emphasis, the LTWMS Update should incorporate options that focus on the higher levels of the waste hierarchy (reduction, reuse, and repair) to reduce the amount of waste generated and sent for disposal.

4.2 Garbage Disposal Contingencies

The County currently ships its residential garbage to the State of Michigan for disposal through its curbside collection contract. However, long-term garbage disposal in the province is facing severe constraints and emerging risks.

4.2.1 Disposal Risks and Landfill Capacity

Cross-border waste shipments face the risk of rising costs, with the State of Michigan proposing to increase its state fee levied on waste disposal from $0.36 to $5 per ton (US) over the next five years. There is also the potential risk of trade disruptions, border closures, or the introduction of trade tariffs. Relying on domestic disposal is also an impending challenge; the average remaining capacity in Ontario landfills is projected to be depleted by 2037, or as early as 2034 if the U.S. border closes to receipt of Ontario's waste.

4.2.2 Future Contingencies

As landfill capacity declines, public and political views in Ontario are revisiting Energy-from-Waste (EFW) technologies and other alternatives. Recent polling indicates that a strong majority of Ontarians support exploring EFW to convert waste into renewable energy and reduce reliance on landfills, however EFW is not the common practice in Ontario for disposal with only two approved EFW facilities in operation.

Because planning, siting, designing, permitting, constructing and commissioning a new residual waste disposal facility (whether a landfill or a modern EFW facility) can take up to 10 years, it is critical that the County begins considering options/alternatives and contingencies well in advance of any future consideration to change disposal methods. Preparing for these constraints will help the County mitigate the increased financial impacts of increased disposal demand regionally and limited disposal capacity as the County’s waste collection contract reaches maturity and exhausts extensions.

5.0 Review, Identification and Evaluation of Options

In the original LTWMS from 2018 there were 23 options included to be implemented by the County to increase waste diversion. These options were reviewed and assessed in Update Memo #2, to determine the current relevance and viability of each option for the next five-year planning period. Please see **Appendix A** for this review, including details on each option and the recommendations to continue with the option, maintain the implemented option or discontinue the option, as part of the LTWMS Update activities.

As part of this LTWMS Update, and outlined in Interim Update Memo #3, this section also summarizes the process used to identify and evaluate potential new waste diversion and disposal initiatives for Dufferin County. The evaluation outcome defines the highest-priority actions for the County's next five-year planning horizon.

5.1 Long List of Options

A preliminary list of 11 potential new waste option initiatives was developed using insights from previous County reports, waste management staff, and initial public consultation feedback. These options were presented to County Council on March 12, 2026. The initial long list (as seen in **Table 1** below) explored diverse programs, including expanding source-separated organics, facilitating repair cafés, updating by-laws, and researching future disposal services.

Following discussions with County Waste staff, as well as Council members, one option—Contamination Monitoring using Artificial Intelligence (AI)-collection vehicle cameras—was excluded from further consideration after being identified as the least favorable among the 11 options presented.

Table 1: Overview of Options Long List

Option Name	Short List (Yes/No)
Organics	
Potential Source Separated Organics (SSO) Program Expansion An assessment of the potential expansion of the curbside organics program to include other materials (e.g., hygiene products and animal wastes). This assessment would involve a comprehensive financial review to determine costs increases, such as tipping fees, as well as considerations of existing green bin	Yes

Option Name	Short List (Yes/No)
capacity and whether carts would be required to meet the higher volumes, what changes would be required with respect to liner bags, and potential impacts to participation rates.	
Recycling	
Textile Collection Program Establish a formal collection system for textiles, prioritizing cost-effective methods such as drop-off during existing Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste (HHEW) days.	Yes
Waste Reduction and Reuse	
Repair Café and Lending Library Facilitation Supporting community-led initiatives to repair items or share tools, moving the County toward a circular economy. The goal is to shift towards a "materials recovered" mindset by providing residents with the tools and expertise needed to extend the life of consumer goods, as well as reducing the purchases of new products. This could include providing tools for public lending and a volunteer base of experts to repair common broken items at periodic repair café events.	Yes
Curbside Giveaway Days Develop a "Goods Exchange Day" program in Dufferin to help divert reusable goods within the community. The program would establish and formalize curbside exchange of reusable goods (including bulky items such as furniture) and divert them away from the landfill by offering them to neighbours for free. These events would likely take place two or three times per year and not be held in winter months.	Yes
Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program Explore the Circular Innovation Council's "Share, Reuse, Repair Hub" program as a potential next step to the County's Take It Back program, to increase reuse and diversion, and support a circular economy.	Yes
Municipal Policy	
Update Waste Collection By-law A review and update of the by-law to reflect changes such as producer responsibility for blue box program recyclables.	Yes
Enhance Enforcement Mechanisms of the Solid Waste By-law Enhancing enforcement mechanisms to increase compliance with the Waste Collection By-law, including using existing enforcement tools and applying for set fines to enforce mandatory source separation (e.g. organics).	Yes

Option Name	Short List (Yes/No)
Monitoring and Capacity	
Contamination Monitoring Exploring the use of AI cameras on collection trucks to track contamination in real-time at the curbside and compile collection data.	No
Waste Collection/Receiving	
Assess Curbside Collection Using Carts Evaluate the transition to automated or semi-automated cart collection for garbage and organics. The assessment should include evaluation with respect to timing of implementation (with new collection Request for Proposal (RFP) or prior to) and whether a plan for reserve funds for cart purchases is needed, if purchased by the County.	Yes
Disposal	
Disposal Services for Solid Waste Assessment of future disposal alternatives and services to mitigate long term cross border disposal risks	Yes
Other Opportunities	
Continue Assessment of Municipal Hazardous Special Waste (MHSW) and Electronic Waste (E-waste) Program Expansion Explore options to improve MHSW and E-waste programs through increasing the number of events, introducing mobile depots or establishing a permanent depot to reduce wait times and improve access. This includes carrying out a feasibility study for converting or upgrading existing infrastructure and/or determining the availability of suitable properties for a dedicated facility for hazardous and electronic waste.	Yes

5.2 Evaluation Methodolgy and Results

To evaluate the 10 shortlisted options, a triple bottom line methodology and approach, considering social, environmental, and economic impacts of each option, was developed for review by the County staff. Suggested criteria were presented to the County and Council (March 12, 2026) for discussion. Two criteria for each of the categories (social, environmental, and economic) were selected and each had equal weight. For each criterion, a score of 1 (least preferred), to 3 (most preferred) was applied. The options with the largest totals are the most preferred options (highest rank), while the lowest scored options are least preferred (lowest rank). **Table 2** lists the selected criteria in each category and the

scoring for each criterion applied in the evaluation approach. The weight applied to each criterion was evenly divided out of 100% (i.e. therefore each criterion had an equal weight of 17% rounded).

Table 2: Triple-Bottom Line Evaluation Methodology

Category	Criteria	Weight %	Scoring
Social	Public Acceptance	17%	1 – Potential for opposition
			2 – No public perception
			3 – Option anticipated to be accepted/encouraged
	Level of Effort to Develop, Implement, Operate and Maintain the Option	17%	1 – High level of effort to develop and implement (e.g., more than five years)
			2 – Moderate effort to implement (e.g., some additional resources are needed, can be implemented in three to five years)
			3 – Easy to implement (e.g., less than three years, with existing resources)
Environmental	Climate Change Impacts	17%	1 – Results in low to no reduction in GHG emissions
			2 – Results in moderate reduction in GHG emissions
			3 – Significant reduction in GHG emissions
	Potential for diversion from landfill	17%	1 – Potential diversion less than 100 tonnes
			2 – Potential diversion between 101 and 500 tonnes
			3 – Potential diversion over 500 tonnes
Economic	Annual Operational Costs	17%	1 – Operational cost more than $200 per tonne diverted
			2 – Operational cost less than $200 per tonne diverted
			3 – Anticipated cost savings
	Capital Costs	17%	1 – Capital cost more than $200 per tonne diverted
			2 – Capital cost less than $200 per tonne diverted
			3 – No capital cost

The evaluation results of the 10 shortlisted options (as seen in **Table 3** below) shows that the highest-ranking options are recognized by their ability to maximize diversion potential while maintaining manageable cost requirements. While most of the operational costs scores remained consistent across options, the highest ranked options secured the highest total scores by their combination of strong environmental results, high public acceptance, and a low level of effort to implement.

The following represents the top four highest ranking options based on the triple bottom line evaluation methodology, that are recommended to initiate within a more immediate timeframe:

- **Option 2: Textile Collection Program (Score: 15):** This is the highest-ranked option, with a score of 3 (highest score) for each of public acceptance, diversion potential, and ease of implementation criterion.
- **Option 4: Curbside Giveaway Days (Score: 13):** This option is expected to be highly favoured by the public (based on public engagement findings) and requires minimal financial investment to execute.
- **Option 5: Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program (Score: 13):** This initiative leverages existing and proven programs, such as one already designed by the Circular Innovation Council, to provide high social value and cost-effective waste reduction.
- **Option 7: Enhance Enforcement Tools of the Solid Waste By-law (Score: 13):** This by-law update option has a high score due to low overall cost, overall public acceptance, and increased diverted tonnes and reduced GHG.

By contrast, the evaluation of **Option 8**: **Assessing Curbside Collection Using Carts** was the lowest ranking option of the ten evaluated. It had a total evaluation score of 8 out of 18 due to the potential for low public acceptance of an assessment of a potential garbage and organics carts program, and low immediate environmental benefits relative to the effort required to conduct the assessment study. However, due to the changing disposal landscape and costs in Ontario, it is a necessary and important waste management option that requires a much longer timeline for planning and implementation and should be kept in mind to mitigate longer term risks.

Table 3: Summary of Evaluation Results

Option Name	Social Scores		Environmental Score		Economic Score		Total Score	Rank
Short List Option Reference List Number and Name	**Public Acceptance**	**Level of Effort**	**Climate Change Impacts**	**Diversion Potential**	**Operational Costs**	**Capital Costs**	**Out of 18**	**1st is Top Ranked**
1. Potential SSO Program Expansion	3	2	2	2	2	1	**12**	**3rd**
2. Textile Collection Program	3	3	2	3	2	2	**15**	**1st**
3. Repair Café and Lending Library Facilitation	3	3	1	1	2	2	**12**	**3rd**
4. Curbside Giveaway Days	3	3	1	1	2	3	**13**	**2nd**
5. Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program	3	3	1	1	2	3	**13**	**2nd**
6. Update Waste Collection By-law	2	3	1	1	2	3	**12**	**3rd**
7. Enhance Enforcement Tools of the Solid Waste By-law	1	2	2	3	2	3	**13**	**2nd**
8. Assess Curbside Collection Using Carts	1	1	1	1	2	2	**8**	**5th**
9. Continue Assessment of MHSW and E-waste Program Expansion	3	2	1	1	2	3	**12**	**3rd**
10. Disposal Services for Solid Waste	2	2	1	1	2	3	**11**	**4th**

5.3 Phase 2: Public Consultation

Building upon the baseline feedback gathered during the initial stages of the project, Phase 2 of the PSEP focused on understanding the level of community support for the shortlisted options. Engagement activities during this phase included an online survey (open from April 27 to May 17, 2026), which received 1,110 responses, and two Open Houses held on May 14, 2026, at the Shelburne Public Library and in Orangeville at the Alder Street Recreation Centre.

Overall, the community demonstrated overwhelming backing for service-based, circular economy initiatives designed to make waste reduction and diversion easier for residents. Public sentiment strongly favored an "education-first" approach, showing a distinct preference for accessible community programming and clear sorting guidance over strict regulatory or punitive enforcement measures.

The highest levels of public support across both engagement activities were for expanding MHSW and E-waste programs, establishing Curbside Giveaway Days, launching a Textile Collection Program, and facilitating Repair Cafés and Lending Libraries. **Table 4** outlines the results from the two Phase 2 engagement activities. Note that Public Support is one of six criterion for the evaluation methodology.

Table 4: Public Support Results for the 10 Shortlisted Options

Note: Open house support is based on the number of stickers placed under each option by attendees.

Waste Management Option	Survey Support	Open House(s) Support*
1. Potential SSO Program Expansion	65%	High
2. Textiles Collection Program	80%	Moderate to High
3. Repair Café and Lending Library Facilitation	70%	High
4. Curbside Giveaway Days	86%	Moderate to High
5. Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program	80%	Moderate to High
6. Update Waste Collection By-law	75%	Low
7. Enhance Enforcement Tools of the Solid Waste By-law	56%	Moderate
8. Assess Curbside Collection Using Carts	66%	Moderate
9. Continue Assessment of MHSW and E-Waste Program Expansion	90%	Moderate
10. Disposal Services for Solid Waste	83%	Moderate

6.0 Implementation of Recommended Options

The successful planning and implementation of the recommended options requires a structured roadmap outlining the steps necessary to achieve the short-term goals of the 2025 LTWMS Update. This section establishes a suggested implementation plan and schedule to guide Dufferin County through the execution of its new waste management options over the next five-year planning horizon (2027–2031).

6.1 Implementation Plan

The implementation plan (**Table 5**) identifies the staff roles and requirements necessary to execute each option, outlining specific department responsibilities, and any training or resources needed. It also details the additional resources recommended, such as external consultant expertise, community partnerships, or targeted promotion and education (P&E) campaigns for public participation. Finally, the plan establishes defined planning and implementation timelines (by year) which are summarized in **Table 6**.

Table 5: Implementation Plan

Note: 'Waste Services Management Staff' refers to leadership, policy-making, and strategic planning staff in the department (e.g., Manager of Waste Services), while 'Existing Waste Services Staff' refers to the frontline, operational and communication staff already working within the department (e.g., Program Coordinators, Outreach Educators)

Option	Staff Roles and Requirements	Supporting Resources	Planning Year(s)	Implementation Year(s)
Potential SSO Program Expansion	**Roles:** Waste Services Management Staff (Part-time project allocation) **Responsibilities:** Assessing green bin capacity, liner bag changes, impacts on participation rates, in addition to conducting a financial review to determine increased costs for adding materials such as hygiene products and/or pet wastes.	**P&E Campaign:** If expansion goes ahead, targeted promotion to inform residents of the new items in the organics program	2028	2029
Textile Collection Program	**Roles:** Existing Waste Services Staff and seasonal event staff (Part-time/ Event-based) **Responsibilities:** Coordinate logistics for textile drop-offs during existing HHW event days and end of event shipment to recycling vendor/partner.	**P&E Campaign:** Targeted promotion to inform residents of the new expansion of drop-off options potentially at HHW events, community events or partners **Partnerships:** Coordination with a textile recycling vendor or collection partner	2027	2028

Option	Staff Roles and Requirements	Supporting Resources	Planning Year(s)	Implementation Year(s)
Repair Café & Lending Library Facilitation	**Roles:** Waste Services/Community Outreach Staff (Part-time) **Responsibilities:** Supporting and facilitating community-led initiatives to repair common items and share tools	**Community Resources:** Engagement with local community groups, volunteers with common repair skills **P&E Campaign:** Promotion of events to shift residents toward a "materials recovery" mindset	2028	2029
Curbside Giveaway Days	**Roles:** Existing Waste Services Staff and Communications staff (Part-time) **Responsibilities:** Scheduling and formalizing 2-3 exchange events per year (excluding winter weather months)	**P&E Campaign:** Broad educational campaign to inform residents of annual event dates, acceptable reusable/bulky items, and rules for curbside exchange	2028	2029
Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program	**Roles:** Existing Waste Services Staff (Part-time), Summer student for comprehensive update and annual maintenance **Responsibilities:** Explore and implement the "Share, Reuse, Repair Hub" model to support a circular economy	**Consultant/Partner Expertise:** Assess whether to develop in house or to collaborate with the Circular Innovation Council, to leverage a hub program **P&E Campaign:** Ongoing promotion of participating local businesses and the updated enhanced directory, workshops, webinars, public outreach	2027	2028

Option	Staff Roles and Requirements	Supporting Resources	Planning Year(s)	Implementation Year(s)
Update Waste Collection By-law	**Roles:** Waste Services Management Staff and Legal/Clerks (Part-time) **Responsibilities:** Drafting by-law updates to reflect current operations	**Consultant Expertise:** Reviewing the by-law to verify that it accurately reflects regulatory shifts, such as producer responsibility for Blue Box recyclables or uses similar language in comparable jurisdictions	2027	2028
Enhance Enforcement Tools of the Solid Waste By-law	**Roles:** By-law enforcement officers and collection contractor staff (i.e., GFL). **Training:** By-law enforcement training for County staff/contractor, specifically on tag-and-leave protocols and issuing notices **Responsibilities:** Issuing notices, fines, using "Oops" stickers, and enforcing the By-law proper sorting	**Consultant Expertise:** Development of a Set Fines Schedule **P&E Campaign:** "Oops" sticker educational campaign to boost sorting compliance.	2028	2029
Assess Curbside Collection Using Carts	**Roles:** Waste Services Management Staff (Part-time project allocation) **Responsibilities:** Assessing the transition to automated or semi-automated cart collection for garbage and organics	**Consultant Expertise:** To conduct a feasibility study, assessment, and financial modeling for cart-based collection **P&E Campaign / Public Consultation:** Extensive public engagement to address anticipated low public acceptance for a new garbage and organics carts program	2029	2030-2031

Option	Staff Roles and Requirements	Supporting Resources	Planning Year(s)	Implementation Year(s)
Continue Assessment of MHSW and E-waste Program Expansion	**Roles:** Waste Services Management Staff (Part-time project allocation) **Responsibilities:** Continuing assessment of service delivery models, a suitable location(s) and logistics to reduce wait times and improve program access and service	**Consultant Expertise:** Support for infrastructure requirements (i.e. siting approvals etc.) for a dedicated permanent facility, a mobile depot or other alternative(s)	2027	2028-2029
Disposal Services for Solid Waste	**Roles:** Waste Services Management Staff (Part-time project allocation) **Responsibilities:** Leading the strategic review of future disposal services/alternatives	**Consultant Expertise:** Assessment of long-term residual disposal services, alternatives and technologies to mitigate cross-border disposal risks	2028-2029	2030-2031

6.2 Planning and Implementation Schedule

To provide a visual roadmap for the next five years, **Table 6** presents a chronological rollout for each of the ten recommended waste management options. Recognizing that complex initiatives require sufficient preparation before they are launched to the public, this timeline separates the planning phases (first phase) from the implementation (or execution) second phase for each option.

Planning and implementation timelines were based on the highest ranked options (triple bottom line evaluation as well as engagement results and support). When rankings were equal for more than one option, diversion potential and implementation effort was taken into account.

The planning phase (as shown in yellow) accounts for the upfront time required to conduct feasibility studies, secure potential external consultant expertise, draft updates, seek council approvals, engage with the public, develop materials, procure equipment, or establish funding and community partnerships. The implementation phase (as shown in blue) denotes the active rollout, public launch, and ongoing execution and operation of the program or option. By distinctly separating these two phases, the County can appropriately allocate staff capacity and budgetary resources year-over-year, allowing each initiative to be prepared and supported before it goes into launch or implementation. Based on resource needs for staff time and waste budgets, two to three options are suggested at most for the planning phase each year.

Table 6: Implementation Schedule

Note: Planning time is shown in yellow. Implementation and ongoing execution of an option is in blue.

Option Name	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
1. Potential SSO Program Expansion					
2. Textile Collection Program					
3. Repair Café and Lending Library Facilitation					
4. Curbside Giveaway Days					
5. Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program					
6. Update Waste Collection By-law					
7. Enhance Enforcement Tools of the Solid Waste By-law					
8. Assess Curbside Collection Using Carts					
9. Continue Assessment MHSW & E-waste Program Expansion*					
10. Disposal Services for Solid Waste					

***** timing depends on assessment recommendations, suitable/available location, approvals etc.

7.0 Financial Plan

This section presents the estimated financial needs of the LTWMS Update recommended waste management options.

7.1 Assumptions

In developing the projected costs and implementation timelines, the following assumptions were used:

- The projected operating and capital costs are based on the implementation schedule presented in **Section 6.2**.
- A preliminary assessment of high-level costs for each option was completed using the triple bottom line evaluation results based on a range of cost per tonne diverted (see **Section 5.2**). A secondary assessment was completed to look closer at operating and capital cost estimates for each individual option. This considered specific needs, expenses and resources required in the planning and implementation stages for each option.

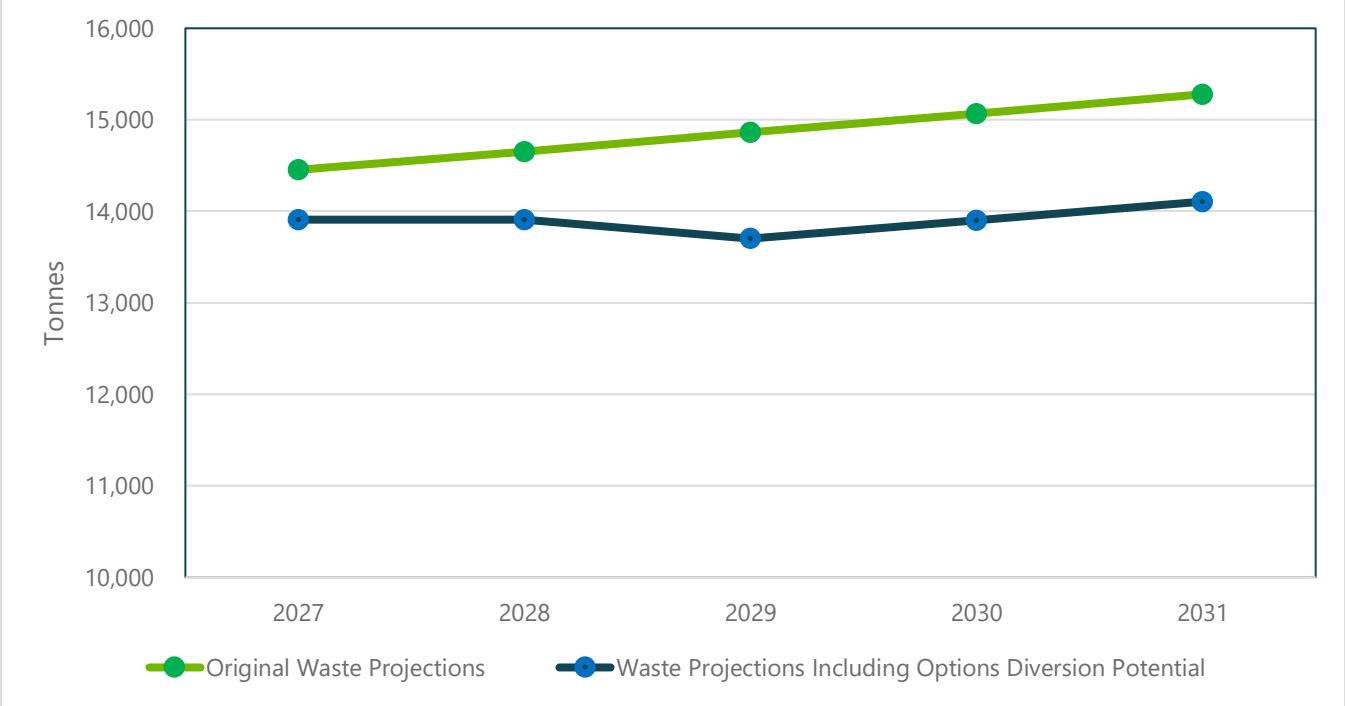
7.2 Projected Tonnage

As outlined in Interim Update Memo #1, assuming the existing waste management systems remain status quo, the total waste to be collected by the County is projected to reach 15,279 tonnes by 2031 (excluding residential recycling tonnages). This is based on an estimated population growth of 1.4% per year and a corresponding 1.4% annual increase in waste generation. For example, projection modelling indicates that without program changes, there will be approximately 550 tonnes of textiles remaining in the garbage and organics streams by 2031, presenting a key opportunity for future diversion efforts.

Figure 2 illustrates the future solid waste tonnage trends at status quo in comparison to if the options recommended in this LTWMS Update were implemented. The anticipated waste reductions resulting from the implementation of the recommended options are based on the implementation timeline (**Table 6**) and therefore there is not the same total tonnes each year. In 2027, the anticipated reductions in waste tonnages is not anticipated to be significantly high due to this primarily being mostly attributed to a planning year for the first prioritized options. In the first two years of planning and implementation, between 2027 and 2028, a potential combined waste reduction of approximately 1,300 tonnes disposed could be the result of the first group of options (Textile Collection Program, Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program, Update of the Waste Collection By-Law and Continue Assessment of MHSW and E-waste Program Expansion) being implemented. By 2031, there is a total diversion

potential of approximately 4,800 tonnes from the disposed waste stream across the five years. This additional diversion would contribute to projected annual garbage cost savings due to a decrease in garbage disposal needs, however there would be increased processing costs for the additional diverted tonnes of organics (for example).

Figure 2: Future Waste Disposed Tonnes (Status Quo vs Implemented LTWMS Update 10 Options)



7.3 Projected Costs

Based on the evaluation of diversion potential of each recommended option (**Section 5.2**), assumptions (**Section 7.1**), and the implementation timeline (**Section 6.2**) costs were projected over a 5-year planning period. **Table 7** presents a summary of the operating costs for the County's waste management options based on planning and/or implementation of the LTWMS Update options and timeline.

Table 7: Projected Operating Costs per Waste Management Options Over 5 Year Period

Options	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
1. Potential SSO Program Expansion		$10,000	$50,000	$50,000	$50,000

Options	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
2. Textile Collection Program	$5,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
3. Repair Café & Lending Library Facilitation		$10,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000
4. Curbside Giveaway Days		$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
5. Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program	$5,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
6. Update Waste Collection By-law	$15,000				
7. Enhance Enforcement Tools of the Solid Waste By-law		$15,000			
8. Assess Curbside Collection Using Carts			$25,000	TBD	TBD
9. Continue Assessment of MHSW and E-waste Program Expansion	$25,000	TBD			
10. Disposal Services for Solid Waste		$10,000	$20,000	TBD	TBD
Total	**$50,000**	**$51,000**	**$106,000**	**$61,000**	**$61,000**

In **Table 8** the estimated itemized high-level costs are described with assumptions and context. OP is annual operating cost. CAP is capital cost.

Table 8: Estimated Costs Itemized for Planning and Implementation Stages

Option	Planning Costs	Implementation Costs
1. Potential SSO Program Expansion	OP: If expansion goes ahead, targeted promotion to inform residents of the new items in the organics program CAP: n/a	OP: Potential increase of tonnes for processing and increased fees due to additional accepted materials (pet waste and/or hygiene items; less costs if only add one material and not both) CAP: If change to semi-automated/automated carts (for example 120L or less - for increased capacity and/or through carts

Option	Planning Costs	Implementation Costs
		assessment option), cost is approx. $70 per cart.
2. Textile Collection Program	OP: n/a CAP: One time purchase of reuseable collection event equipment, signs, banners.	OP: Ongoing promotion CAP: n/a
3. Repair Café & Lending Library Facilitation	OP: Promotional materials, volunteer coordination and recruitment. Best practices manual (inhouse) from other municipalities. CAP: One time purchase of tools for lending library.	OP: Promotion of programs. Potential rental of event locations. Volunteer appreciation. CAP: Addition of more tools each year.
4. Curbside Giveaway Days	OP: Program development (in house), promotional and communications materials. CAP: n/a	OP: Promotion of program. CAP: n/a
5. Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program	OP: Use annual co-op student hire. Development of promotional materials and communications for the program. Fees for CIC Hub if proceed with their model. CAP: n/a	OP: Use annual co-op student hire. Promotion of program. CAP: n/a
6. Update Waste Collection By-law	OP: Jurisdictional scan of by-laws and update of County's by-law (In house and Consultant). CAP: n/a	OP: n/a CAP: n/a
7. Enhance Enforcement Tools of the	OP: Jurisdictional scan of enforcement best practices in by-	OP: n/a CAP: n/a

Option	Planning Costs	Implementation Costs
Solid Waste By-law	laws and update of County's by-law (In house and Consultant). CAP: n/a	
8. Assess Curbside Collection Using Carts	OP: Conduct assessment (In house and Consultant) and recommendations for options in next Curbside Collections RFP. Include potential impacts to rural routes. CAP: n/a	OP: TBD – depends on options in Curbside Collections RFP and results from bids (e.g. costs for manual collection vs garbage and organics carts). CAP: TBD by the assessment and RFP results: potential new garbage and organics carts included in next collection contract, and purchase of carts which could be several $Million.
9. Continue Assessment of MHSW and E-waste Program Expansion	OP: Continuing assessment of service delivery models, determining a suitable location(s) and logistics (In house). Consulting services for siting, design, approvals and construction (Consultant) CAP: n/a	OP: TBD by assessment for annual operations of the approved final service infrastructure, including collections and operations CAP: TBD by the assessment results: potential costs for permanent or mobile depot options including facility infrastructure and equipment
10. Disposal Services for Solid Waste	OP: Assessment study (across two planning years) by a Consultant and In house, on service and options scenarios, and recommendations for Waste Staff and Council approval. CAP: n/a	OP: TBD- based on final approved services and/or infrastructure CAP: TBD- based on final approved option(s) which may include continued service (i.e. through contract), partnerships, or new infrastructure; noting new landfill or EFW facility are in the $Millions range.

8.0 Evaluation and Monitoring Plan

This section establishes how the County can track the progress and success of its waste management programs over the next five years. The following information, aligned with Interim Update Memo #2, highlights the current challenges in system performance tracking, the new key performance indicators (KPIs) to be adopted by the County, and the key role that ongoing waste audits will play in the County's future monitoring efforts. **Table 9** (below) outlines the evaluation and monitoring plan for the recommended options.

8.1 System Performance Tracking Challenges

Historically, the County relied on the RPRA Datacall to benchmark its waste diversion success against similar municipal jurisdictions. However, with the province's transition to the new EPR model under the Blue Box Regulation, Ontario municipalities will no longer report their waste management program data to the previous RPRA Datacall. 2021 was the final year of universal annual reporting to RPRA across Ontario municipalities with Blue Box programs.

As there is currently no comparable provincial program to substitute for the Datacall, the County is no longer able to compare its system-wide performance against other municipalities. This fundamental shift in data availability underscores the need to develop robust, localized progress tracking tools and annual reporting templates to evaluate system performance and provide continued municipal transparency.

8.2 Refined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

To gauge waste system performance and drive continuous improvement in the absence of the Datacall, the County is shifting toward metrics that align with climate change goals and the circular economy. The following refined KPIs were established (as outlined in Interim Update #2) to guide the 2025 LTWMS Update:

- **Per-Capita Waste Disposal:** Serving as the new primary metric, tracking per-capita waste disposal across all waste streams normalizes data, allowing for accurate year-over-year comparability despite population growth.

- **Contamination Rates:** Measuring the percentage of non-acceptable items found within specific waste streams, such as divertible materials remaining in the garbage stream or avoidable food waste in the organics stream. This metric serves as an indicator for areas requiring targeted promotion and education and outreach.
- **GHG Emissions:** Tracking GHG emissions from waste management activities to link operations with broader environmental goals, specifically aligning with the Dufferin Climate Action Plan goal to reach Net-Zero emissions by 2050.
- **Circular Economy Indicators:** Incorporating metrics to measure circularity, such as tracking materials repaired, tool libraries events and participants per year, municipal circular procurement in tenders/RFPs, or adopting a "Circularity Metric" to measure the share of secondary materials reused or recycled.
- **Cost Indicators:** Monitoring waste management program costs per tonne managed by the County or per household or capita to continuously evaluate the financial performance of the system.
- **Engagement KPIs:** Utilizing data such as advertising reach, web traffic, digital engagement, waste app subscribers, and opinion surveys to evaluate the success of education campaigns and track self-reported waste reduction behaviors.
- **Enforcement Metrics:** Tracking compliance activities, such as the number of offence notices (e.g. oops stickers), warnings or tickets issued (if set fines are developed and implemented), or reported incidents of illegal dumping.

8.3 Ongoing Waste Audits

With the loss of the RPRA Datacall, seasonal waste characterization audits have become a key tool for maintaining data integrity and monitoring the real-world performance of the County's waste system. Continuous monitoring through waste audits allows the County to gather detailed information unique to the County, assuming that the sampled households accurately represent the broader single-family residential waste generation trends across Dufferin County. Ongoing waste audits provide the necessary data to evaluate several critical system metrics:

- **Participation Rates:** Audits provide direct, localized insights into program uptake. For instance, the 2024–2025 study revealed a stark contrast in behavior, with average garbage participation sitting at 96% compared to just 61% for the Green Bin program. Tracking these rates allows the County to target specific municipalities that may be lagging, such as one of the rural municipalities with an organics participation rate of only 21%.

- **Contamination and Material Composition:** Regular audits are essential for identifying improperly sorted materials and evaluating the success of diversion efforts. The recent 2024 to 2025 waste audit highlighted that a significant portion (46%) of the garbage stream consisted of materials eligible for recycling or composting. Audits also pinpoint specific problem materials requiring future intervention, such as textiles, which were found to account for 4.5% of the total mass in the garbage and organics streams.
- **Waste Generation Rates:** By conducting multi-seasonal studies, the County can accurately calculate and monitor weekly waste generation rates (measured in kg/hh/wk) to identify volume fluctuations and generational trends over time.

8.4 LTWMS Review and Update

This 2025 LTWMS Update was initiated in direct accordance with the recommendation made in the original 2018 LTWMS to conduct a comprehensive review of the system every five years. To maintain the ongoing success, relevance, and adaptability of Dufferin County's waste management system, it is recommended that the County continue this regular review cycle.

Moving forward, the progress of the LTWMS Update initiatives and the overall performance of the County's waste management system should be reviewed on an annual basis at a minimum. Historically, this annual review was triggered by and completed following the release of the provincial RPRA Datacall results. However, due to the transition of the residential Blue Box program to the new EPR model, the Datacall is no longer an applicable or available tool for system-wide performance tracking.

Consequently, the annual review will now need to rely entirely on the County's newly developed localized Progress Tracking Tools, internal annual reporting templates, and the data gathered from ongoing seasonal waste audits. At a minimum, the annual review will transition away from tracking a singular waste diversion rate (%), and instead include an assessment of new established KPIs, focusing on:

- **Waste Generation and Per-Capita Disposal:** Tracking the annual tonnages and per-capita disposal rates for all County-managed waste streams (e.g., garbage, organics, and yard waste).
- **Contamination Rates and Material Composition:** Evaluating the percentage of improperly sorted materials across streams, informed directly by the ongoing seasonal waste audits and contractor enforcement data ("Oops" stickers).
- **GHG Emissions:** Assessing the climate impacts of waste operations to align with the Net-Zero by 2050 target set in the *Dufferin Climate Action Plan*.
- **Circular Economy and Engagement Indicators:** Measuring the reach of promotion and education campaigns, digital engagement, and the uptake of repair and reuse initiatives across the community.

Finally, the LTWMS should continue to undergo a comprehensive review and update every five years. This longer-term planning cycle will allow the County to evaluate multi-year trends, adapt to future provincial legislative changes, and formally reassess the strategic options and contingencies guiding the waste management system.

Table 9: Option Specific Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Option	Evaluation Metrics	Monitoring Tools	Monitoring Timing
1. Potential SSO Program Expansion	• The increase in per capita organics tonnages diverted • Green bin participation rate and capacity utilization	• Curbside tonnage tracking data • Seasonal waste audits (to track participation rates and material capture)	• Review tonnage data annually • Conduct multi-season waste audits every 2-3 years
2. Textile Collection Program	• Total tonnes of textiles diverted annually (per capita) • Reduction in the textile contamination rate within the garbage and organics stream (audit result)	• Event/drop-off tonnage or volume tracking data • Ongoing waste audits	• Review event tonnage or volume annually • Conduct multi-season waste audits every 2-3 years
3. Repair Café & Lending Library Facilitation	• Number of community-led events supported and attendance levels • Number of items successfully repaired or tools borrowed	• Event tracking logs and community group reports • Opinion/awareness surveys	• Review event logs annually • Opinion survey every 2 years
4. Curbside Giveaway Days	• Estimated volume of reusable goods exchanged and diverted from the landfill • Public awareness and reported participation rates	• Opinion/awareness surveys • Engagement KPIs (social media sentiment, web traffic on event days)	• Review digital engagement post-event annually • Opinion survey every 2 years

Option	Evaluation Metrics	Monitoring Tools	Monitoring Timing
5. Expand Dufferin's Take It Back Program	• Number of participating businesses in the 'Share, Reuse, Repair Hub' • Usage rates of the directory and reported items shared/repaired	• Take It Back directory web traffic and app user analytics • Vendors/participant feedback surveys	• Review digital engagement and web traffic annually • Vendor surveys every 2-3 years
6. Update Waste Collection By-law	• Successful drafting, council adoption, and roll-out of updated by-law	• Council meeting minutes and staff reports	• At update completion
7. Enhance Enforcement Tools of the Solid Waste By-law	• Number of "Oops" stickers, warnings, outreach or set fines issued annually • Reduction in divertible materials (e.g., organics, recyclables, textiles) found in the garbage stream	• Contractor collection tracking data (e.g., Oops sticker issued logs) • Ongoing seasonal waste audits	• Review contractor compliance logs quarterly/annually • Conduct multi-season audits every 2-3 years
8. Assess Curbside Collection Using Carts	• Completion of feasibility study and financial modelling • Measured change in public acceptance toward a cart-based program	• Feasibility study and consultant reports • Opinion/awareness surveys and public consultation feedback	• Prior to the next waste collection RFP • Opinion survey every 2 years

Option	Evaluation Metrics	Monitoring Tools	Monitoring Timing
9. Continue Assessment of MHSW and E-waste Program Expansion	• Completion of assessment • Wait times and participation rates at existing special collection events	• Assessment update report • Event participation feedback/tallies	• At assessment completion • Review event tallies annually
10. Disposal Services for Solid Waste	• Completion of the strategic assessment	• Consultant reports and strategic review documents	• Started within the 5-year planning horizon (with the next waste collection RFP in mind, as it relates to exporting/in province options)

9.0 Contingency Plan

The LTWMS Update is designed to build upon the successes of Dufferin County's existing waste management system while adapting to a rapidly shifting regulatory and economic landscape. This section discusses the foundational factors that can help the LTWMS Update achieve its goals, identifies potential risks that may impede progress, and provides actionable contingencies to mitigate those risks or barriers.

9.1 Success Factors

The LTWMS Update provides a five-year framework to help the County achieve its waste management goals over the next five-year planning horizon. The core factors that can lead to its success include:

- **Customer Participation:** The success of any waste program or initiative depends heavily on the participation of the community. Now that residential recycling has moved to producer responsibility, the County's initiatives will focus strongly on fostering increased participation in the remaining programs, such as the Green Bin, to maximize diversion and maintaining minimum contamination.
- **Promotion and Education:** Increased performance in diversion and waste reduction programs can be enhanced through effective and modern communications plans and ongoing public education and promotion. Application includes a variety of outreach mechanisms and information transfer methods for the public as well as tracking its success and effectiveness.
- **Self-Assessment and Continual Improvement:** Moving forward requires a clear understanding of existing performance. By utilizing the new localized KPIs and committing to ongoing consistent waste audits, the County can actively monitor system performance, pinpoint under-performing areas, and adapt its strategies and outreach accordingly.
- **Research and Experience-Sharing:** While many ideas for system improvement will be generated internally, the County will continue to gather valuable insights by researching waste management innovations (such as circular economy models) and sharing lessons learned with other municipalities and organizations across Ontario and beyond. A common metrics protocol for benchmarking is one area for focus.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Excessive costs make waste diversion programs politically and economically challenging to sustain. The success of the County's system relies on its ability to manage costs through competitive tendering and strategic planning, particularly in the recent potential of unpredictable cross-border disposal fees and shifting producer funding models.

9.2 Risk Factors and Contingencies

While the LTWMS Update provides a roadmap, there are several emerging and persistent risks that require contingency planning. Notably, risks related to the "Blue Box Evolving Tonne" from the 2018 Strategy have been removed, as the County is no longer responsible for residential recycling under the new EPR framework. However, new risks, such as cross-border disposal constraints, have emerged. **Table 10** presents these risks and their associated contingencies.

Table 10: Risk Factors and Possible Contingencies

Risk	Contingencies
Low participation rates in diversion and waste reduction programs	• Track participation rates using ongoing seasonal waste audits • Characterize under-participating groups (e.g., specific municipalities as shown through waste audits) Use opinion and awareness surveys to identify barriers to participation • Develop and deploy targeted promotion and education strategies to overcome identified barriers
Incorrect participation / high levels of material contamination	Track material contamination levels and identify trends through ongoing seasonal waste audits and contractor feedback • Utilize collection contractor data (e.g., "Oops" sticker logs) to pinpoint specific set-out issues Implement targeted "Oops" sticker education campaigns and utilize enhanced by-law enforcement tools (such as set fines) to correct sorting behaviors.
Cross-Border Garbage Disposal Risks	• Conduct a strategic assessment for future garbage disposal services/alternatives well in advance of current contract expirations • Evaluate the feasibility and timelines for domestic disposal contingencies, such as EFW facilities or Ontario-based landfills • Monitor State of Michigan fee increases and potential trade tariffs • Explore multi-municipal partnerships to share the costs and infrastructure of future disposal solutions.
Changes in Provincial waste regulations / EPR Transitions	Continue to monitor the Province's efforts to implement the RRCEA and any future updates to the "Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario" • Track the impacts of EPR on municipal services, such as inadequate producer funding for HHW or gaps in IC&I recycling coverage • Provide formal and informal feedback into the Provincial solid waste planning process • Delay or schedule initiatives with significant cost implications in relation to confirmed Provincial direction.

Risk	Contingencies
Changes to Waste Collection/ Processing Costs and Waste Industry Trends	• Maintain a competitive tendering process for future waste management and processing services • Review future tender documents and contracts for economic efficiencies and risk protection • Manage organics contamination levels to minimize processing penalties Assess multi-municipal partnerships for collection and processing to achieve economies of scale.

10.0 Conclusion

The 2025 LTWMS Update builds upon the strong foundation of Dufferin County's 2018 LTWMS, securing the County's continued leadership in sustainable waste management. By carrying forward the original mission and four strategic goals, this Update provides continuity while charting a resilient, adaptable path forward for the next five-year planning horizon (2027–2031).

Recognizing that the waste management landscape has changed significantly, most notably through the provincial transition to EPR for the Blue Box program, this Update pivots the County's focus toward more holistic performance tracking. By moving away from a singular reliance on weight-based diversion rates and adopting new KPIs such as per-capita disposal, contamination tracking, and circularity metrics, the County is better positioned to align its waste operations with the *Dufferin Climate Action Plan* target of reaching Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The recommended initiatives in this Update emerged from a triple bottom line evaluation that weighed social, environmental, and economic impacts. By prioritizing high-ranking actions, such as a Textile Collection Program, Curbside Giveaway Days, an expanded Take It Back Program, and enhanced by-law enforcement, the County is placing a renewed emphasis on the higher levels of the waste hierarchy. These options actively support the shift away from a linear "take-make-dispose" model toward a circular economy that prioritizes waste reduction, sharing of common items and tools, reuse, and repair.

Given the ever-changing landscape of federal and provincial waste regulations, as well as emerging constraints regarding cross-border garbage disposal, it is important that the County remains flexible and adaptive. Through the commitment to ongoing seasonal waste audits and an active Contingency Plan, the County is well-equipped to monitor its real-world performance, adapt to new challenges, and continually refine its targeted promotion and education efforts and outreach.

Ultimately, the success of the LTWMS Update will rely on the participation and support of the community. The strategic direction outlined in this document was shaped by the public, County staff, and community stakeholders who contributed their efforts, thoughts, and opinions throughout the consultation process. By continuing to foster these partnerships, Dufferin County can maintain a waste management system that remains economically sustainable, environmentally sound, and socially responsible for years to come.

Appendix A

2018 LTWMS Options: Existing LTWMS Goals and Recommendations

Existing Recommended Options from the LTWMS

In the original LTWMS there were 23 options included to be implemented by the County to increase waste diversion. These options were grouped based on their assessed priority group (1 to 5) for implementation.

Review of 2018 LTWMS Options

This section provides a review and assessment of the recommended options identified in the 2018 LTWMS. The objective of this evaluation is to determine the current relevance and viability of each option for the next five-year planning period, and to consider their potential for continued inclusion in the 2025 LTWMS Update.

Table below lists the 2018 LTWMS options and indicates the current recommendation on whether to:

- **Continue:** Options which are to be continued are in progress or ongoing and the County can continue to work towards their implementation;
- **Maintained:** Options which are the be maintained as implemented are those which have been largely completed by the County at this time, and do not require further action aside from ongoing maintenance or monitoring; or,
- **Discontinue:** Options that are to be discontinued are those relating to the residential Blue Box recycling which is no longer under the County's control, or options that have been fully explored and are not suitable for further implementation at this time.

Table 1: Summary Table of 2018 Options and Recommendations

	Option Name	Update Recommendation
Priority Group 1		
2	Food Waste Reduction Campaign	Continue with Option
Priority Group 2		
11	Promote "Green" Purchasing	Continue with Option
8	Increase Support for Household Organics Collection	Continue with Option
1a	Promote On-Site Management of Organics: Backyard Composting	Maintain Implemented Option

	Option Name	Update Recommendation
1b	Promote On-Site Management of Organics: Grass cycling	Maintain Implemented Option
10	Conduct Targeted/Expanded Promotion and Education	Continue with Option
6	Textile Recycling	Continue with Option
12	Encourage Events to be "Zero Waste"	Continue with Option
18	Promotion of Waste Minimization/Diversion in the IC&I sector	Continue with Option
20	Expand MHSW and E-waste Diversion Program	Continue with Option
7	Agricultural Waste Diversion Support	Continue with Option
13	Encourage Extended Producer Responsibility	Continue with Option
19	Explore Multi-Municipal Partnerships for Waste Management Services	Continue with Option
3	Expand Curbside Capacity for Collection of Recyclables: Additional Blue Box	Discontinue Option
Priority Group 3		
9	Assess Garbage Collection Frequency (Every Other Week Collection)	Continue with Option
Priority Group 4		
16	Enforcement of Waste Collection By-law	Continue with Option
17	Preparation of Multi-Residential Development Standards	Continue with Option
4a	Add Additional Materials to the Recycling Program: Polystyrene	Discontinue Option
Priority Group 5		
4b	Add Additional Materials to the Recycling Program: Plastic Film	Discontinue Option
5	Review Public Space Recycling	Discontinue Option
14	Consider a Maximum Bag Limit	Discontinue Option
15	Shift to Full User Pay	Continue with Option

Priority Group #1

Table A-1: Option 2 – Food Waste Reduction Campaign

Option Name	Food Waste Reduction Campaign
Option Description	This option is focused on minimizing the amount of avoidable food waste generated by residents through targeted education and outreach campaigns. It aims to reduce waste at the source before it enters the disposal or green bin stream.
Evaluation Metrics	Reported participation in food waste reduction activities. Awareness of food waste reduction campaign/messages. Reduction in organics collected/processed: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita. Reduction of avoidable food waste (monitored through waste audits). Percent of garbage stream
Current Status	Initiated in early 2018 in collaboration with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH), the project has developed and implemented campaigns, though efforts are ongoing as collaboration was paused during COVID and recent waste audits show significant avoidable food waste remains in the waste streams.
Progress/Successes	The initial Food Waste Reduction Project was initiated in early 2018, leading to the development and implementation of the "Plan to Save, Reduce Food Waste" campaigns starting in 2019. This campaign continues annually. Resources, such as a Produce Storage Guide, have been created and continue to be distributed.
Barriers/Challenges	Key challenges include reaching a wide audience with messaging, changing behaviours, gauging the effectiveness of the resources, and addressing the persistent presence of significant avoidable food wastes in both garbage and green bin streams. Partner engagement was also temporarily impacted by the pandemic.
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

Priority Group 2

Table A-2: Option 11 – Promote "Green" Purchasing

Item	Promote "Green" Purchasing
Option Description	This initiative focuses on reducing waste generation by fostering a shift in purchasing behaviours, including precycling (preventing waste before it happens) and adopting an internal Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.
Evaluation Metrics	Reported adoption of green purchasing practices; Awareness of green purchasing; and Reduction in packaging waste (particularly post-Christmas).
Current Status	This option is being addressed through various promotion and education (P&E) efforts, including specific campaigns, and the County's internal Purchasing Policy encourages sustainable products. The County continues to promote the existing 20+ year Take It Back (TIB) Program.
Progress/Successes	The County developed promotions like the "Choose to Reuse" campaign and implemented "Wasteless Holiday" campaigns that encourage reuse and experiences. Zero Waste Kits (reusable items) are offered as prizes during events. The Take It Back (TIB) Directory is actively promoted and linked to the Dufferin Waste App "Which Bin?" tool. Resources are printed on recycled and sustainably sourced papers.
Barriers/Challenges	The major challenge is the lack of a system for monitoring and evaluating success, making it difficult to determine if recipients are using reusable items or if the resources are effective. Furthermore, accurately gauging the success of the TIB Directory remains difficult. More work is required on the County's internal Purchasing Policy.
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

Table A-3: Option 8 – Increase Support for Household Organics Collection

Option Name	Increase Support for Household Organics Collection
Option Description	This comprehensive strategy aims to increase the recovery rate of household organics from 58% to the target of 80%.
Evaluation Metrics	Change in organics collection tonnage: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita. Change in green bin set-outs. Change in recovery rates for organics.
Current Status	A comprehensive Organics Diversion Strategy was planned and implemented, including green bin set-out studies and targeted "Closing the Loop on Organics" neighbourhood campaigns in 2023 and 2024. The green bin and garbage are co-collected weekly.
Progress/Successes	Set-out studies were completed, and "Give me a chance" kits and door hangers were distributed to non-participating households in pilot study areas. Community engagement events, such as the green bin Party in the Park, were held in target neighborhoods. A multi-residential campaign was implemented in 2025 at County-owned Community Housing buildings, and the County continues to support other multi-residential locations with green bin collection.
Barriers/Challenges	Neighbourhood Campaigns did not result in a significant increase in participation. Many residents express concerns over odour and pests, despite being provided with management tips. The operational tool of enforcing the garbage "tag and leave" method to encourage green bin use has not been widely implemented.
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

Table A-4: Option 1a – Promote On-Site Management of Organics: Backyard Composting

Option Name	Promote On-Site Management of Organics: Backyard Composting
Option Description	This program encourages composting of home and kitchen organics on-site to reduce centralized collection and processing costs.
Evaluation Metrics	Reported adoption of backyard composting. Change in amount of backyard composters sold. Change in green bin tonnage: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita. Change in recovery rates for organics.
Current Status	Promotions (digital and newspaper ads) are created and run to advertise the availability and benefits (including finished compost and climate action) of backyard composters (BYC) for purchase.
Progress/Successes	The County purchases BYCs in bulk and sells them to residents for a subsidized price of $35 each. The program receives approximately a dozen orders once a year following promotion.
Barriers/Challenges	The County is unsure how many residents are using BYCs or how to increase usage. Farms often use their own system of on-site composting, and it is difficult to measure how many people (including farmers) are composting on-site.
Recommendation	**Maintain Implemented Option.**

Table A-5: Option 1b – Promote On-Site Management of Organics: Grasscycling

Option Name	Promote On-Site Management of Organics: Grasscycling
Option Description	This initiative promotes leaving grass clippings on the lawn to decompose.
Evaluation Metrics	Public awareness of what grasscycling is and how to do it; Reported adoption of grasscycling; and Change in amount of grass clippings for disposal.
Current Status	Promotions, including digital and newspaper ads, are created to promote grasscycling, often combined with backyard composting promotions.
Progress/Successes	The implementation steps included assessing whether grass clippings were an issue in the waste stream and conducting a literature review of other grasscycling incentive programs.
Barriers/Challenges	Accurately gauging grasscycling participation is currently challenging because the yard waste stream is not included in seasonal waste audits. However, working with the County's yard waste processing contractor to observe/audit the County's yard waste could help the County to assess how much grass is entering the yard waste stream rather than being left on the lawn.
Recommendation	**Maintain Implemented Option.**

Table A-6: Option 10 – Conduct Targeted/Expanded Promotion and Education

Option Name	Conduct Targeted/Expanded Promotion and Education
Option Description	This strategy aims to maximize waste diversion programs through increased and proper public participation, by developing a multi-pronged strategy to influence sustainable behavior change.
Evaluation Metrics	Participation rates (including proper involvement). Awareness of campaign messaging. Changes in amount of material diverted/disposed: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita. Change in diversion rate. Change in contamination rates. Change in recovery rates for divertible materials.
Current Status	The County maintains a robust P&E program, including continued newspaper/ radio ads, website, the Dufferin Waste app, social media, school/community presentations and community event attendance. Targeted campaigns have been implemented for Blue Box sorting (pre-2023) and green bin participation.
Progress/Successes	The County performed targeted campaigns for Blue Box contamination (2019 and 2022) using door hangers with direct feedback, and for green bin participation (2023 and 2024) including community events and distributing "Give me a chance" kits. Multi-residential set-out/contamination checks for recycling were also conducted in 2022.
Barriers/Challenges	Challenges include determining how to evaluate the effectiveness of targeted P&E. The implementation of programs like neighborhood campaigns requires significant staff time for monitoring. Historically, Blue Box contamination prioritized P&E time over other initiatives. Contamination rates continued to vary despite efforts.
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

Table A-7: Option 6 – Textile Recycling

Option Name	Textile Recycling
Option Description	The County will promote existing opportunities for textile diversion and assess the feasibility of introducing other collection method(s) for textiles.
Evaluation Metrics	Participation. Awareness of program. Changes in amount of material diverted/disposed: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita. Change in diversion rate. Change in recovery rates for textiles.
Current Status	The Clothes'ing the Loop on Textiles campaign was implemented in 2022, which included a video and ongoing promotions of messaging and resources. A 'Clothes'ing the Loop Map Tool' listing locations for donating textiles across the County was created. Recent waste audit data shows there is approximately 4.5% of textiles, mainly in the garbage stream.
Progress/Successes	The campaign created a Clothes'ing the Loop Map Tool, listing donation locations. Staff clothing swap events and two pilot community swaps (at the Grand Valley Library) were held, with leftover textiles donated to thrift shops and local church clothing depots.
Barriers/Challenges	The County needs to determine whether to implement a curbside or drop-off collection program and how this would impact and/or include existing collection stakeholders/potential partners. It is also challenging to gauge how many residents donate unwanted textiles.
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

Table A-8: Option 12 – Encourage Events to be "Zero Waste"

Option Name	Encourage Events to be "Zero Waste"
Option Description	The goal is to encourage or require event organizers to ensure their events are as waste-free as possible, through promotion or municipal permits.
Evaluation Metrics	Participation: Number of waste free events; and, Number of downloads of zero waste event materials. Reported attitudes toward and adoption of zero waste event practices by event coordinators/hosts. Changes in amount of material diverted/disposed: Overall tonnes; and, Tonnes/kg per event.
Current Status	The County sponsors waste stations for major Dufferin events and offers supplies and equipment to community organizations for events by request. Event details and diversion opportunities are reported to the County through an Event Request Form.
Progress/Successes	Waste stations have been provided at major events such as Blues and Jazz Festival and Ribfest. A zero-waste event guide was developed for County staff use.
Barriers/Challenges	Challenges include evaluations to monitor success. While large events secure their own recycling services, smaller events cannot be collected as part of the residential recycling program and must use the transfer station or arrange IC&I collection through the County.
Recommendation	**Maintain implemented program.**

Table A-9: Option 18 – Promotion of Waste Minimization/Diversion in the IC&I Sector

Option Name	Promotion of Waste Minimization/Diversion in the IC&I sector
Option Description	This initiative involves promotion, education, and partnerships to encourage the IC&I community to voluntarily adopt waste diversion and minimization programs.
Evaluation Metrics	Amount and type of informational resources available to IC&I sector; Reported waste minimization/ diversion attitudes and behaviours among the IC&I sectors; and, Number of information requests or meetings regarding IC&I waste minimization/ diversion.
Current Status	Small-medium sized IC&I locations can register with the County to continue recycling collections through a designated collection route (as these IC&I locations can no longer be collected on the residential recycling routes through Circular Materials). Small-medium locations can participate in the green bin/cart program (approximately 166 locations) and are collected on the County's residential routes. The County promotes IC&I "lunch and learns" and supports schools with green bins/carts, posters, and presentations.
Progress/Successes	Approximately 500 IC&I locations currently participate in the County's recycling program (post-transition). Schools are well supported with education, and the County has a Waste Reduction Educator who visits IC&I locations upon request.
Barriers/Challenges	A business recognition program has not been set up due to limited County staff time. There are few local non-profit organizations to help deliver community outreach. The Provincial Blue Box Transition Regulation does not include most IC&I locations (excluding schools/LTC/retirement homes that continue to be on residential routes), potentially cutting off small-medium businesses from the recycling system if the County decides to not continue a dedicated service.
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

Table A-10: Option 20 – Expand MHSW and E-waste Diversion Program

Option Name	Expand MHSW and E-waste Diversion Program
Option Description	This program aims to increase MHSW (Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste) and electronic waste collection by considering a combination of constructing a permanent MHSW depot with remote MHSW collection events, and/or implementing curbside e-waste collection.
Evaluation Metrics	Change in participation. Awareness of campaign messaging. Changes in amount of material diverted: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita.
Current Status	The County continues to offer seven seasonal events throughout the year (April to early November) to collect HHW and E-wastes. A Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Service Review was completed in 2023, which assessed alternative service models such as a permanent or mobile depot.
Progress/Successes	The 2023 HHW Service Review laid out options and estimated costs for other service models, concluding that a mobile depot was the preferred future service model. The County has explored locations for a potential mobile depot, including local municipal Public Works Yards and landfill sites. Several community locations around the County collect electronics year-round, as this waste material is not regulated the same as HHW for handling.
Barriers/Challenges	Residents desire a more convenient year-round service model (i.e., depot). County Budget constraints and inadequate funding from Hazardous and Special Products (HSP) stewards are issues, particularly if the County were to transition to a more expensive depot model, requiring more County subsidy. Limited County properties exist to house a permanent depot. The mobile depot option has logistical challenges if a permanent depot is not also established (i.e. to deal with overflow of material, storage etc.) Other options such as Return to Retail is limited, as Retailers are generally not interested in participating in the program due to concerns over staff training, storage space, and handling non-acceptable products. If R2R established, residents would have more opportunity to return HSP materials year-round.
Recommendation	**Continue with option.**

Table A-11: Option 7 – Agricultural Waste Diversion Support

Option Name	Agricultural Waste Diversion Support
Option Description	This initiative involves the County working with the local agricultural community to promote existing programs and identify new opportunities for the recycling of agricultural waste, such as bale wrap.
Evaluation Metrics	Awareness of agricultural waste diversion opportunities among target audience; Number of waste diversion opportunities available to agricultural sector; Amount and type of informational resources about waste diversion available to the agricultural sector; and, Estimated amount of waste available for diversion vs. amount diverted.
Current Status	An existing program is run by Switch Energy Corp., which changed from being free to a charge per collection format ($6 per bag, 15 bags on a roll). As private programs arise, they can be promoted through County channels.
Progress/Successes	The Switch Energy Corp. program accepts various plastics, including bale wrap and shrink wrap, and has approximately 100 customers in Dufferin. Implementation steps originally included liaising with agricultural industry stakeholders to assess waste diversion needs and opportunities. CleanFarms has conducted pilots, though none in the County's area.
Barriers/Challenges	The bale wrap program requires the wrap to be clean, which is challenging for farmers. The collection cost has become an issue for some farmers/customers. Burning agricultural wastes on-site is a common practice to avoid disposal costs, which is difficult behavior to change. Limited County staff time is a challenge for assisting with the start or continuation of new programs.
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

Table A-12: Option 13 – Encourage Extended Producer Responsibility

Option Name	Encourage Extended Producer Responsibility
Option Description	This involves the County promoting existing product stewardship initiatives and actively contributing to efforts to lobby for greater Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) at the provincial and federal levels.
Evaluation Metrics	N/A
Current Status	Ontario has implemented new EPR regulations for Tires, Batteries, Electronics, Hazardous and Special Products, Lighting and Blue Box recyclables.
Progress/Successes	County staff have actively participated in consultations, lobbying, meetings and webinars as members of the Municipal Waste Association (MWA), and other waste associations, around EPR and producer transitions (e.g. residential recycling, Hazardous and Special Products, etc.)
Barriers/Challenges	Challenges include regulations that do not designate enough materials (e.g., Household Special Waste (HSP), and the Province making changes that may not align with EPR goals (e.g., reducing targets, accountability). Inadequate producer funding is an issue, leading to municipalities subsidizing producer-led programs such as HSP. Long-term cost implications are undetermined due to evolving provincial policy decisions.
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

Table A-13: Option 19 – Explore Multi-Municipal Partnerships for Waste Management Services

Option Name	Explore Multi-Municipal Partnerships for Waste Management Services
Option Description	This initiative involves exploring opportunities for partnerships with other municipalities, including regionalization of services, to achieve economies of scale through joint contracts, shared facilities, or shared disposal opportunities.
Evaluation Metrics	N/A
Current Status	The County continues to be mindful of opportunities as/if they arise. Implementation involves evaluating existing waste management service contracts and prioritizing those that would benefit most from potential multi-municipal joint ventures.
Progress/Successes	The County reached out to Peel Region staff regarding their Caledon HHW Depot, but their Certificate of Approval (CofA) does not allow materials from outside their Peel Region borders.
Barriers/Challenges	CofA requirements for municipal facilities (e.g., HHW Depots) almost always include service boundaries only to their municipality/region. There is little incentive for another municipality to open up their CofA to include others, especially when they are already not receiving adequate producer funding.

Option Name	Explore Multi-Municipal Partnerships for Waste Management Services
Recommendation	**Continue this Option.**

Table A-14: Option 3 – Expand Curbside Capacity for the Collection of Recyclables by Providing an Extra Blue Box

Option Name	Expand Curbside Capacity for the Collection of Recyclables by Providing an Extra Blue Box
Option Description	This initiative aimed to increase Blue Box collection capacity by providing residents with an extra blue box free of charge upon request.
Evaluation Metrics	Changes in Blue Box collection tonnage: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita. Change in the number of households setting out more than one blue box for collection. Change in amount of Blue Box material in garbage stream. Change in recovery rates for Blue Box materials.
Current Status	Replacement blue boxes were provided free of charge during the period of County responsibility (pre-July 2023), and new residents received two blue boxes; however, this initiative is no longer ongoing due to the transition to producer responsibility (Blue Box transition).
Progress/Successes	Prior to July 1, 2023, new residents received two free blue boxes, and replacement boxes were available for pick-up. Residents in targeted areas could receive an additional blue box upon request during Blue Box contamination campaigns in 2019 and 2022.
Barriers/Challenges	The primary barrier is that the residential recycling program is no longer the County's responsibility as of July 1, 2023. Furthermore, the County prioritized targeted campaigns to reduce the Blue Box contamination rate over capacity expansion during its period of responsibility.
Recommendation	**Discontinue Option.**

Priority Group 3

Table A-15: Option 9 – Assess Garbage Collection Frequency (Every Other Week Collection)

Option Name	Assess Garbage Collection Frequency (Every Other Week Collection)
Option Description	Reducing garbage collection frequency to every other week (EOW) encourages residents to make greater use of available diversion programs, such as the Blue Box and green bin programs.
Evaluation Metrics	• If implemented: Changes in amount of material diverted/disposed: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita. Change in diversion rate. Change in recovery rates for divertible materials. Garbage collection cost: Overall cost; and, Per household.
Current Status	The feasibility of EOW collection was considered during the 2021 Curbside Collections RFP preparation. The current contract (2023-2030) maintains weekly co-collection of garbage and organics, though contract language allows for a future shift to bi-weekly garbage collection, if decided by Council.
Progress/Successes	During the 2021 Curbside Collections RFP preparation, contract language was included to allow the County to shift to bi-weekly garbage collection later if desired. Weekly co-collection of garbage and organics is considered a best practice for maximizing participation, providing cost savings through economies of scale, and decreasing GHG emissions.
Barriers/Challenges	Public pushback is anticipated if this option is pursued in the future, given the existing one-clear bag limit. Due to amortization of truck costs over the current contract, changing to bi-weekly garbage collection during the current contract period (2023-2030) would likely result in little change to the overall operational cost. Operational challenges exist in coordinating bi-weekly garbage collection with weekly organics collection.
Recommendation	**Continue this Option.**

Priority Group 4

Table A-16: Option 16 – Enforcement of Waste Collection By-law

Option Name	Enforcement of Waste Collection By-law
Option Description	The goal is to develop and implement an enforcement strategy to help enforce the existing Waste Collection By-law, obligating residents to keep waste streams separate and prohibiting contamination and scavenging.
Evaluation Metrics	Number of fines or warnings issued; Changes in amount of material diverted; and, Change in revenue from sale of recyclable materials (no longer applicable).
Current Status	The implementation of this initiative has been delayed due to internal discussions around by-law enforcement at the County level, although the Collections Coordinator has by-law enforcement training.
Progress/Successes	Research and a draft report around applying for short form wording from the Province was previously written. The County intended to proceed with developing and implementing an enforcement strategy in 2018 to enforce the “no scavenging” provision.
Barriers/Challenges	Not having set fines makes it difficult to enforce the by-law for diversion reasons (e.g., organics in the garbage). The County has not enforced the garbage "tag and leave" method widely yet. The no-scavenging issue for residential recycling is no longer under the County's responsibility due to the Blue Box transition. The County will review the Waste By-law to update sections as required (i.e. residential recycling, etc.)
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

Table 11: Option 17 – Preparation of Multi-Residential Development Standards

Option Name	Preparation of Multi-Residential Development Standards
Option Description	This initiative involves developing waste management program design standards for future multi-residential developments to address common waste diversion issues in these buildings.
Evaluation Metrics	Development of multi-residential standards document; Awareness of standards document (once developed); Number of new developments complying with standards document (once developed); and Diversion rates for new multi-residential developments (once developed).
Current Status	This project was delayed due to staff priorities shifting to other initiatives. Internal research has restarted, and a Draft Development Guidelines document has been prepared in Summer 2025 with support from County Planning staff. The County also continues to provide a Condo Rebate program (for garbage) to those buildings that participate in diversion programs (green cart organics and recycling).
Progress/Successes	The Draft Development Guidelines cover multi-residential buildings as well as single-family homes, dense townhomes, and IC&I developments, including recommendations for waste rooms/storage areas (i.e. space for cart sizes) and collection truck turning radius. The draft guidelines have been presented to the County and Local Municipalities Planning Working Group as a first step to finalizing the document.
Barriers/Challenges	The County has not conducted waste audits in multi-residential buildings. The condo rebate program amount has not been increased since before 2013, although an increase was included in the 2026 County Budget for consideration. The amended Blue Box Regulation in 2025 has delayed the producer responsibility of collecting recyclables from new Facilities (i.e. multi-residential buildings) until 2031. While existing multi-residential buildings are on the residential routes with Circular Materials, collections at new buildings will have to be included in the County's IC&I dedicated route at the County's cost, or they will have to use private collection services.
Recommendation	**Maintain Implemented Option.**

Priority Group 5

Table A-17: Option 4a – Add Additional Materials to the Recycling Program: Polystyrene

Option Name	Add Additional Materials to the Recycling Program: Polystyrene
Option Description	This involves expanding the list of acceptable materials in the Blue Box program to include polystyrene, contingent on the feasibility of collection, processing, and sustainable markets.
Evaluation Metrics	Amount of polystyrene diverted; Change in diversion rate; and, Change in recovery rate for polystyrene.
Current Status	The material was reviewed for the Recyclables Processing RFP. The County was advised not to change the program due to the upcoming Blue Box transition between 2023-2025. Polystyrene will be included in the transitioned residential program under a standardized provincial list starting January 1st, 2026.
Progress/Successes	The County intended to include an option for polystyrene recycling in the next collection and processing procurement process (2020 contracts). Polystyrene was estimated to divert 0.2% of the waste stream. Polystyrene and other materials in the standardized provincial residential recycling system will also be allowed by the County's recycling contractor (GFL) within the County's dedicated IC&I recycling system.
Barriers/Challenges	Previously, there was little to no market for this material, it was problematic to process, and had a higher cost associated for processing. The County was advised not to change its program due to the upcoming Blue Box transition.
Recommendation	**Discontinue Option.**

Table A-18: Option 4b – Add Additional Materials to the Recycling Program: Plastic Film

Option Name	Add Additional Materials to the Recycling Program: Plastic Film
Option Description	This involves expanding the list of acceptable materials in the Blue Box program to include plastic film, contingent on the feasibility of collection, processing, and sustainable markets. Promotion of drop-off locations at retailers is also included.
Evaluation Metrics	Amount of plastic film diverted; Change in diversion rate; and Change in recovery rate for plastic film.
Current Status	Plastic film was reviewed for the Recyclables Processing RFP. The County was advised not to change the program due to the upcoming Blue Box transition. Plastic film will be included in the transitioned residential program under a standardized provincial list. The County continues promoting alternatives via the Take it Back directory.
Progress/Successes	The feasibility of adding plastic film to the Blue Box program was assessed during the next contract procurement process (2020 RFP). The County continues promoting existing alternatives for recycling plastic film through take-it-back initiatives. Plastic film and other materials in the standardized provincial residential recycling system will be allowed by the County's recycling contractor (GFL) within the County's dedicated IC&I recycling system.
Barriers/Challenges	Previously, there was little to no market for this material, it was problematic to process, and had a higher cost associated for processing. Few locations are available to promote in the Take it Back program for plastic bags.
Recommendation	**Discontinue Option.**

Table A-19: Option 5 – Review Public Space Recycling

Option Name	Review Public Space Recycling
Option Description	The County will continue to monitor potential locations for public space recycling and assess their feasibility. This includes preparing and implementing a strategy for public space recycling in partnership with the local municipalities.
Evaluation Metrics	Number of public locations where recycling receptacles are available; Amount of Blue Box material diverted; and Change in diversion rate.
Current Status	Staff prioritization shifted away from this initiative. There are very few public recycling bins in the local municipalities.
Progress/Successes	The County can help the local municipalities with public bin recycling (although there are few) under its IC&I recycling contract with GFL.
Barriers/Challenges	This has a large cost for little diversion. Contamination is a significant issue. Public spaces are not a County responsibility (they fall under the local municipalities). The Updated Blue Box Regulation in 2025 has removed the producer responsibility to service and maintain any new public space recycling. This the current regulation and may or may not change until after 2031.
Recommendation	**Discontinue Option.**

Table A-20: Option 14 – Consider a Maximum Bag Limit

Option Name	Consider a Maximum Bag Limit
Option Description	Limit the total number of garbage bags that households can set out at the curb for collection with garbage tags.
Evaluation Metrics	Changes in amount of material diverted/disposed: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita. Change in diversion rate. Change in recovery rates for divertible materials. Number of set-outs that exceed maximum bag limit.
Current Status	County residents are currently allowed one clear bag of garbage free of charge, plus additional bags with a tag ($2 each), with no set maximum limit. The average garbage set-out in the 2024-2025 waste audit results was 1.01 bags/house. This indicates very few households require an additional bag.
Progress/Successes	Data from waste audits (2019 to 2020 and 2024-2025) includes garbage set-out data. The majority of garbage set-outs (91%) consist of only one bag.
Barriers/Challenges	Given that most set-outs are one bag or container, there is limited value to implementing the initiative at this time. Public support is a concern based on findings from the Fall 2025 public survey and Table Talks.
Recommendation	**Discontinue Option.**

Table A-21: Option 15 – Shift to Full User Pay

Option Name	Shift to Full User Pay
Option Description	Reduce the number of free garbage bags from one to zero, meaning residents pay for every unit (bag or container) of garbage set out (a full user pay system).
Evaluation Metrics	Changes in amount of material diverted/disposed: Overall tonnes; Per household; and, Per capita. Change in diversion rate. Change in recovery rates for divertible materials.
Current Status	The County currently operates as a partial user pay system. No review of this option has been undertaken by the County.
Progress/Successes	Waste audit data for 2019-2020 and 2024-2025 contains set-out data to understand what is set out at the curb by residents (i.e. approx. 1.01 bags per house per week).
Barriers/Challenges	Public support is a concern. Potential administrative implications, including review of data, success factors from other municipalities, and method of collection/calculation of fees. This option could be explored if there is Council interest in the future.
Recommendation	**Continue with Option.**

DILLON