

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2017, Oxford County engaged AET Group Inc, with Kelleher Environmental as a sub-consultant, to identify to the extent possible the amount of IC&I (industrial, commercial and institutional) waste that is generated in the County but not disposed at the Oxford County Waste Management Facility (OCWMF) Landfill. Agriculture is included as one of the segments of the IC&I sector for this study.

It is estimated that about 42,000 tonnes of IC&I waste is disposed from Oxford County businesses. Approximately 21,000 tonnes are disposed at the OCWMF Landfill. A minimum of 21,000 tonnes, or at least 50% of the total IC&I waste is exported out of the County for disposal.

Over 10,000 tonnes of C&D (construction and demolition) waste is received at the OCWMF. About 43% of this total is sent to Try Recycling in London for recycling and the remainder is landfilled at the OCWMF Landfill. An unknown additional amount of C&D waste may be exported out of the county for disposal but this amount is likely small, as most of the C&D waste is produced by small companies who tend to use the local landfill where practical.

A survey of IC&I waste generators was carried out to identify current waste management practices, and which service providers are used for hauling wastes and recyclables from IC&I waste generators. The survey found that significant recycling of materials such as scrap metals, cardboard and pallets already occurs at businesses in Oxford County. Farms often rent disposal bins from private haulers to dispose of a range of materials which are seasonal in nature, for instance clean-out of rock wool at the beginning of the season, bale wrap or cuttings from vines, etc. Residential waste is sometimes disposed in the bins rather than using the county curbside service.

Waste hauling and waste management service providers were contacted to identify reasons why they export waste outside of the county for disposal. Large waste management companies generally use their own landfills for waste disposal if these landfills are within an economical distance from Oxford County. Some commercial loads picked up by large waste management companies are disposed at the OCWMF Landfill for strategic reasons, particularly if the loads are light (and do not cost much based on tipping fees), or if the hauler wants to quickly drop off loads to get back on the haul route. Cost was cited as a factor in the decision making. It is more economical to haul waste to the London Transfer Station or the Ridge Landfill in Blenheim rather than to dispose at the OCWMF Landfill.

There are no legal mechanisms available in Ontario to force IC&I waste disposal within the County. Flow control has been tried in Vancouver and Halifax, but causes constant legal battles. About 3 million tonnes of IC&I waste generated in Ontario are exported to US landfills in Michigan and New York State where tip fees are in the single digits. Lowering the tipping fee at the OCWMF Landfill would increase disposal of IC&I waste at the OCWMF Landfill, but this is not

recommended because the OCWMF Landfill would fill up more quickly, be out of capacity sooner than planned and require an expansion.

The IC&I sectors that produce the most IC&I waste in the County include manufacturing (22% of IC&I waste), retail (16%), health care (10%) and accommodation and food services (9%).

IC&I waste produced in the County contains significant amounts of recyclable and organic materials that could be diverted including food (22%), paper (21%), plastic (13%) and wood (10%).

Sectors which produce large amounts of food waste include accommodation and food services, retail and manufacturing.

Sectors which produce large amounts of paper waste include manufacturing, retail and health care.

As the Province implements the solid waste management policy issued on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 as part of the *Waste Free Ontario Act*, new measures such as disposal bans are planned in the Province over the next 5 years, with a food waste ban announced for 2022. These policies and future regulations may alter the way in which the County needs to manage loads of IC&I waste. For this reason, the County needs to be fully engaged in consultations on material bans in particular that are expected to start in the coming months.

There is currently no data source available on IC&I waste generation and flow in the Province. Regulations may be released requiring reporting of IC&I data to the Registry being managed by RPRA (Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority) – which replaces Waste Diversion Ontario. The County should encourage and support the collection of IC&I data in the province so that better information is available for waste management planning in the future. In the meantime, County staff could meet with large haulers to explore the extent to which they might share data on the tonnage exported from the County. This information was not provided to the study team for business and confidentiality reasons.