




## INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	June 27, 2018
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Central Composting Facility Operations – Odour Mitigation Measures (City Wide) (ES18015)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

This Information Update is to inform the Mayor and Members of Council on the status of the City of Hamilton's Central Composting Facility (CCF) operations, controlled shut down and the current actions to eliminate odour emissions from the CCF.

On June 24, 2018, the City began the process of temporarily shutting down the CCF operations in response to odour issues and an increased number of odour complaints.

As of Monday June 25, 2018, no new organic material, including material from other municipalities, has been accepted at the CCF as the City performs a controlled shutdown and clears out the facility in an enclosed and controlled environment. To address the process area that is contributing the most odours, the City has removed approximately 730 tonnes of compost material that is currently stored in the CCF's curing building. It is expected that the remaining 1,300 tonnes of compost material will be cleared by the end of Friday, June 29, 2018. The odour issues may continue for the immediate term; however, it is expected that shipping the compost materials offsite will relieve the odour impacts in the neighbourhood.

### Actions to Date

With the shutdown of the CCF operations, City staff and its operations contractor will continue the investigation into the root cause(s) of the odour issue and determine long-term odour mitigating solutions. To date, the following actions are in process or have been completed:

- Completing the controlled shutdown of the CCF, which is expected to take approximately 21 days;

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*OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.*

*OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.*

*OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.*

- Connecting with neighbourhood residents to determine if removing compost from the curing building reduces odours in the area;
- Operating a perimeter odour neutralizing system around the compost curing building and installing additional odour neutralizing systems;
- Investigating possible long-term solutions, which involves concluding a small-scale carbon filter pilot to remove odour;
- Hiring consultants to review the operation and building structure to identify possible causes of the odour issue; and
- Continuing to work with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

### **Next Steps**

City staff and its operations contractor will continue to investigate the CCF and its processes to identify the root cause(s). This will be done through:

- Retaining consultants to perform a detailed review of the odour management control system and potential odour sources at the CCF. This information will be used to create a long-term solution to meet the processing needs of the CCF; and
- Retaining a third-party reviewer who is experienced in odour management systems and odour mitigation solutions to verify investigative measures and possible long-term solutions.

City staff and the operations contractor will also aim to procure third party processing for City collected green bin material in order to divert it from the landfill as soon as possible. It is our goal to minimize the time that green bin material is sent to the landfill.

Council will be receiving Information Updates on the status of the CCF shut down as new information becomes available to ensure that Council is up to date on developments in a timely manner.

### **Composting & Recycling Programs Continue**

Earlier this week, the City issued two media releases and shared information via media interviews and social media encouraging residents in all parts of the city to continue participating in Hamilton's composting, recycling and yard waste programs.

The City has notified residents to dispose of household waste in the following manner to maximize waste diversion:

1. Food scraps and soiled paper products should continue to go in the green bin.
2. All yard waste should go in a paper yard waste bag or other clearly marked open-top reusable rigid container (i.e. bins, baskets or garbage can without a lid). All

yard waste will continue to be composted at a different site to produce high quality compost.

3. There are no changes to the blue box program.
4. There are no changes to waste collection – each single-family household can still put out one bag or container of garbage each week for pick up. Additional bags still require a trash tag.

The City encourages residents to leave their grass clippings on their lawns to reduce the amount of grass being picked up at the curb. Residents who don't wish to leave their grass clippings on their lawns should place grass with their leaf and yard waste.

If you have questions, please contact Emil Prpic, Manager of Recycling and Waste Disposal at 905-546-2424 extension 4203

#### **Appendices and Schedules Attached**

Not applicable

