

Executive Summary

Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) was retained by Haldimand County to develop a Solid Waste Management Master Plan (SWMMP), in collaboration with County staff. Dillon also engaged Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. (Watson) as a subconsultant to support the financial modelling and funding strategy. Together, the project team undertook an assessment of the County's waste management system and developed a roadmap for the next decade to support long-term financial, operational and environmental sustainability.

The SWMMP was initiated in response to growing pressures on the County's waste system, including anticipated population growth, evolving provincial regulations and increasing costs for service delivery. As Haldimand County does not own or operate an active landfill and currently relies on contracted services for waste collection, transfer and disposal, there is a heightened need for strategic planning for future service continuity and cost control.

The SWMMP provides a full review of the County's existing programs, infrastructure and service delivery model, identifies opportunities for improvement and outlines a phased strategy for implementation. A comparative scan of peer municipalities was completed to identify best practices and emerging trends relevant to Haldimand's context. Informed by this research, financial analysis and consultation with the County, thirteen recommended actions were developed to modernize the County's waste system.

The recommendations are organized into the following four key focus areas:

1. Curbside Collection Efficiencies and Service Enhancements

This area addresses opportunities to improve collection logistics, reduce waste sent to landfill and align with future regulations. Recommendations include transitioning to a cart-based garbage collection, implementing garbage receptacle limits for farms and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) on collection routes and conducting a study at shared collection points. Together, these actions aim to increase diversion, standardize service expectations and control future collection and disposal costs.

Two additional options, introducing a residential organic waste (green bin) collection program and reducing garbage collection frequency to bi-weekly, have also been developed and analyzed due to their potential to significantly increase waste diversion and support regulatory readiness. However, these options are presented as optional and interdependent, with financial modelling reflecting scenarios both with and without their implementation.

2. Depot Services and Hazardous and Special Waste (HSP) Management

To better serve a growing and geographically dispersed population, the SWMMP recommends developing a new permanent waste depot to improve accessibility, particularly in high-growth areas. It also proposes a mobile HSP depot program as an interim solution, with a view to establish a permanent HSP facility at the Canborough Waste Management Facility by 2030. These recommendations respond to the rising demand for safe and convenient disposal options for special waste streams and address operational gaps in the current system.

3. Sustainable Solutions for Closed Landfill Sites

With 15 closed landfills under its responsibility, Haldimand County faces unique long-term environmental and liability considerations. This focus area explores innovative strategies for managing and repurposing closed sites, including naturalization, leachate management (e.g., willow and poplar tree systems) and landfill mining. It also considers the potential sale of suitable sites to responsible third parties, with appropriate safeguards. These actions are intended to reduce long-term monitoring costs, mitigate environmental risk and explore new community uses for legacy sites.

4. Supporting Strategies to Strengthen System Resilience

Two enabling strategies are proposed to support the successful implementation of system-wide changes. A Promotion and Education Strategy will support residents, businesses and community groups being informed and engaged as new services and policies roll out. A Disaster Debris Management Plan is also recommended to enhance emergency preparedness and response, so that the County is equipped to handle excess waste generated during extreme weather events or other disruptions.

The SWMMP is supported by financial modelling that includes capital and operating forecasts, cost of service analysis, and long-term funding considerations. This helps the County to assess the financial implications of service enhancements and to support

informed decision-making around cost recovery, rate structures and program affordability.

Each recommendation includes consideration of implementation timelines, risk factors, mitigation measures and required Council decisions. A milestone schedule has been developed to guide phased implementation over the 10-year horizon, aligned with future contract procurement cycles and growth projections.

The SWMMP provides a practical and forward-thinking framework to support the County's evolving needs. It reflects a strong commitment to continuous improvement, public accountability and environmental stewardship. As Haldimand County continues to grow, the SWMMP will serve as a blueprint to deliver efficient, sustainable and responsive waste services for the future.