

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Consideration should be given to future potential changes in the waste streams – for example due to future revision of collection mechanisms. It is recommended that facilities are future-proofed as far as reasonably possible to offer maximum flexibility.

Recommendation 2

A competent Technical Advisor or Owner's Engineer should be appointed to represent the County in the development of a project of the nature considered in this study, unless sufficient expertise resides in-house. Failure to interrogate contractor's proposals with the appropriate technical expertise may also lead to a poorly specified facility.

Recommendation 3

To assist Oxford County in ascertaining the precise situation regarding digestate use applicable in Ontario, it is recommended that the following question be posed to the MOECC:

"Oxford County is proposing to develop a waste processing facility which may involve the mixing of the organic fraction of residual MSW with agricultural wastes and/or biosolids in an AD plant. Please confirm that subject to achieving required processing parameters in respect of pathogen kill, the digestate from such a facility would be acceptable for application to agricultural land".

Recommendation 4

Twelve specific "zero waste" actions are recommended for consideration by Oxford County. The top priority measures include:

- Oxford county should be actively engaged in the transition and expansion of existing and new extended producer responsibility programs for recyclable materials (in collaboration with other smaller, rural municipalities and with the Association of Ontario Municipalities);
- Oxford County needs to both be engaged in the development of the province's food and organics action plan and begin to implement its own food and organic waste reduction programs;
- The County should provide encouragement and assistance (especially to small and medium sized businesses) to help them reduce the amount of their waste sent to landfill;
- Oxford County facilities should serve as a model of best practice zero waste diversion measures; and
- The County should explore ways to improve the performance of recyclables and organics diversion from multi-family households.

Recommendation 5

It is recommended that the County carefully consider the following elements in the implementation of a waste treatment facility along the lines of those considered in this study:

- Conceptual design studies to refine facility elements, size, and costs;
- Integration of the facility into OC's waste management system now and in the future;
- Stakeholder consultation;
- Business case preparation, including consideration of financing and procurement processes;
- Securing of provincial and regulatory approvals; and,
- Procurement, construction, and commissioning.