



Consultation Report

Escarpment Renewables

July 29, 2024

GHD Ltd.

455 Phillip Street, Unit 100A

Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3X2, Canada

T +1 519 884 0510 | E info-northamerica@ghd.com | ghd.com

Printed date	2024-07-29 11:26:00 AM
Last saved date	July 29, 2024
File name	11226032-RPT-7-Consultation Report.docx
Author	Katrina McCullough
Project manager	Jason Wilson
Client name	Escarpment Renewables
Project name	ESCARPMENT-Grimsby AD Permitting
Document title	Consultation Report
Revision version	Rev [00]
Project number	11226032

Document status

Status Code	Revision	Author	Reviewer		Approved for issue		
			Name	Signature	Name	Signature	Date
S4	00	Katrina McCullough	Jason Wilson		Victoria Shortreed		March 28, 2022
S4	01	Katrina McCullough	Jason Wilson		Victoria Shortreed		July 29, 2024

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Executive summary

The Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with Table 1 of Ontario Regulation 359/09. A summary of where information is contained in this report as it relates to these requirements is provided below.

Table E.1 *Ontario Regulation 359/09 Compliance Summary*

Requirements	Location in Report
Set out information relating to consultations conducted in respect of the renewable energy project, including the following:	
1. A summary of communication with any members of the public, aboriginal communities, municipalities, local roads boards and Local Services Boards regarding the project.	Section 3
2. Evidence that the information required to be distributed to aboriginal communities under subsection 17 (1) was distributed.	Section 4
3. Any information provided by an aboriginal community in response to a request made under paragraph 4 of subsection 17 (1).	Section 4
4. Evidence that a consultation form was distributed in accordance with subsection 18 (1).	Not applicable
5. The consultation form distributed under subsection 18 (1), if any part of it has been completed by a municipality, local roads board or Local Services Board.	Not applicable
6. A description of whether and how, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. comments from members of the public, aboriginal communities, municipalities, local roads boards and Local Services Boards were considered by the person who is engaging in the project, ii. the documents that were made available under subsection 16 (5) were amended after the final public meeting was held, and iii. the proposal to engage in the project was altered in response to comments mentioned in subparagraph i. 	Section 5
7. A description of the manner in which the location of the wind turbines was made available to the public, if a person proposing to engage in a project in respect of a class 4 or 5 wind facility relied on paragraph 4 of subsection 54 (1.2) or paragraph 4 of subsection 55 (2.2).	Not applicable

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1. Introduction

This Consultation Report is prepared to fulfill the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) requirements as set out in Table 1 of Ontario Regulation 359/09 Renewables Energy Approvals Under Part V.0.1 of the Act. In accordance with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP's) Technical Guide for Renewable Energy Approvals (2019), the purpose of this Consultation Report is to:

- Document how consultation activities were undertaken in accordance with the regulated minimum consultation requirements of Ontario Regulation 359/09
- Provide a record of the comments and information received by Escarpment Renewables through consultation and document how comments were considered

The project is a Class 3 Anaerobic Digester (AD) with a name plate capacity of 1 MW. The AD facility, owned and operated by Escarpment Renewables, currently operates under REA No. 8541 9HSGG3, as amended. The project has received a Feed In Tariff (FIT) Contract No. F 000610 BIG 130 302. This Consultation Report has been prepared to support an application for amendment to the above noted REA. Escarpment Renewables intends to complete a site expansion and additional site improvements. This includes acceptance of increased waste tonnage, along with building new infrastructure on site to manage additional waste processing requirements.

As part of the consultation process on this amendment, Escarpment Renewables went above and beyond the minimum regulated requirements under sections 32.3(1) and 15 (6) of Ontario Regulation 359/09. Specifically, Escarpment Renewables undertook the following activities:

- Notification of the proposed change and public meeting was sent to landowners within 300 meters of Site, whereas the minimum requirement is to notify landowners within 120 meters. In addition, notices were hand delivered to residents beyond the 300 meter radius. As well, Escarpment Renewables followed up with residents to confirm they received the notice and were aware of the public meeting taking place on February 28, 2022.
- In accordance with Ontario Regulation 359/09, notification of the proposed change and public meeting was sent by registered mail and email to Indigenous communities identified by the MECP with digital copies of all report documents.
- In accordance with Ontario Regulation 359/09, notification of the proposed change and public meeting was sent to MECP, Town of Grimsby Clerk and Regional Municipality of Niagara Clerk. In addition, Escarpment Renewables met or corresponded with Town of Grimsby Mayor Jeff Jordan, MECP staff, and local councillors. Escarpment Renewables also presented to the Regional Municipality of Niagara Waste Management Planning Steering Committee.

2. Project background

The project construction will occur on lands owned by Escarpment Renewables at 424 Soby Road in the Town of Grimsby, Ontario (Site). The project will be located on the northwestern approximately 6 hectares (ha) of a 10.5 ha Site (hereafter referred to as the AD facility). The Site is located on the south side of Soby Road approximately 300 metres (m) east of Park Road South. The legal description of the Site is part of Lots 1 and 2, Concession 6, Former Township of North Grimsby being Part 1 on Plan 30R-13677. Site directions (north, east, south, and west) described in this report are referenced to "Project North", which is oriented perpendicular to Soby Road.

The project will include the expansion of the existing AD facility located at the Site. The AD facility processes source-separated organics (SSO) and industrial, commercial, institutional (ICI) organic materials. The AD facility is currently operating at a maximum of 23,000 tonnes per year of incoming organic waste and will be upgraded to accommodate a capacity of 159,000 tonnes per year. A new organics pre-processing building will be constructed with the necessary equipment to receive, temporarily store, and process solid organic material for digestion by removing

inert contaminants such as plastic packaging. New digesters will be added to the existing AD facility increasing the biogas production at the Site. Escarpment Renewables is proposing to build a new renewable natural gas (RNG) upgrading system on Site to produce RNG from the biogas generated and not utilized by the existing combined heat and power (CHP). The RNG will be compressed and temporarily stored in tube trailers located adjacent to the RNG upgrading system for off-Site transportation.

3. Consultation activities

As part of the consultation process on this proposed amendment, Escarpment Renewables went above and beyond the minimum regulated requirements under sections 32.3(1) and 15 (6) of Ontario Regulation 359/09. The following subsections describe the consultation activities undertaken.

3.1 Notification, presentations, meetings and correspondence

As per Ontario Regulation 359/09, information about the proposed expansion and the documents to support the application were made available for review via the Escarpment Renewables website (<https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/>) beginning on January 27, 2022, 30 days prior to the planned public meeting on February 28, 2022.

Notification of the proposed change and public meeting was distributed through the following means beginning on January 27, 2022:

- Letters sent by regular mail to owners of the following properties within 300 meters of the Site on January 27, 2022:
 - Lots 1-2, Concession 5, North Grimsby, located on the north side of Soby Road
 - 421 Park Road South
 - 443 Soby Road
 - Hydro corridor located south of the Escarpment Renewables property
 - 363 Mud Street East
 - 377 Mud Street East
 - 387 Mud Street East
 - 395 Mud St East
 - 405 Mud St East
- Advertisements in Grimsby-Lincoln News Newspaper on January 27, 2022 and Grimsby News Now on February 17, 2022
- Letters sent by email to the MECP Environmental Assessment Branch Director, MECP Niagara District Office Manager, Town of Grimsby Clerk and Regional Municipality of Niagara Clerk on January 27, 2022

Copies of the above notifications are included in **Appendix A**.

In addition to the above, Escarpment Renewables undertook the following additional meetings and presentations prior to the public meeting:

- Pre-Consultation Meeting with the MECP on July 15, 2021.
- Pre-submission Meeting with MECP on February 28, 2022, where the MECP agreed to give priority review given that Escarpment Renewables will exceed the REA tonnage limit approximately in September 2022 processing at a 1MW power generation rate.

- Meeting with Town of Grimsby Councillor Liane Vardy and three board members of the former Site, previously owned by the Town of Grimsby, on January 25, 2022.
- Email to the Town of Grimsby Mayor Jeff Jordon on February 14, 2022.
- Presentation to Regional Municipality of Niagara Waste Management Planning Steering Committee on February 14, 2022. A copy of this agenda and presentation is included in **Appendix B**.
- Discussions with three residents residing on Soby Road between January 28 and February 25, 2022
- Pre-Submission Meeting with MECP on March 10, 2022. A copy of the meeting minutes is included in **Appendix B**.
- Pre-Submission Meeting with MECP on March 15, 2022. A copy of the meeting minutes is included in **Appendix B**.

3.2 Public meeting

As advertised, a public meeting was held on Monday February 28th, 2022, at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. No members of the public or stakeholders attended the meeting or contacted Escarpment Renewables prior to the meeting to provide comments. A copy of the planned presentation is included in **Appendix C**.

4. Indigenous consultation

The MECP provided direction on December 21, 2022 via email that Escarpment Renewables should notify the following Indigenous communities as part of this application:

- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation
- Haudenosaunee Chiefs Confederacy Council c/o the Haudenosaunee Development Institute

All three communities were provided the Notice of a proposed change to an approved REA and Public Meeting by registered mail and email on January 27, 2022. Indigenous communities were provided links to the reports by email and digital copies of the reports by registered mail. No response or comments were received from any of the Indigenous communities. Copies of the notification is included in **Appendix A**.

5. Consideration of comments received

No comments were received during the consultation activities. As a result, no revisions to the reports were made as a result.

As noted in Section 3 above, Escarpment Renewables presented to the Regional Municipality of Niagara Waste Management Planning Steering Committee. Following the presentation, members of the committee noted they were pleased with how Escarpment Renewables was operating and raised no questions or concerns about the proposed expansion. In addition, as noted in Section 3 above, Escarpment Renewables proactively followed up with three residents near the Site to inquire if the residents had any questions or comments on the proposed expansion. One resident noted they were supportive of the expansion and the residents did not expressed concerns with the proposed expansion.

Appendices

Appendix A

Notice of a Proposed Change, Notification Letters, and Newspaper Advertisements

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

Project Name: Grimsby Anaerobic Digestion Facility
Renewable Energy Approval Number: 8541-9HSGG3
IESO Reference Number: F-000610-BIG-130-203 (FIT Reference # FIT-F5NTWMA)

Project Location: Escarpment Renewables is located at 424 Sobie Road in the Town of Grimsby. The project will be located in the northwestern portion of the property located on the south side of Sobie Road approximately 300 metres east of Park Road South.

Dated at 424 Sobie Road, Beamsville Ontario **this the 27 of January 2022**

Escarpment Renewables was issued a Renewable Energy Approval, as amended, in 2020 in respect of the Grimsby Anaerobic Digestion Facility. Information with respect to the decision on this project can be viewed on the Environmental Registry by searching 019-1651.

Escarpment Renewables is proposing to make a change to the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (Act)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 32.2 of the Regulation. This notice is being distributed to make the public aware of a **proposed change to the project** and that a **public meeting about the change** is to be held.

Meeting Location:

Date: February 28, 2022

Time: 7pm

Place: The meeting will be held virtually, participants will be able to join by phone, mobile device or computer. A link to the meeting will be posted online at <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/> prior to the meeting.

Project Description and Proposed Change:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the project in respect of which the Renewable Energy Approval was issued, is a Class 3 Anaerobic Digestion Facility

An application has been made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to **change the project** and alter the terms and conditions of the existing Renewable Energy Approval. The proposed change consists of increasing the Site's receiving and processing capacity to 159,000 tonnes of Source Separated Organics (SSO) and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) organic materials per year. This will involve the construction and installation of a new organics pre-processing building, four new digesters and two new digestate/biogas storage tanks and a new flare. In addition, Escarpment Renewables is proposing to build a new Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Facility on Site which will produce RNG from the additional biogas anticipated to be generated.

If approved with this change, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 1 MW.

Documents for Inspection:

Escarpment Renewables has been required to update the supporting documents that are required to form part of the application or which must otherwise be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Climate Change available to the public. Written copies of the supporting documents will be made available for public inspection on January 27, 2022 at <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/> and 424 Sobie Road. Please make an appointment to view documents in person by calling 905-228-1506.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project proposal, public meeting or to communicate concerns please contact:

Sam Huang, P.Eng
General Manager, Escarpment Renewables
sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

Jason Wilson, B.Eng, Oly
Project Manager
Jason.Wilson@ghd.com

455 Phillip Street, Unit 100A
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3X2
Canada
www.ghd.com



Reference: 11226032

January 27, 2022

<Name>
<Address>

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

To whom this may concern,

This letter is to inform you of a proposed amendment to Renewable Energy Approval 8541-9HSGG3 for Escarpment Renewables' facility at 424 Sobie Road, Grimsby.

Escarpment Renewables and GHD will host a virtual public meeting on February 28 at 7pm to present the proposed changes and answer questions.

Please see the attached notice with more details about the site, the proposed changes, and details for the virtual public meeting. Information is also posted on the Escarpment Renewables website <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/>

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Regards

Jason Wilson B.Eng, Oly
Project Manager
jason.wilson@ghd.com

Sam Huang, P.Eng.
General Manager, Escarpment Renewables
sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

455 Phillip Street, Unit 100A
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3X2
Canada
www.ghd.com



Reference: 11226032

January 27, 2022

Haudenosaunee Development Institute
PO Box 714
Ohsweken ON N0A 1M0

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

To whom this may concern,

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Please see the attached notice with more details about the site, the proposed changes, and details for the virtual public meeting. Information is also posted on the Escarpment Renewables website <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/>

Also enclosed is a USB drive which contains the supporting documentation for this application.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Regards

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Jason Wilson B.Eng, Oly
Project Manager

jason.wilson@ghd.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Huang", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sam Huang, P.Eng.
General Manager, Escarpment Renewables

sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

455 Phillip Street, Unit 100A
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3X2
Canada
www.ghd.com



Reference: 11226032

January 27, 2022

Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation
2789 Mississauga Road R.R. #6
Hagersville, Ontario
N0A 1H0

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

To whom this may concern,

This letter is to inform you of a proposed amendment to Renewable Energy Approval 8541-9HSGG3 for Escarpment Renewables' facility at 424 Sobie Road, Grimsby.

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General Manager, Escarpment Renewables
sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

455 Phillip Street, Unit 100A
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3X2
Canada
www.ghd.com



Reference: 11226032

January 27, 2022

Six Nations of the Grand River
1695 Chiefswood Rd
PO Box 5000
Ohsweken ON N0A 1M0

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

To whom this may concern,

This letter is to inform you of a proposed amendment to Renewable Energy Approval 8541-9HSGG3 for Escarpment Renewables' facility at 424 Sobie Road, Grimsby.

Escarpment Renewables and GHD will host a virtual public meeting on February 28 at 7pm to present the proposed changes and answer questions.

Please see the attached notice with more details about the site, the proposed changes, and details for the virtual public meeting. Information is also posted on the Escarpment Renewables website <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/>

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jason.wilson@ghd.com

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General Manager, Escarpment Renewables
sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

455 Phillip Street, Unit 100A
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3X2
Canada
www.ghd.com



Reference: 11226032

January 27, 2022

Kathleen O'Neil
135 St Clair Ave W
Toronto, ON
M4V 1P5

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

Dear Kathleen O'Neil,

This letter is to inform you of a proposed amendment to Renewable Energy Approval 8541-9HSGG3 for Escarpment Renewables' facility at 424 Sobie Road, Grimsby.

Escarpment Renewables and GHD will host a virtual public meeting on February 28 at 7pm to present the proposed changes and answer questions.

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sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

455 Phillip Street, Unit 100A
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3X2
Canada
www.ghd.com



Reference: 11226032

January 27, 2022

Kim Groombridge
Garden City Tower 9th Flr Suite 15, 301 St. Paul St
St Catharines, ON
L2R 7R4

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

Dear Kim Groombridge,

This letter is to inform you of a proposed amendment to Renewable Energy Approval 8541-9HSGG3 for Escarpment Renewables' facility at 424 Sobie Road, Grimsby.

Escarpment Renewables and GHD will host a virtual public meeting on February 28 at 7pm to present the proposed changes and answer questions.

Please see the attached notice with more details about the site, the proposed changes, and details for the virtual public meeting. Information is also posted on the Escarpment Renewables website <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/>

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Regards

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Jason Wilson B.Eng, Oly
Project Manager
jason.wilson@ghd.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Huang", with several vertical strokes extending downwards.

Sam Huang, P.Eng.
General Manager, Escarpment Renewables
sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

455 Phillip Street, Unit 100A
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3X2
Canada
www.ghd.com



Reference: 11226032

January 27, 2022

Niagara Region, Region Clerk
Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, P.O. Box 1042
Thorold, ON
L2V 4T7

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

To whom this may concern,

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455 Phillip Street, Unit 100A
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3X2
Canada
www.ghd.com



Reference: 11226032

January 27, 2022

Town of Grimsby, Town Clerk
Grimsby Town Hall 160 Livingston Ave.
Grimsby, ON
L3M 0J5

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

To whom this may concern,

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sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

Notice of a Proposed Change to an Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

Project Name: Grimsby Anaerobic Digestion Facility
Renewable Energy Approval Number: 8541-9HSGG3
IESO Reference Number: F-000610-BIG-130-203
 (FIT Reference # FIT-F5NTWMA)

Project Location: Escarpment Renewables is located at 424 Sobie Road in the Town of Grimsby. The project will be located in the northwestern portion of the property located on the south side of Sobie Road approximately 300 metres east of Park Road South.

Dated at 424 Sobie Road, Beamsville Ontario this the 27 of January 2022

Escarpment Renewables was issued a Renewable Energy Approval, as amended, in 2020 in respect of the Grimsby Anaerobic Digestion Facility. Information with respect to the decision on this project can be viewed on the Environmental Registry by searching 019-1651.

Escarpment Renewables is proposing to make a change to the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act (Act)* Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 32.2 of the Regulation. This notice is being distributed to make the public aware of a **proposed change to the project** and that a **public meeting about the change** is to be held.

Meeting Location:

Date: February 28, 2022

Time: 7 pm

Place: The meeting will be held virtually, participants will be able to join by phone, mobile device or computer. A link to the meeting will be posted online at <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/> prior to the meeting.

Project Description and Proposed Change:

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the project in respect of which the Renewable Energy Approval was issued, is a Class 3 Anaerobic Digestion Facility

An application has been made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to **change the project** and alter the terms and conditions of the existing Renewable Energy Approval. The proposed change consists of increasing the Site's receiving and processing capacity to 159,000 tonnes of Source Separated Organics (SSO) and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) organic materials per year. This will involve the construction and installation of a new organics pre-processing building, four new digesters and two new digestate/biogas storage tanks and a new flare. In addition, Escarpment Renewables is proposing to build a new Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Facility on Site which will produce RNG from the additional biogas anticipated to be generated.

If approved with this change, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 1 MW.

Documents for Inspection:

Escarpment Renewables has been required to update the supporting documents that are required to form part of the application or which must otherwise be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Climate Change available to the public. Written copies of the supporting documents will be made available for public inspection on January 27, 2022 at <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/> and 424 Sobie Road. Please make an appointment to view documents in person by calling 905-228-1506.

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sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

Jason Wilson, B.Eng, Oly
 Project Manager
Jason.Wilson@ghd.com

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Join us for one of our many programs happening this Winter and Spring.

- Seniors Community Grant Initiatives (Ontario Government Funded)
- 55+ Free Programming
- Program Registration Required
- In-person programs require QR Code Vaccine Certificate



CREATIVE BUG PROGRAMS

- Family Day Cookie Kits
- Poured Paint
- Spring Cookie Kits
- Senior Smash Club
- Be Mine Soap
- Bunny Doorhanger

BOOK CLUB

- Going There by Katie Couric
- The Maid by Nita Prose
- LIS by Carol Mazur
- I Belong to You by Modesta Tonan

FITNESS PROGRAMS & MORE

- Personal Training
- Senior Strength Circuit
- Wellness Seminars
- Drum Circles
- Yarn Bombing Project and more!

Register online or call for more info!

www.grimsby.ca



COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR CLAIMS SEXUAL HARASSMENT FOLLOWING COMMENT

harrassment," Ritchie said at Jan. 23 meeting. "These actions and words were highly inappropriate and should be taken to ensure this kind of behaviour doesn't happen in the future as it is unacceptable. Anything less will be taken as a sign of supporting the inappropriate behaviour."

The argument in question was about a draft by-law that would appoint Rutherford Presscotts as the town's Hearing Officer, with respect to the Affordable Housing and Penalty System (AMPS) for both parking and non-parking related offences. They were about to move forward with a motion, but Ritchie wanted to speak.

He claimed the motion didn't have a second yet, and the mayor disagreed, and the mayor disagreed. "You want to go back in the tape and look?" Ritchie said.

"Yes," when Vardy chimed in with a point of order. She said, "can every-

body describe hearing different sounds with tinnitus: ringing, buzzing, static, crickets, screaming, whooshing, roaring, pulsing, ocean waves, hissing, dial tones, even music."

Serenity Hearing utilizes a Tinnitus Assessment Protocol which incorporates Subjective Tinnitus Scales, Audiometric Testing, and patient interviews. A treatment plan is established on the basis of the individual test results and specific goals of the patient. If you suffer from annoying, troublesome ringing or buzzing in your ears, call our clinic and ask for a comprehensive tinnitus assessment.

Serenity Hearing
HEALTH & WELLNESS
formerly Auburn & Mountain Hearing Centres

SAME OWNER, ONE NAME!

- 1144 Wilson St. W. Unit D203, Ancaster 289-203-3195
- 350 Conestoga Blvd. Unit B3, Cambridge 888-737-9976
- 370 Winterset Road, Guelph 289-206-5364
- 550 Fernhill Ave. E. Unit 16 E, Hamilton 289-768-6167
- 772 Spynall Rd. W. Unit 300, Hamilton 289-768-8971
- 156 Barton St. Unit 3, Stoney Creek 289-203-3256
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Approved Renewable Energy Project and Public Meeting

Project Name: Grimby Anaerobic Digestion Facility
Renewable Energy Approval Number: 8541-5RISGG3
IESO Reference Number: F-000810-BIC-130-2203
(FIT Reference # FIT-FSNTWMA)

Project Location: Escarpment Renewables is located at 424 Sobie Road in the town of Grimby. The project will be located in the northwestern portion of the property located on the south side of Sobie Road approximately 300 metres east of Park Road South.

Dated at: 424 Sobie Road, Beamsville, Ontario this the 27 of January 2022

Escarpment Renewables was issued a Renewable Energy Approval, as amended, in 2020 in respect of the Grimby Anaerobic Digestion Facility. Information with respect to the decision on this project can be viewed on the Environmental Registry by searching 019-1651.

Escarpment Renewables is proposing to make a change to the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act* (Act) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). This notice must be distributed in accordance with section 32.2 of the Regulation. This notice is being distributed to make the public aware of a **proposed change to the project** and that a **public meeting about the change** is to be held.

Meeting Location:
Date: February 28, 2022
Time: 7pm
Place: The meeting will be held virtually, participants will be able to join by phone, mobile device or computer. A link to the meeting will be posted online at <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca> prior to the meeting.

Project Description and Proposed Change:
Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the project in respect of which the Renewable Energy Approval was issued, is a Class 3 Anaerobic Digestion Facility.

An application has been made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to **change the project** and alter the terms and conditions of the existing Renewable Energy Approval. The proposed change consists of increasing the Site's receiving and processing capacity to 159,000 tonnes of Source Separated Organics (SSO) and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) organic materials per year. This will involve the construction and installation of a new organics pre-processing building, four new digesters and two new digester biogas storage tanks and a new flare. In addition, Escarpment Renewables is proposing to build a new Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Facility on Site which will produce RNG from the additional biogas anticipated to be generated.

If approved with this change, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 1 MW.

Documents for inspection:
Escarpment Renewables has been required to update the supporting documents that are required to form part of the application or which must otherwise be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Climate Change available to the public. Written copies of the supporting documents will be made available for public inspection on January 27, 2022 at <https://escarpmentrenewables.ca> and 424 Sobie Road. Please make an appointment to view documents in person by calling 905-228-1508.

Project Contacts and Information:
To learn more about the project proposal, public meeting or to communicate concerns please contact:
Sam Huang, P.Eng
General Manager, Escarpment Renewables
sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca
Jason Wilson, B.Eng., Oly Project Manager
jason.wilson@ghd.com

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Appendix B

Agency Meetings and Presentations



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING
STEERING COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

WMPSC 1-2022

Monday, February 14, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Meeting will be held by electronic participation only

Due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect all individuals, there is no public access to Niagara Region Headquarters. If you are interested in viewing this meeting or would like to speak to an item listed on the agenda please contact the Office of the Regional Clerk at clerk@niagararegion.ca.

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Escarpment Renewables Anaerobic Digestion Facility

3 - 8

Denis Goulet, President, and Andrew Mauchlen, Manager of Organics,
Miller Waste Systems Inc.

4. DELEGATIONS

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. WMPSC-C 1-2022

9 - 25

2021 Curbside Recycling Recognition Audits

A presentation will precede the discussion of this item.

- 6.2. WMPSC-C 4-2022 26 - 67
2022 Social Marketing and Education Plan and Overview of 2021 Initiatives
A presentation will precede the discussion of this item.
- 6.3. WMPSC-C 2-2022 68 - 73
2021 Illegal Dumping Summary and 2022 Mitigation Measures
- 6.4. WMPSC-C 3-2022 74 - 79
Councillor Information Request

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).

Escarpment Renewables Anaerobic Digestion Facility



Niagara Region Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

February 14, 2022

Denis Goulet, President
Miller Waste Systems Inc.
denis.goulet@millerwaste.ca

Andrew Mauchlen, Manager of Organics
¹ Miller Waste Systems Inc.

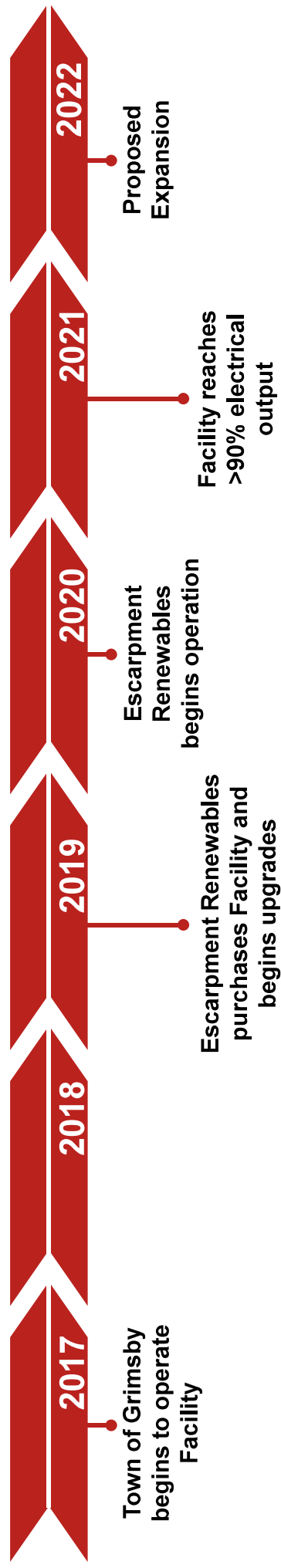


Proud to be Part of Niagara Region



- Processing local organics in a sustainable manner, contributing to a local circular economy
- Producing a renewable source of energy
- The fertilizer produced is used by local farms to sustainably increase crop yields
- Providing local employment
- Buy local and work with local contractors
- Work hard to be good neighbours – beautifying the site and improving aesthetics

Site History



[Escarpment Renewables Virtual Tour \(Vimeo Link\)](#)



Proposed Expansion



Increase organics processing

Increasing the permitted input from 23,000 to 159,000 tonnes per year will make it possible for Escarpment Renewables to generate additional renewable energy from the Province's organic waste. Expansion will be phased.



Renewable Natural Gas

Adding renewable natural gas production will generate 286,000 gigajoules of renewable natural gas for the local distribution network – enough to heat 3,200 homes



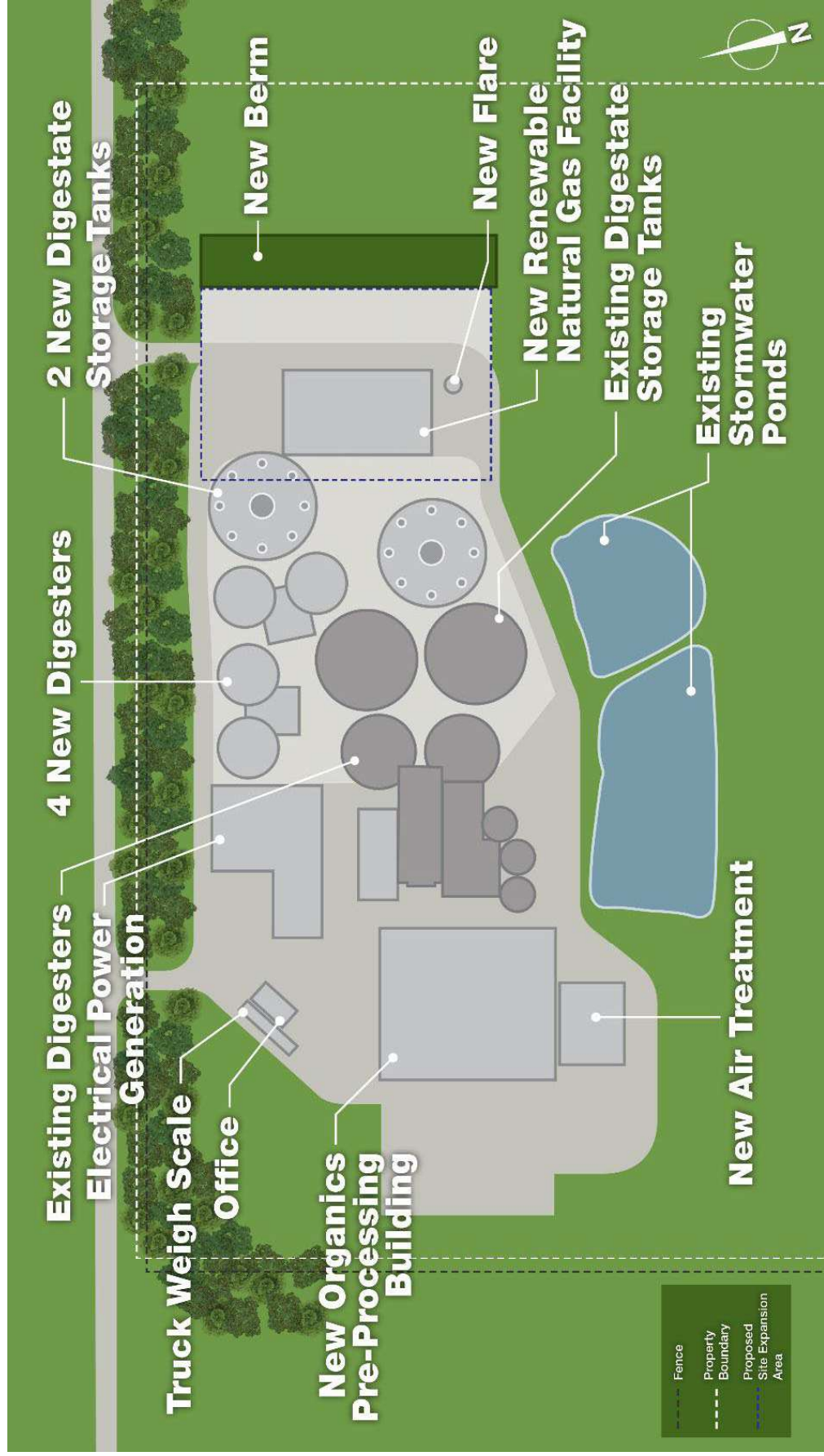
Increased Fertilizer Production

124,000 tonnes of organic fertilizer will be produced each year for beneficial use by local farmers. Increasing yields on 5,500 acres per year.

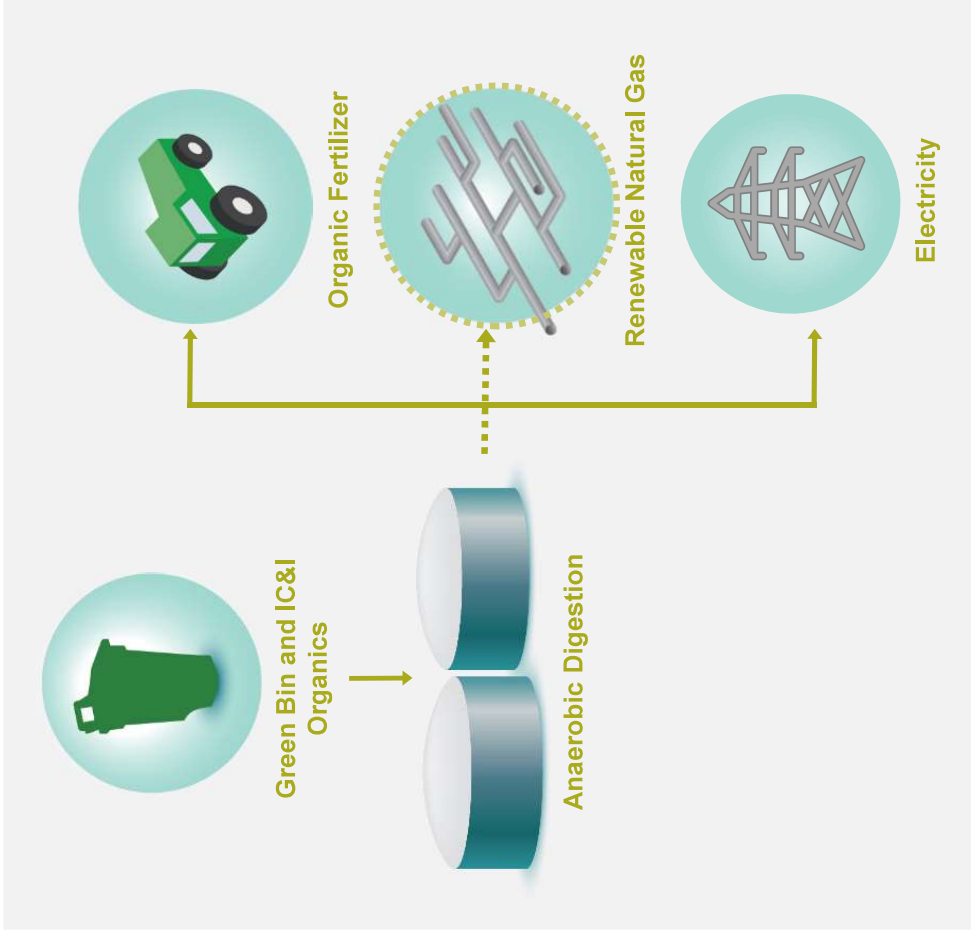
These changes are subject to an amendment to the Facility's Renewable Energy Approval



Proposed Expansion



A Local & Renewable Solution for Organics



Diverts organic waste from landfills every year, including **organics** from Niagara Region

Can generate 1 Megawatt of **clean, renewable electricity** – enough to power 830 homes per year

Produces **organic fertilizer** for local farms replacing commercial fertilizers.

Proposed natural gas facility will be a source of **low-carbon renewable natural gas**



MECP Pre-submission meeting with Miller Waste System and Escarpment Renewables

Re: Escarpment Renewables REA Amendment Pre-Consultation Meeting
Project Name: Escarpment Renewables
Date: Thursday March 10th, 2022
Location: Via TEAMS video conference
Participants:

MECP:

1. Sarah Raetsen | Environmental Assessment Branch (Environment, Conservation and Parks) 437-777-4171 | Sarah.Raetsen@ontario.ca
2. Mohsen Keyvani - Manager (Acting) | Waste Approvals (Environment, Conservation and Parks) 416-432-7253 | mohsen.keyvani@ontario.ca
3. Nick Zambito - Senior Waste Engineer | Waste Approvals (Environment, Conservation and Parks), 416-314-5584, nick.zambito@ontario.ca
4. Christopher Medland, Environmental Officer | Niagara District Office (Environment, Conservation and Parks) | 289-213-1188, Christopher.Medland@ontario.ca

Miller Waste Systems:

1. Mike Kopansky, Director, Cell: 416-677-6075, mike.kopansky@millerwaste.ca
2. Haleh Shahriari, Project Engineer, Cell: 416-677-1520, haleh.shahriari@millerwaste.ca

Escarpment Renewables:

1. Sam Haung, General Manger, Cell: 416.991-4786, sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

Meeting Minutes.

Meeting Timeline and Topics of Discussion

Meeting began at 1:00 pm and concluded at 2:20 pm (80 minutes). Mohsen Keyvani (Mohsen) left the meeting at approximately 2:10 pm; all other participants were present for the whole meeting time. Mike Kopansky (Mike) worked with the MECP (Sarah Raetsen (Sarah)) before this meeting to develop the main topics for discussion. A copy of this communication dated March 7, 2022, is included in Appendix A.

Purpose of the Meeting:

Mike provided an update about the REA Amendment Application and Public Consultation on Monday, Feb 28, 2022. No members of the public attended this meeting which suggests that there are no public concerns regarding this project. Escarpment Renewables has additionally done consultations with neighbours and local politicians to confirm this.

Denis Goulet (Denis) (President of Miller) has presented the expansion project in Grimsby to Niagara Region and based on all feedback, Escarpment Renewables is confident in the acceptance of this application. Escarpment Renewables has significantly improved the performance of this facility after taking ownership in 2019. The facility is now, effective and can help to meet long-term organic waste diversion goals. Christopher Medland, the environmental officer, is aware of these improvements. Based on the pre-consultation that Mike had with the MECP (Mohsen) dated February 28th, 2022, Mohsen confirmed that MECP is willing to consider this application as a priority given the current annual capacity limit will be reached early this fall. During the consultation on February, 28th Mohsen requested that Miller and Escarpment Renewables have an additional pre-submission consultation meeting with MECP staff to be involved in processing the application. This March 10th, 2022 pre-submission consultation meeting is as per Mohsen's request and meant to provide MECP with additional insight into the application which is ready to submit in the very near future.

Project Background and Expansion Overview:

- Question: Mohsen) Can Miller provide a project background for Nick Zambito (Nick), who will be the waste reviewer of this file? Please explain the project and what is proposed to be amended, including flexibilities that Escarpment Renewables is requesting.
- Answer: Mike) The facility was originally constructed by the Town of Grimsby, with the intention of having an anaerobic digestion facility that can accept both agricultural waste and source-separated organics at a capacity of 23,000 tpy. The facility began to face challenges concerning the operations of the plant and its design which caused issues regarding financial viability. Grimsby decided to put the facility up for sale through a competitive bidding process. Miller's parent company White Owl Group was the successful bidder during this sale. After Escarpment Renewables took over the facility, Escarpment Renewables made several changes and improvements to the process and operation flow of the plant after consulting the local district MECP office. The updated facility has been able to operate at 100% of the 1 MW FIT power generation contract which equates to requiring 33,000 tpy of incoming source-separated organics waste. Miller has an immediate need for 33,000 tpy of AD processing capacity and we are applying for a capacity increase to a total of 159,000 tpy processing capacity phased in over time. The facility will continue to accept SSO and organic IC&I waste along with a small amount of agricultural waste. Without an increase in the annual permitted capacity, the Escarpment Renewables AD facility will be required to turn away organic waste at a time when there is not enough operational capacity in Ontario to meet the ever-increasing demand for diversion of organic waste from landfills.

To accommodate the additional capacity, the outside bunker storage will be demolished with more details provided in the application. To meet odour requirements, an enclosed building for pre-processing has been proposed to accept and process the organic waste before treatment. Air from this building will be collected and treated via biofilter.

The additional biogas generated through the expansion will be upgraded to RNG, compressed, and transferred by tube trailer to other facilities to be used as a renewable energy source. Alternatively, should Enbridge extend their gas pipeline such that the biogas could be injected directly, this will be the preferred route of transportation of RNG. The digestate is CFIA registered fertilizer and there is a large demand for such a product from local farmers. Dialogues have been started with several local farmers already and there is great interest in these products.

- Question: Nick) Are there any other infrastructure changes in addition to pre-processing building and biogas upgrading?
- Answer: Mike) We have an immediate need to increase our capacity in phase 0. Increasing capacity to 33,000 tpy requires no additional infrastructure. There is additional digester capacity that will be built in a phased approach. We are expecting significant changes in organic waste characteristics in the coming years, that may change our design. We have 3 liquids receiving tanks where feedstocks get blended and are then pumped into the digestion system. The existing AD facility has a pasteurization system, digester tanks, covered digestate storage tanks, biogas storage, and CHP.
- Question: Nick) Are you pasteurizing all the feedstock?
- Answer: Mike) No, existing requirements do not require the pasteurization of all the feedstocks, but our team does conduct ongoing testing to ensure that all requirements for CFIA fertilizer are met. We do not have any issues related to pathogens at this time.

Addition: Sam Huang (Sam) confirmed

- Question: Mohsen) Is the expansion for the long term, phased in capacity or is it going to happen in one step?
- Answer: Mike) In the pre-consultation with Sarah and the local district office, we were encouraged to go for the full expansion capacity for simplicity. In phase 0, with existing infrastructure, we are requesting an immediate increase in the permitted capacity to 33,000 tpy. This will also allow us to meet our 1 MW FIT contract and recover more organic waste. Then we will enter phase 1 and phase 2. Phase 1 is in the application and shows what infrastructure will be built and increase to the next phase of capacity (D&O report provides information about

Phase 1). This includes the pre-processing building and an additional two digesters. Finally, in Phase 2 we will add two more digesters that will bring us to the capacity of 159,000 tpy.

Our goal is to make sure we meet all the requirements for the application so the review team can quickly evaluate and confirm that we have a complete submission such that it will be processed quickly. We also want to make sure we will achieve our expectations and timelines of the amendment.

- Question: Nick) In phase 0, you are increasing your receiving rate by almost 50%, how is this going to affect operation (such as minimum retention times for AD)?
- Answer: Mike) The REA permit is based on the annual tonnage and the rate we were feeding last half of 2021 was at a rate that extrapolates out to 33,000 tpy. With last year's performance and continuing into 2022, the existing infrastructure has shown that it can handle the extra capacity that is requested. When we improved and upgraded this facility, we worked with the district office and put processing equipment and tanks to be able to manage to full 1 MW of our generation. Our last year's operation proves that we can handle 33,000 tpy in phase 0.

- Question: Nick) Are you meeting the minimum hydraulic retention time (HRT) in the REA?
- Answer: Sam) We are at 45-50 days. When we started operation in early 2021, we were not receiving high volume of waste to give time for ramp up and stabilizing of the system. Once the plant was operating at capacity, we were processing at a rate higher than 23,000 tpy. Increasing the capacity to 33,000 tpy allows us to receive more liquid which makes the operation more streamlined. If we just receive high energy content material to achieve 1MW, it will be more concentrated and difficult to work with this thicker feedstock.

Addition: Mike) If we continue the operation processing rate as is, we will be out of permitted capacity in September. That is why in our consultation with Mohsen we requested that MECP consider our application a priority application. The existing extra capacity can be used for the diversion of more organic waste from landfills.

- Statement: Nick) Regarding phase 0, I want to see how you comply with the original design in terms of organic loading rates, HRT, major design criteria, and original design for digesters.
- Response: Mike) We will provide these details in our application submission. We have an increased demand for this capacity, with all emphasis on food waste diversion and reducing the emissions of its treatment. Mohsen mentioned if we submit a complete application and are prompt in responding to questions, MECP will attempt to process our application by September 2022.

Questions about Application and Template

- Question: Nick) When are you going to submit the application?
- Answer: Mike) Based on our conversation on this call, we can submit the application in a week or two. Everything is done. The public consultation report is not that much because nobody showed up for the public meeting. We will include other consultations we had with neighbours and local politicians and municipal staff. We were planning to submit our application next Thursday. Based on our conversation with GHD, all documents are ready and reviewed.
- Question: Nick) Have you done aboriginal consultation?
- Answer: Sam) We notified the first nations group, and the details were provided in the public consultation report. We received zero comments. Two newspaper advertisements went out, Sam personally contacted neighbours and talked to them. The site is agricultural so there are a few neighbours. Some neighbours had issues with the original operation of the facility, but not with Escarpment Renewables or our operations.
- Addition: Mohsen) If you have consulted with first nations based on the list under section 14 of the regulation, it is fine. When the application is submitted, Sarah is going to confirm that the application is complete. If Sarah finds anything is lacking, she will communicate with Escarpment Renewables ASAP, so that the issue can be addressed quickly. Getting an approval on time is important for their operation and that is why I specified that we prioritize it. Sarah is going to check all requirements and pass the file to Nick. For Nick: When you review the technical aspects of this application, if you have any questions you are going to directly contact Sam and get all you need to continue your review and be satisfied.

Addition: Sarah) The application will be reviewed by MECP noise and air engineers as well. As best possible, MECP will involve whoever was the reviewer on the original file and familiar with this project to make it faster if possible.

- Question: Mike) The ESDM report is ready for submission. There is no template for REA D&O Reports but there is a detailed outline for D&O reports on the MECP REA website that has been followed point by point by GHD. What are you expecting as a template for an REA D&O Report?
- Response: Mohsen) Request that Miller uses the D&O Template provided through the Waste Advisory Group as a guide for information to be included in the D&O Report for the REA amendment application. MECP requested to update the D&O Report to include items identified in the D&O template that are not shown in the MECP's website for REAs, especially the limited operational flexibility in the D&O report, and Nick verified that this was an approach that he could work with.

Questions about Submission to MECP

- Statement: Mike) We generated a public secure account for Escarpment Renewables but there is no REA option there.
- Response: Mohsen) Use the standard MECP permissions submission Email for this submission. Sarah is going to provide the email address for you. Please CC Mohsen, Sarah, and Nick when you submit the application. Do not send credit card information, send a cheque with a hard copy of your application. Identify in your electronic submission that you provided a cheque with your application and you can refer to our pre-submission consultations that Mohsen agreed to consider this application as a priority review. Sarah is going to provide the fee amount for your cheque. Copy Chris and District Manager, Kim Groombridge in your email.
- Statement: Chris) The facility is completely different from what it was at the beginning. Escarpment Renewables made many changes and it worked out well for performance. Things are going well on site from the local MECP district office's perspective.

Questions about Operational Flexibility

- Answer: Mike) Miller requests that MECP allow limited operational flexibility within the REA amendment approved. Miller is going to submit an application for 159,000 tpy. It will be done in phases 5-10 years from now. Extended producer responsibility (EPR), the Food and Organic Waste Framework Policy Statement, and changes in packaging MECP needs to allow flexibility in the wording of permit to allow Miller to incorporate technological improvements/advancements. As an example, in our application we say we are going to do RNG cleaning and put it in a tube trailer and transport it offsite; we would expect the permit is flexible enough such that if Enbridge extends the natural gas pipeline, Miller can inject the RNG straight to the pipeline. We would see that as a reduction in the impact on our neighbours because of the lesser tracking and minimal impact of pipeline installation. We are hoping that we don't require another amendment for this purpose and that any change that can help us take advantage of this advanced technology or adjustments to the feedstock does not trigger the amendment process.
- Question: Mohsen) If you are proceeding with phases, the amendment will provide some flexibility to incorporate improvements as long as the total annual capacity of the site is the same and incorporation of these improvements meets the intent of what the application identifies.
- Answer: Mike) We have municipalities that are interested in our AD capacity and are requesting that we conduct testing or piloting for facility-sorted organics (FSO). While not specifically identified in our public consultation to Miller FSO has a similar characteristic as SSO and as long as the quality of the end products meets the regulatory requirements then we feel it should be acceptable to perform these trials and demonstrations. Another example is pre-processing equipment, to make a complete submission we need to include some equipment that we cannot

predict given the economy of future organic waste. We request that the wording in the amendment is flexible enough that the equipment inside the building can change as long as we keep the capacity in the REA, and as long as it has less or the same impact on our neighbours and the environment around us.

- Statement: Mohsen) Gave an example of changing the genset for electricity production. If you replace it with another one with the same or less noise (dB) impact is okay. This is allowed under operational flexibility.
- Question: Mike) We have 4 digesters in our design now but with changing feedstock characteristics resulting from EPR and Food and Organic Framework it may be that a single larger tank could be more efficient. Is this something we can change without requiring an amendment? Our motivation is to be able to incorporate technological improvements to the development of our facility over time without requiring the amendment process for each improvement.
- Response: Mohsen) Miller is aware of the process. Follow the process and MECP will help you based on the regulations. The MECP will consider your logical needs when we are drafting the approval.

Statement: Nick) Identify the flexibility that you are looking for in the application. Include the requested flexibilities in the D&O report.

- Question: Mike) How do we update the technical information when we incorporate technological advancements and improvements over time?
- Answer: Nick) In the D&O report, there is a changelog. Each time that you change something you need to update it, with a stamp and signature. As each phase of the project is rolled out you will update the conceptual design with the real design.

Trial for FSO and bridgeable/digestible plastics

- During the conversation about the limited operational flexibility in the D&O report, feedstock characteristics were discussed. It was agreed that there is a need to evaluate the digestibility of FSO and bridgeable/digestible plastics in the anaerobic digestion process. Another call was scheduled to review this R&D project. The decision will be made to include this research work in the limited operational flexibility section of the D&O report for this REA amendment or another R&D application.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 15, 2022, at 10:30 am.

From: [Raetsen, Sarah \(MECP\)](#)
To: [Mike Kopansky](#)
Cc: [Sam Huang](#); [Andrew Mauchlen](#); [Haleh Shahriari](#)
Subject: RE: Grimsby Anaerobic Digestion Facility
Date: Monday, March 7, 2022 1:24:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

This Message has originated outside your organization.

Thanks Mike,

We will be able to provide answers to your questions on Thursday.

Talk to you then,
Sarah

From: Mike Kopansky <Mike.Kopansky@millerwaste.ca>
Sent: March 7, 2022 10:59 AM
To: Raetsen, Sarah (MECP) <Sarah.Raetsen@ontario.ca>
Cc: Sam Huang <Sam.Huang@millerwaste.ca>; Andrew Mauchlen <Andrew.Mauchlen@millerwaste.ca>; Haleh Shahriari <Haleh.Shahriari@Millerwaste.ca>
Subject: FW: Grimsby Anaerobic Digestion Facility

CAUTION -- EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good morning Sarah,

Thank you for the prompt response and for setting up the meeting for this Thursday.

During my brief call with Mohsen he indicated that he is supportive of our request to view our REA amendment for the Escarpment Renewables AD REA as a priority but Mohsen wanted us to make sure that we have a complete and comprehensive application submitted as soon as possible. Mohsen suggested we check to make sure that our D&O Report uses the format of the D&O Template shared with me through the Waste Practitioner's Group (WPG). For a recent amendment for our MWS Bloomington Compost ECA amendment application Mohsen and others at MECP encouraged me/us to use the MECP Public Secure "portal" application method – using that system was very challenging and often times resulted in delays in our application review. We would prefer not to use that process but if required to would like to make sure we are better able to work with that system – perhaps get a training session from members of Miller's team.

Below is a list of some of items that you can assist us with in advance of the Thursday meeting and others that we would like to discuss on the call.

1. Can you provide us with the most recent draft of the D&O Report template.
 - a. The last draft I received was for ECAs (attached to this email) – is the template for REA approvals the same as the same template for ECA approvals?
2. Are we expected to submit the REA amendment application for the Escarpment Renewables REA through the MECP Public Secure "portal" method? We are concerned with the challenges

that this system posed when we used it last year. If yes to using the “portal” approach how do we do this as there is no drop down box for REA – ECA and EASR show in the options for starting a new application – there does not seem to be a REA approvals option. As above if we are expected to use the “portal” application submission approach we need clarification and training in proper utilization of that system.

3. Limited Operating Flexibility – Through previous consultation with MECP on the Escarpment AD file we were encouraged to apply for one larger amendment rather than several smaller amendments. The larger amendment would provide us with capacity to meet our anticipated requirements for the next 10 years or more. In doing this we want to understand how the amended approval wording will allow flexibility for us to adopt and adjust our facility design and operations to incorporate technological improvements/advancements as they become available. Not being as familiar with REA approvals we would just like to have a conversation about this to understand how it would be managed by MECP especially since the expansion of the facility will be phased in over time.
4. Feedstock – again we would like to have a conversation about what feedstock will be allowed in the amendment. We have several municipal customers (and some MECP staff) who encourage Escarpment/Miller to participate in pilot or trials for digestion of FSO (Facility Sorted Organics) and compostable plastics/products. The Grimsby AD facility has a high solids AD reactor that would be ideal for these trials or pilots. We would like to have a discussion about flexibility in wording of the amendment so that it allows us to do trials (whether on FSO or Compostable plastics/products) without the need to get another amendment. Perhaps this can be done through technical updates or updates to the D&O report?

Feel free to reach out if you need any clarification on the above – we just want to make sure that we have a complete application and can expedite the review and amendment process while ensuring the amended permit serves the purpose to assist us in diverting more organic waste/resource from landfill.

Regards,

Mike Kopansky

Director, Technology Development, Miller Waste Systems

Cell: 416-677-6075

www.millerwaste.ca | mike.kopansky@millerwaste.ca

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Mike Kopansky

Sent: Sunday, March 6, 2022 7:17 PM

To: Raetsen, Sarah (MECP)

Subject: Accepted: Grimsby Anaerobic Digestion Facility

When: Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hello Sarah – I will send a short list tomorrow morning of items that we would like to briefly discuss on Thursday March 10th.

Thanks
Mike

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MECP Pre-submission meeting with Miller Waste System and Escarpment Renewables

Re: Escarpment Renewables REA Amendment Pre-Consultation Meeting

Project Name: Escarpment Renewables

Date: Thursday March 15th, 2022

Location: Via TEAMS video conference

Participants:

MECP:

1. Sarah Raetsen | Environmental Assessment Branch (Environment, Conservation and Parks) 437-777-4171 | Sarah.Raetsen@ontario.ca
2. Mohsen Keyvani - Manager (Acting) | Waste Approvals (Environment, Conservation and Parks) 416-432-7253 | mohsen.keyvani@ontario.ca
3. Nick Zambito - Senior Waste Engineer | Waste Approvals (Environment, Conservation and Parks), 416-314-5584, nick.zambito@ontario.ca
4. Christopher Medland, Environmental Officer | Niagara District Office (Environment, Conservation and Parks) | 289-213-1188, Christopher.Medland@ontario.ca

Miller Waste Systems:

1. Mike Kopansky, Director, Cell: 416-677-6075, mike.kopansky@millerwaste.ca
2. Haleh Shahriari, Project Engineer, Cell: 416-677-1520, haleh.shahriari@millerwaste.ca
3. Andrew Mauchlen, Manager of Organics, Cell: 647-331-8402, andrew.mauchlen@millerwaste.ca

Meeting Minutes.

Meeting Timeline and Topics of Discussion

Meeting began at 10:30 am and concluded at 11:15 am (45 minutes). All participants were present for the whole meeting time.

This call is to consult between Miller, Escarpment Renewables and MECP regarding discussion on how the D&O report associated with this REA amendment would add information that is requested in the D&O Template for ECAs that was shared with the Waste Advisory Group. The added information would accommodate Limited Operational Flexibility and this pre-submission consultation meeting was to discuss flexibility concerning feedstock changes and the potential for trials or demonstration projects

being accommodated in the REA amendment for evaluation of Facility Sorted Organics (FSO) or biodegradable/digestible plastics at Escarpment Renewables AD facility in Grimsby.

An Update about the REA Amendment Application

Statement: Mike) Per MECP's request and the discussions during the March 10th meeting the application will be submitted with the D&O Report in the format of the REA D&O Outline available on the MECP website and supplemented with the information requested in the ECA D&O Report template that was shared with the Waste Advisory Group in 2021. The D&O Report will include a section for summarizing the existing facility, mass balances, and improvement compared to the original design in the original REA application. We will update the D&O report on our website based on these pre-submission consultations with the MECP in advance of the ERO posting. Per previous discussions, the Limited Operational Flexibilities (LOF) will be addressed in a section of the D&O report.

Some examples of LOF to be included in the D&O report:

- Tip Floor of the pre-processing building – tip floor versus receiving pit
- Pre-processing equipment changes – ability to adjust equipment to include technical advancements over time and changes in incoming feedstock resulting from EPR and the Food and Organics Framework Policy statement.
- Odour treatment systems – ability to consider organic-based biofilter media and incorporate technological advancements in odour treatment technology
- Biogas upgrading system – ability to adjust the design to incorporate advancements in biogas upgrading technology
- Digesters – ability to adjust the configuration of digester volume while keeping digester retention times within industry norms.

Statement: Mohsen) MECP staff will review the LOF in the D&O Report submitted in the application and advise Miller if they need additional information to perform their review.

Discussion:

Statement: Mike) This call aims to discuss how LOF in the REA amendment will accommodate changes in feedstock over time and to accommodate testing and demonstration work associated with a feedstock that is of interest to Municipalities and the MECP such as FSO and compostable/digestible plastics.

Question: Mohsen) Requested further explanation of Miller's experience with FSO AD facilities and plans on how to process feedstocks of this type.

Answer: Mike) Over two decades, we are communicating with entities in Austria and Germany concerning technology for food waste kind of material. We toured plants for mixed waste processing and anaerobic digestion, they produce high-quality compost that can be as good or cleaner than compost from leaf and yard waste. I have the confidence to say there is technology out there, Miller understands the long-term sustainability of this product.

Miller has been visiting operational organics processing facilities in Europe several times over the past 25 years. More recent visits and further investigation have found operational AD facilities that process

FSO and continually meet high-quality finished product quality while generating significant renewable energy. This technology utilizes a high solids AD technology whereby FSO are digested and then put through a post digester clean-up process to remove physical impurities that did not degrade in the digester.

It is possible that ongoing efforts to educate people to waste less food along with changes to single-use packaging due to Federal bans and EPR will result in a change in the characteristics of SSO. MECP's Food and Organics Framework Policy Statement (FOFPS) allows municipalities to consider FSO as an option for achieving the targets identified in the FOFPS. It would be prudent for MECP and Municipalities to encourage trial and small-scale demonstrations using FSO feedstock to determine the feasibility of this approach in Ontario. Given that the Escarpment AD facility has a high solids digestion component included in its existing permit Miller can propose upgrades to this infrastructure to allow MECP and municipalities to run trials or demonstrations using FSO feedstock. Miller believes this would be a responsible way to gather local data and experience on FSO processing feedstock. Miller will include a reference of this LOF for FSO in our application and will provide additional details as requested by the MECP review engineer. The quantity of FSO to be processed would be low and would be included in the total annual limit of 159,000 t/year.

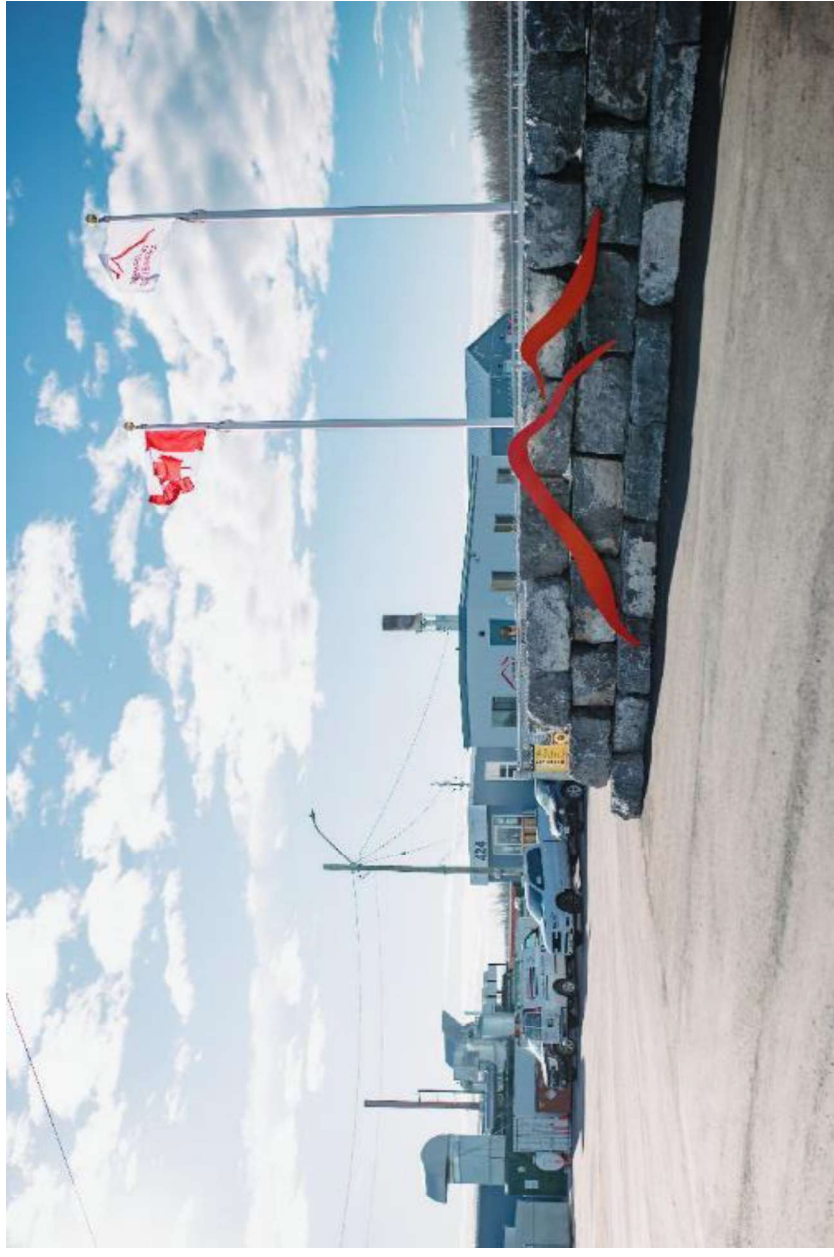
Appendix C

Public Meeting Presentation

Escarpment Renewables Anaerobic Digestion Facility

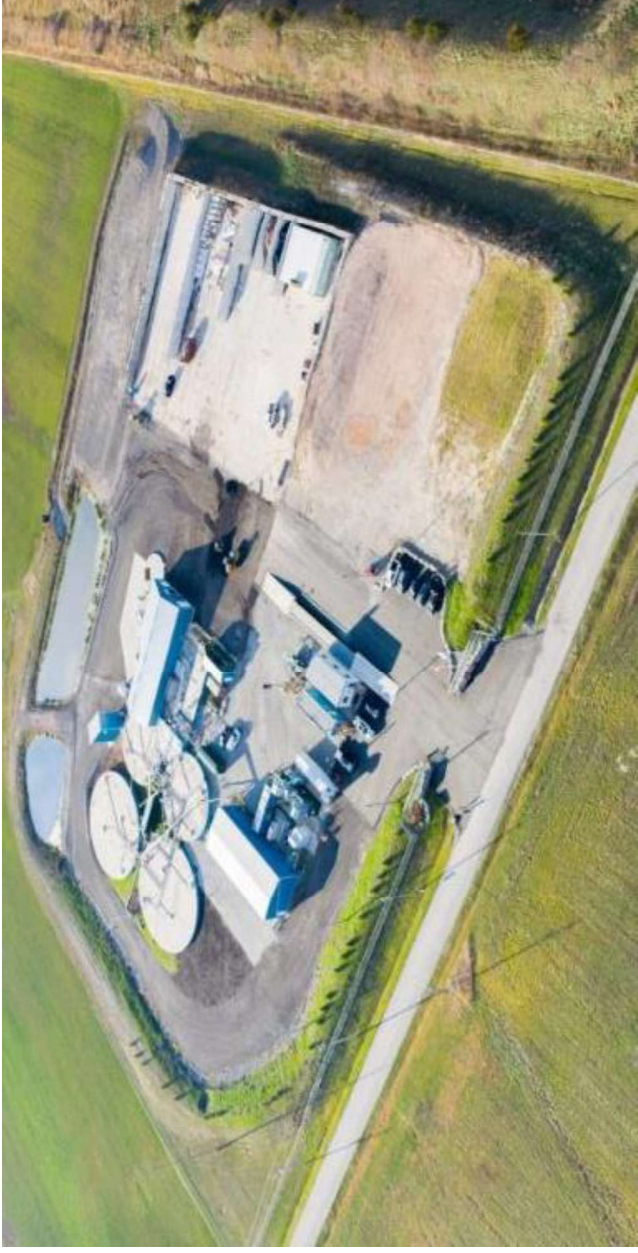


**Renewable Energy
Approval Proposed
Amendment
Public Meeting
February 28, 2022**



Welcome!

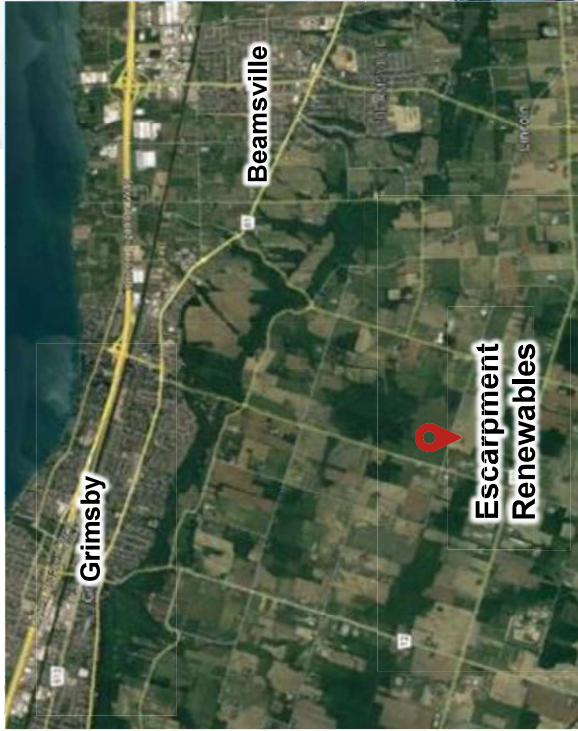
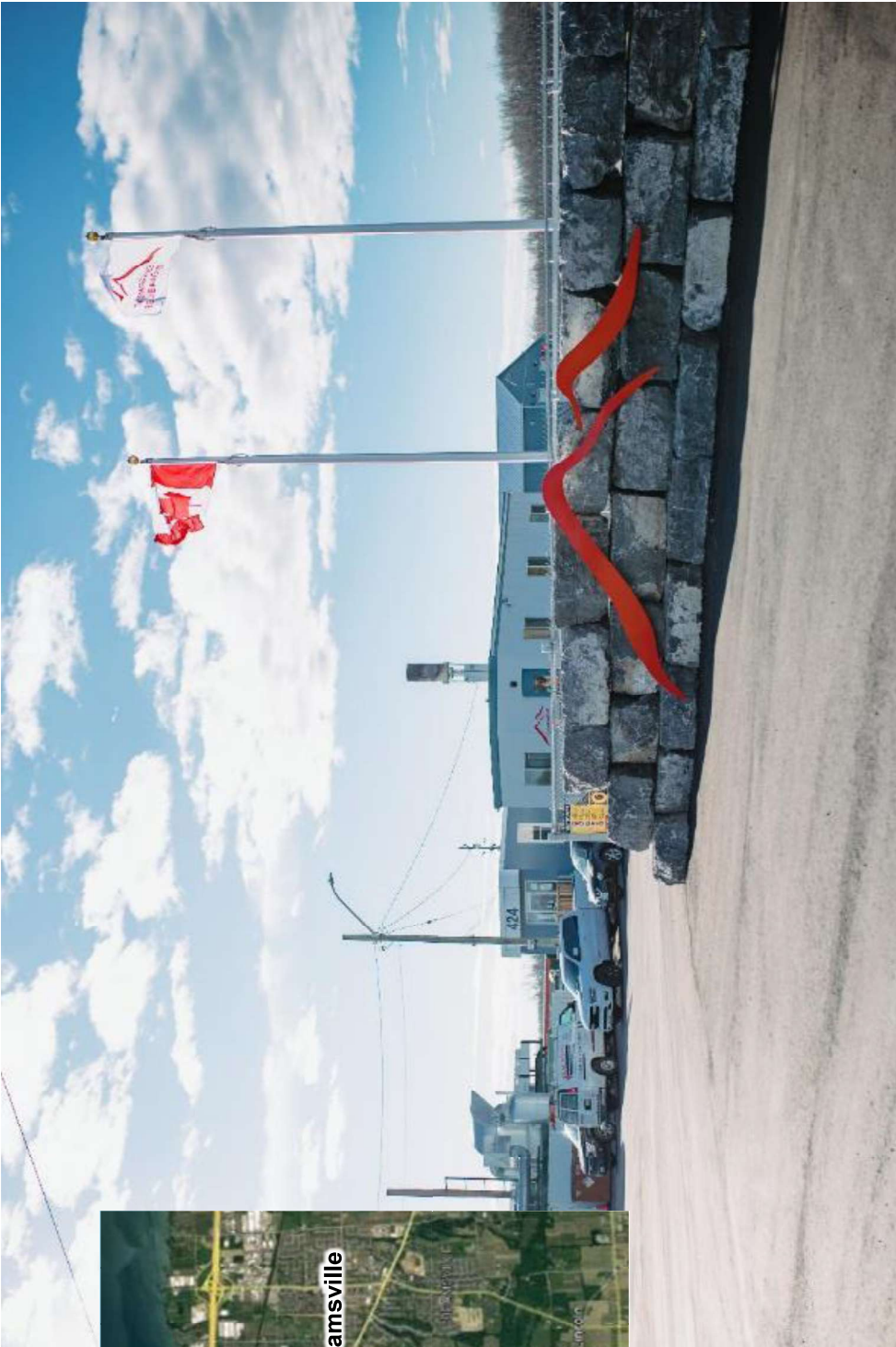
- What to Expect Tonight**
- About Escarpment Renewables
 - Proposed Expansion
 - Amendment Process
 - Next Steps
 - Q & A Session



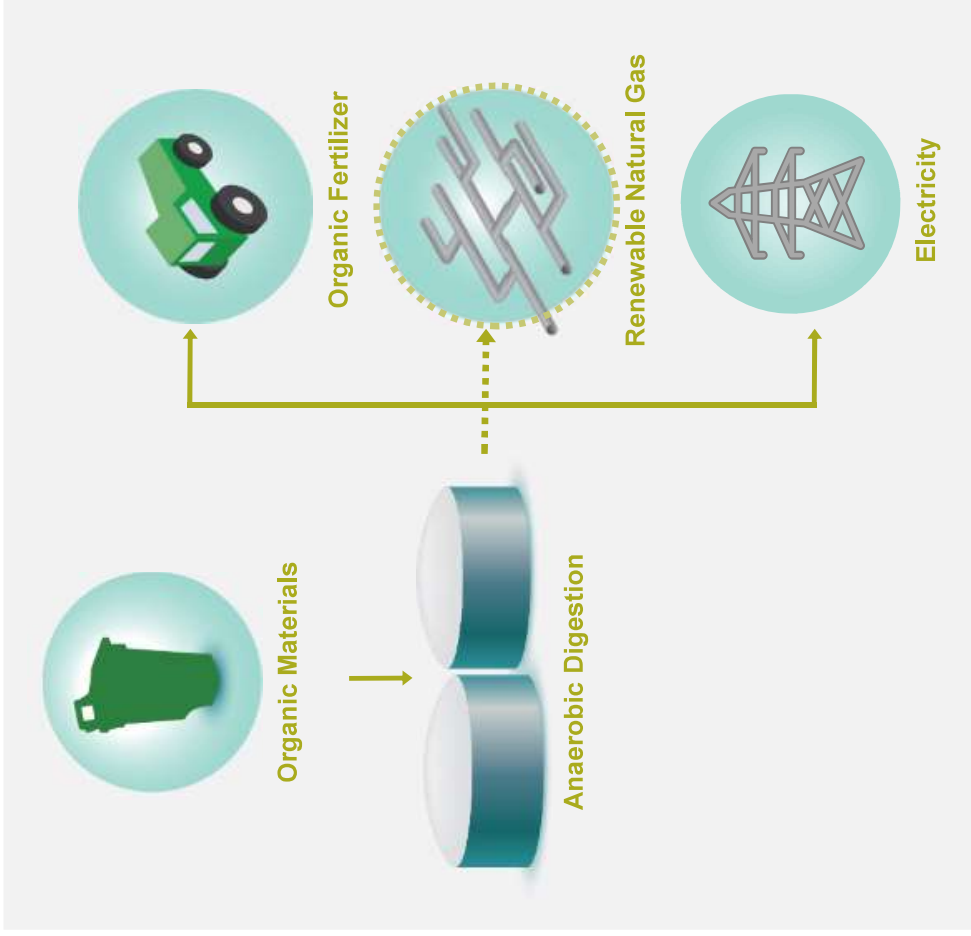
Escarpment Renewables' Anaerobic Digestion Facility currently produces sustainable and renewable electrical power and fertilizer from organics.

We are proposing to increase the processing capacity and start producing renewable natural gas to heat local homes and businesses.

About Escarpment Renewables



A Local & Renewable Solution for Organics ...



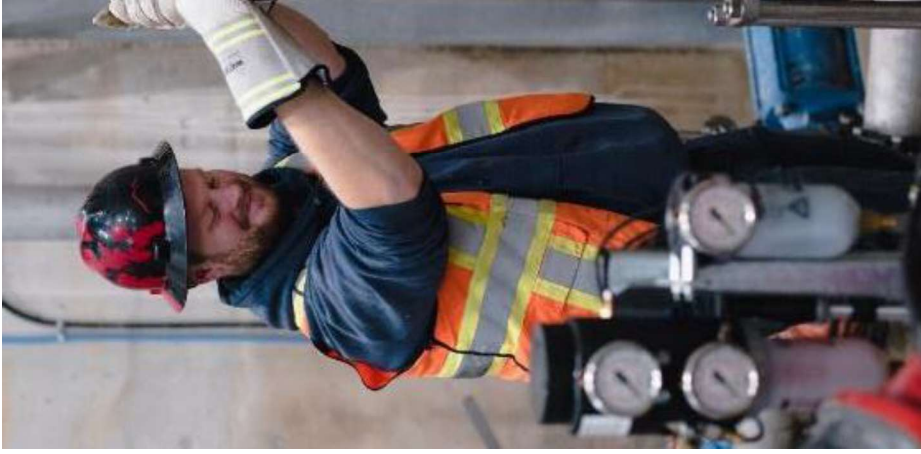
Diverts organics from landfills every year, including from Niagara Region

Can generate 1 Megawatt of **clean, renewable electricity** – enough to power 830 homes per year

Produces **organic fertilizer** for local farms replacing commercial fertilizers.

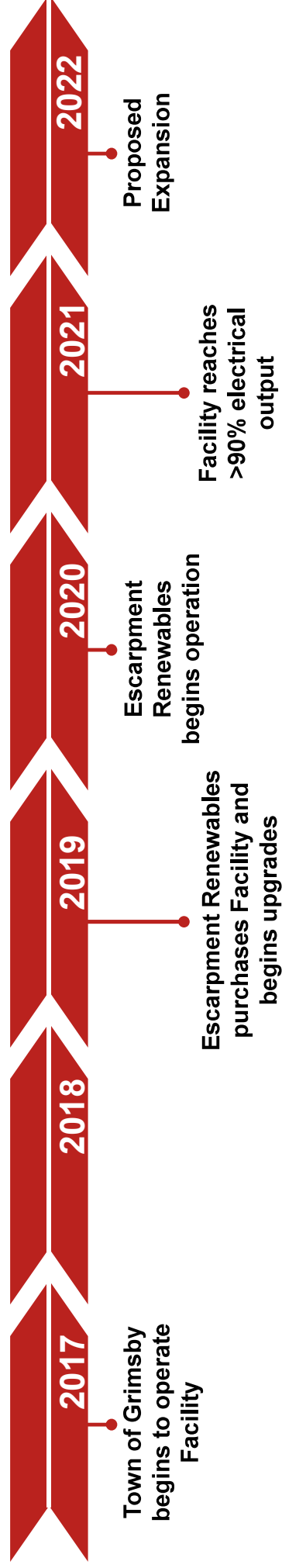
Proposed new natural gas facility will be a source of **low-carbon renewable natural gas**

Proud to be Part of Niagara Region

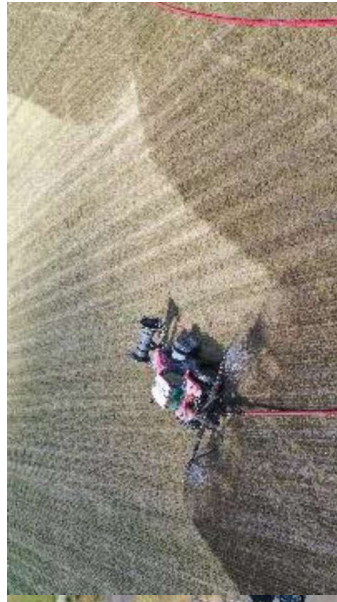


- We provide local employment
- We buy local and work with local contractors
- The organic fertilizer we produce goes to local farms, increasing crop yields 25 – 50 %
- We work hard to be good neighbours – beautifying the site and improving aesthetics
- Processing organics is a sustainable and renewable source of heat and energy

Site History



[Escarpment Renewables Virtual Tour \(Vimeo Link\)](#)



Proposed Expansion



Increase organics processing

Increasing the permitted input from 23,000 to 159,000 tonnes per year will make it possible for Escarpment to generate additional renewable energy in the form of renewable natural gas. Expansion will be phased.



Renewable Natural Gas

New renewable natural gas production will generate 286,000 gigajoules of renewable natural gas for the local distribution network – enough to heat 3,200 homes

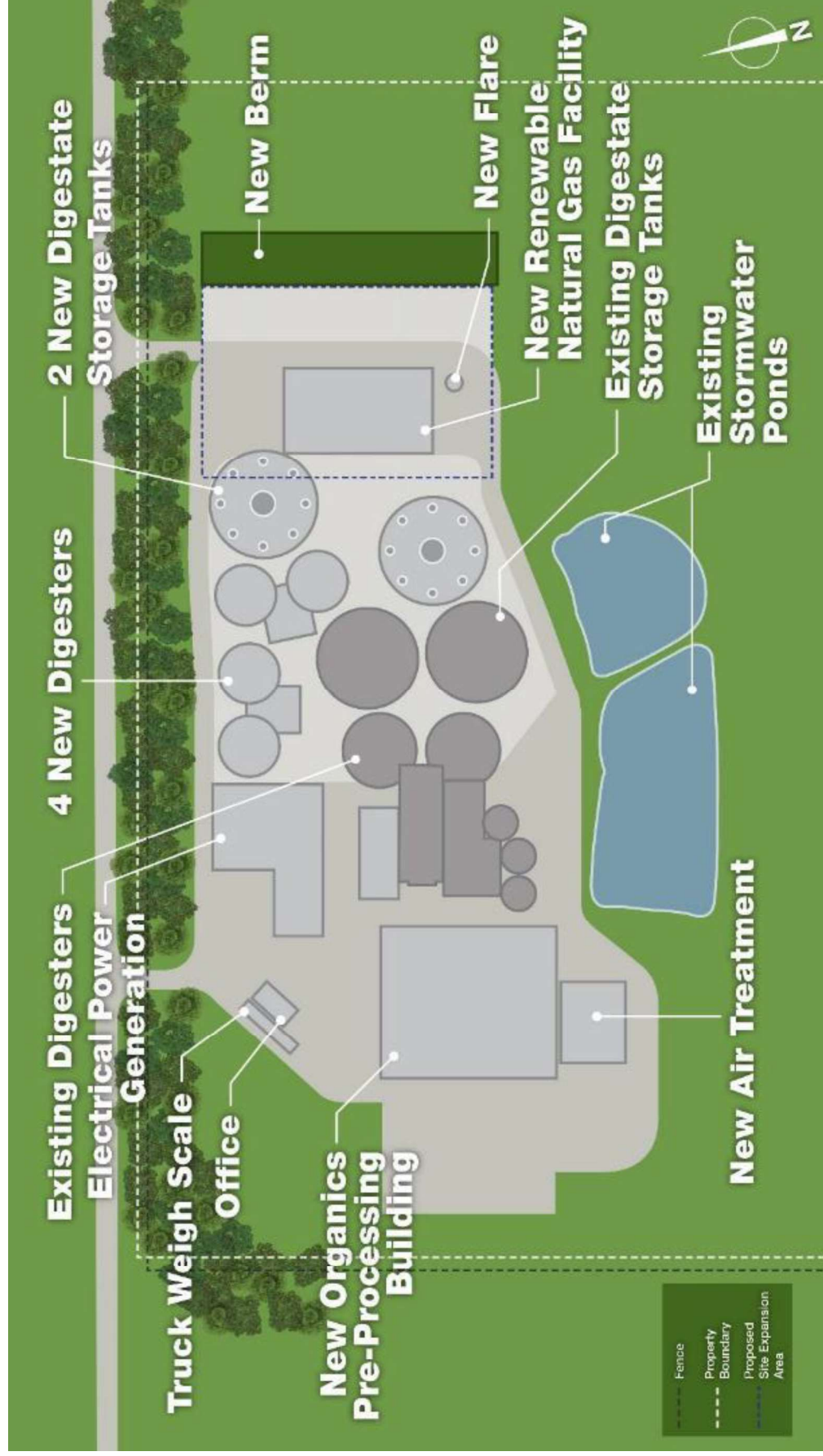


Better Fertilizer Shipping Hours

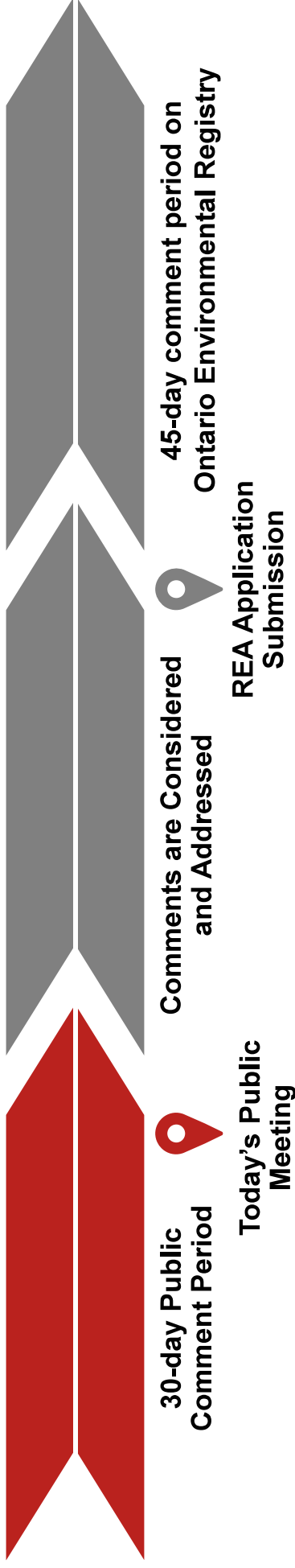
Organic fertilizer will now be shipped out between 5 am to 9 pm Monday to Saturday to better accommodate our local farmers' schedules.
Receiving hours for organics will not change (7 am – 7 pm).

These changes are subject to an amendment to the Facility's Renewable Energy Approval

Proposed Expansion



REA Amendment Application Process



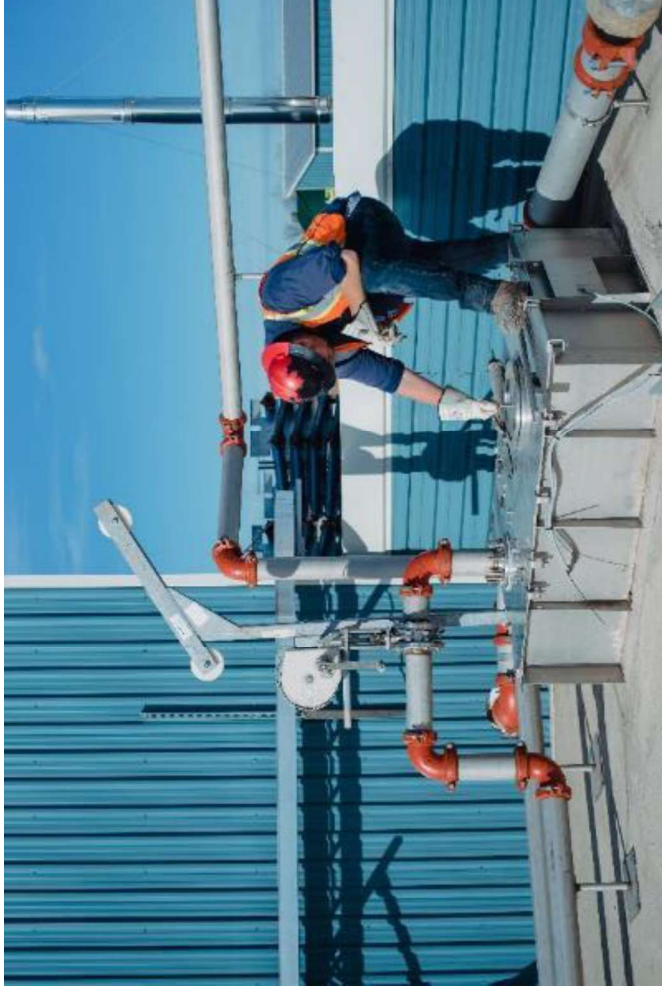
- Categorized as Major Project Design, subject to amendment of **Renewable Energy Approval (REA)**
- Extensive **technical documentation** has been prepared to support application, including updated reports on construction, design and operations, noise, odour, surface water and groundwater
- Documents are available for review on our website (<https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/>)



Managing Potential Impacts

Escarpment Renewables is committed to being a good neighbour and protecting the local environment

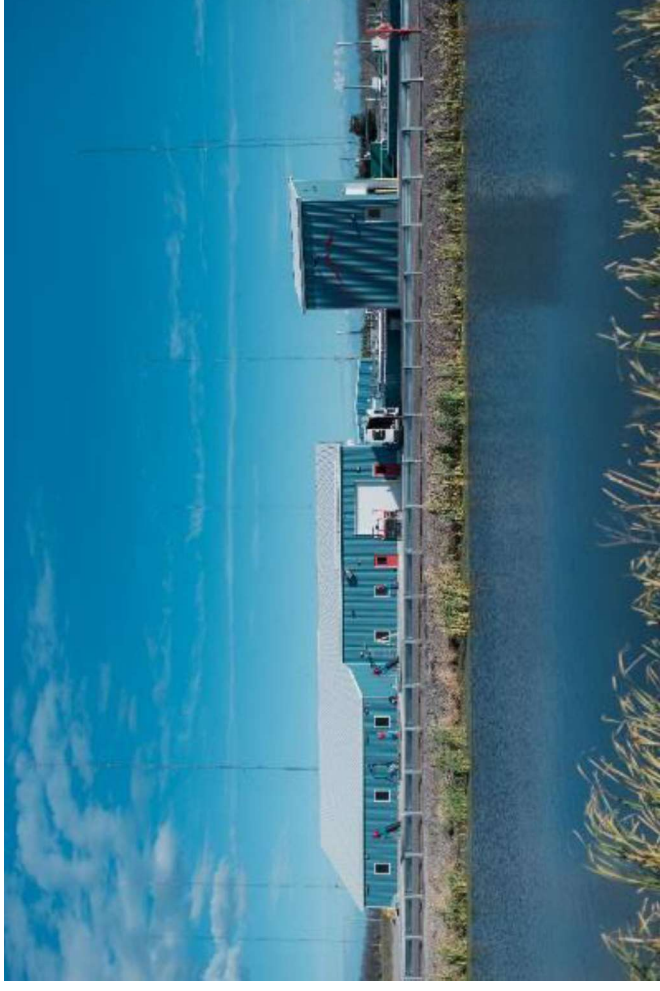
- All aspects of the expansion have been designed to **meet or will do better than** environmental regulations for noise, odour, air quality, and surface water
- Receiving of organics takes place within the Organics Pre-Processing Building:
 - Odorous air inside the building is captured and sent to treatment system
- Trucks must obey on-site **speed limits** and **may not idle**
- A **new berm** will be constructed east of the expanded Facility



Managing Potential Impacts

Escarpment Renewables is committed to being a good neighbour and protecting the local environment

- Storage and processing tanks are fully enclosed.
- Existing outdoor waste storage bunkers will be decommissioned.
- Odour management system (biofilter) treats odours from Pre-Processing Building.
- Buildings and tanks have built-in spill containment systems, such as grading and sump pumps.
- Onsite surface water is directed to existing stormwater management ponds.
- Additional spill mitigation will be implemented prevent potential spills from leaving the site.
- Following construction, disturbed areas will be reseeded and restored.



Next Steps

- Comments will be considered and documented in the Consultation Report.
- After Escarpment Renewables submits the REA Amendment Application, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks will post final Application on Environmental Registry for 45-day comment period.
- Construction anticipated to begin in Spring 2023.

For further inquiries please contact:

Sam Huang, P.Eng
General Manager, Escarpment Renewables
sam.huang@escarpmentrenewables.ca

Visit the website to view the reports:
<https://escarpmentrenewables.ca/>

Thank you



Type your Question

- Select Q&A – the conversation bubble(s) at the top/bottom of your screen.
- Type your question and select Send.
- We will publish your message and one of the presenters will respond.

Raise Your Hand

- Select Raise Hand – look for hand icon at the top or bottom of your screen.
- When it is your turn to speak, unmute your line by clicking Unmute.
- After speaking, select the hand to Lower Hand.
- Attendees who have dialed in by phone can raise their hand by pressing *9 and unmute by pressing *6.

