

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

# QUICK FACTS

SIMCOE.CA/ERRC | WINTER 2020

Faced with rising costs, new provincial waste regulations, and closure of County landfills, we're planning to manage your waste differently by building our own Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC).



## WHAT IS THE ERRC?

It is NOT a landfill. The ERRC will provide a facility to process our organics locally and manage the transfer of garbage and recycling showcasing our commitment to diversion and reducing waste disposal.

## WHY BUILD THE ERRC?

Waste management in Ontario is changing. The ERRC will allow us to securely manage our own waste, control transfer and processing costs, and provide greater flexibility to adjust our programs to divert more organics from our garbage stream.

It's the future of waste management and it's the right thing to do.



## ORGANICS PROCESSING FACILITY (OPF)

The OPF is a closed-loop, circular-economy solution where organics (green bin material and potentially materials such as leaf and yard waste, pet waste, and diapers) are processed and converted into resources such as compost or fertilizer.

- Helps us adapt to provincial legislation focused on diverting organics from landfill
- Allows for acceptance of more materials into our green bin program
- Reduces emissions from hauling green bin materials outside the County for processing
- Allows us to respond to growth and increased green bin tonnage
- Creates compost or fertilizer products to support our local agriculture and landscaping sectors

## MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITY (MMF)

The MMF is a location where waste from multiple collection vehicles is consolidated and transferred. This allows for cost-effective shipment to other processing/disposal locations.

- With limited transfer options in this region, it would provide secure, long-term management of our garbage with the closure of County landfills
- Allows us to better manage rising transfer costs
- Provides operational efficiencies and centralized management

## OTHER POTENTIAL SERVICES

- Service facility for County waste vehicles
- Public Education Centre
- Recycling transfer and sorting area
- Administrative area

## BACKGROUND

### Who is leading this project?

The County partnered with industry-leading consultants, GHD Limited, on these projects. GHD's relevant project experience includes the City of Toronto's Disco Road and Dufferin anaerobic digestion facilities, City of Guelph's Organic Waste Processing Facility, and two composting facilities in London and Ottawa. The County has also worked with Ernst & Young to develop the business case and risk assessment studies for the OPF.

### How will the provincial regulatory structure impact this project?

The ERRC will serve an important role for the County under the new provincial regulatory structure. In regard to the OPF, the *Waste-Free Ontario Act's Food and Organic Waste Framework* and the recently-released *Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan* encourage growing green bin programs and reducing the volume of food and organic waste going to landfill. This ongoing shift towards diversion will drastically increase the amount of organic materials the County manages over the next 20 years.

The MMF will provide an indoor facility for the long-term transfer of garbage with the closure of County landfills (anticipated to occur between 2023 and 2028). It is anticipated, however, that the blue box recycling program will no longer be the County's responsibility as it transitions under the Waste-Free Ontario Act by the end of 2025. Design of the MMF will consider this timing and the potential for short-term capacity for recycling.

### What will be the cost?

Preliminary, site-specific, revised costs were presented in fall 2017 in business cases for both facilities. The estimated capital cost for the MMF is \$15M and between \$16M and \$35M for the OPF (dependent on technology). Based on current contracted costs for transfer and organics processing, both facilities would result in savings over the long-term. Actual costs will be determined through final procurement.

## SITING AND APPROVALS

### How was the site selected?

GHD Limited identified and evaluated more than 500 sites (including industrial sites and closed landfills). The sites were evaluated through a three-screen process, applying more than 20 environmental and technical criteria (such as the avoidance of wetlands and floodplains, groundwater conditions, Prime Agricultural Areas, and sensitive receptors). Based on the results of the evaluation process, 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater (Freele Tract) was selected as the preferred location.

### Where are we in the process? What's next?

The siting process was completed in March 2016. In November 2016, applications were submitted to the Township of Springwater in support of a local Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. These applications and a County-initiated County Official Plan Amendment (COPA) are following the process as outlined in the Planning Act.

On January 2, 2019, notification was received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding their approval of the COPA for the ERRC. The 20-day appeal period for the approval ended on January 22, 2019. Three (3) appeals were submitted and are now being addressed through the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (the "LPAT"). The LPAT scheduled a Case Management Conference (CMC) regarding the ERRC project for August 7, 2019. The purpose of the CMC is to set out the process for dealing with the three (3) appeals. A second CMC was held on November 6, 2019 at the Township of Springwater Administration Centre. Following the November 6 CMC, a teleconference call was scheduled for December 13, 2019 between LPAT, the County, the Township of Springwater, the Province, and the appellants to review the issues list, to hear of any concerns, and interest in mediation.

It is anticipated that the dates for the fourth CMC on COPA No. 2 and first CMC on the Township files will be received, and that at the next CMC that a procedural order for the hearings will be discussed in terms of phasing or hearing the matter concurrently as well as setting hearing dates.

### What are the advantages of the preferred site?

- Centralized with close and convenient access to major highways and transportation networks
- As this is a rural area, the location provides good buffer distances to mitigate potential impacts such as odour and noise and provides visual screening

of the facility for nearby neighbours (more than 90 per cent of the existing forest to remain on the site surrounding the facility)

- Facility footprint placed in a location that avoids environmental impacts to groundwater and surface water features
- Not located on Prime Agricultural land
- Allows for a co-located facility which would enable shared capital and operating costs

### What studies has the County completed?

Although not required, a three-part, comprehensive siting process utilizing Environmental Assessment methodology was undertaken. In addition, the following site-specific studies have been completed:

- Amended Planning Justification Report
- Amended Scoped Environmental Impact Study
- Amended Facility Characteristics Report (includes Conceptual Site Plan, Functional Servicing Study, Stormwater Management Study, Noise Assessment, Odour Assessment)
- Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment
- Updated Hydrogeological Assessment
- Geotechnical Investigation
- Agricultural Impact Assessment Report
- Traffic Impact Study
- Stage 1, 2, and 3 Archaeological Assessments
- business case reports for both the MMF and OPF
- Compensation Planting Plan

### What regulatory authorities/agencies are reviewing studies before final approvals?

- Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- Township of Springwater
- County of Simcoe Planning Department
- Aboriginal communities
- Peer review consultants

### What is the impact on the forest?

The entire facility footprint is anticipated to be 11 acres. This is approximately 5 per cent of the 207 acre location (Freele Tract). Trees not impacted by construction will remain. It is anticipated that there will be areas of forest within the Freele Tract remaining open to the public for recreational use and to serve as a buffer from surrounding properties. A Compensation Planting Plan (CPP) was approved in 2018, to the satisfaction of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Environmental mitigation measures were required on a 2:1 ratio to offset any impacts, therefore 11 ha of land were required to be reforested or restored.

Two sites were chosen for the planting, the Simcoe County Forest Museum Tract (6.9 ha) and Orrock Creek North Tract (8.9 ha). The County’s Forestry Department initiated the CPP starting in the fall of 2018. Activities included the removal of non-native/invasive plant species, the planting of 21,725 trees and the sowing of seed of 76 species of native plants, exceeding the requirements under the CPP. The transplanting of four clumps of false sunflower from the ERRC site were also required (and completed in August 2019).

### How many acres of forest does the County currently manage?

The County owns almost 33,000 acres of forest – making the Simcoe County Forest one of the largest municipally-owned forests in Canada. The County has invested in the acquisition of more than 3,000 acres of forest property over the last 10 years – 1,390 acres of which have been in Springwater Township specifically. Springwater Township is now home to 10,445 acres (32% of the total County Forest area).

## DESIGN & OPERATIONS

### When will the organics processing method/technology be selected?

Technology selection will involve a three-part procurement process. It began with a Request for Information, which closed in early 2017. A Request for Pre-qualification and Request for Proposal for organics processing technology will be released following receipt of land use planning approvals.



## What about odours?

Modern odour control measures will be incorporated into design of the facility. As this is a rural location, good separation distances from nearby homes will also reduce the potential for odour impacts. Air quality is enforced by the MECP and will be considered during the approvals process (land use planning and Environmental Compliance Approval). Information on this is presented in the Facility Characteristics Report.

## What about noise?

Noise control measures will be incorporated into design of the facility. As this is a rural location, good separation distances from nearby homes will also reduce the potential for noise impacts. Noise is considered in the approvals process. Information on this is presented in the Facility Characteristics Report.

## Will there be a stack?

Some organics processing technologies require a stack as part of the design. This will be determined once technology is selected.

## Will nearby neighbours see the facility?

Existing trees combined with placement of the facility will provide good screening of the facility from nearby neighbours.

## How many vehicles would be using this facility daily?

A Traffic Impact Study (TIS) was completed for the ERRC in 2017. The TIS provided the estimated number of vehicles that would utilize the facility daily and during peak hours for both the MMF and OPF once they become operational and at

the 30-year design capacity. The TIS also provided road design improvement recommendations etc. However, due to recent changes to the curbside collection program, including bi-weekly collection and future potential for a four day collection schedule, a decrease in the number of vehicles that will utilize the MMF is anticipated. As a result of these recent developments the TIS will be updated in 2020.

## Are road improvements required?

Yes. The TIS concluded that an eastbound left turn lane and a westbound climbing lane are warranted.

## What time would vehicles be entering and leaving the facility?

Most often, vehicles will enter and leave the facility six days a week from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## What are the anticipated hours of operation?

Anticipated operations are six days a week from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Environmental Compliance Approval issued by the MECP will include conditions pertaining to hours of operation.

## How many staff will work at the facility?

There could be 10 to 20 (or more) staff employed at this facility. This is dependent on technology.

## Will the facility have outdoor lighting?

Yes. Minimizing the impact on neighbours, however, will be a consideration in design and operation.



For more information or to submit feedback, please visit [simcoe.ca/errc](http://simcoe.ca/errc) or contact **Service Simcoe at 1-800-263-3199** or [service@simcoe.ca](mailto:service@simcoe.ca)

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