



**Subject:** *Organics Processing Facility Feasibility Report*  
**To:** Executive Committee of Council  
**Date Prepared:** December 6, 2023  
**Related Motions:** C23(302)  
**Prepared by:** Andrea Trask, Manager of Solid Waste  
**Approved by:** Jesse Hulsman, Director of I&O

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### Summary

Council approved in September 2023 that an update of the 2013/14 consultant report on the management of organics at the Waste Management Centre operation be completed for review in December 2023. This report has been completed and attached.

This report update was triggered by the organics transfer station cover damage that is beyond repair, and was removed due to safety concerns (potential collapse).

### Financial Impact Statement

Construction of an organics processing facility, including equipment, that will serve the current and future growth of East Hants is estimated at \$6.4M.

### Recommendation

Staff recommend Executive Committee recommend to Council direction for staff to prepare options for funding, including applications, and seek out potential long-term partners for an organic processing facility.

### Recommended Motion

*Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend that Council direct staff to prepare a report on funding options for an organic processing facility at the East Hants Waste Management Centre, to include potential grant applications and long-term partners/customers.*

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## Background

When the province introduced landfill bans in the late 1990s this included organics (food & leaf/yard waste). The municipality installed an organics transfer station at the Waste Management Centre, where materials are tipped after curbside collection or by commercial customers, and stored until shipped offsite for processing.

The transfer station has been in operation since the early 2000s. As a result, from a combination of normal wear and tear and increased weather events (damage/stress) the transfer station cover has been damaged beyond repair. Due to safety concerns the cover and framing was removed in earlier 2023.

In 2021 the Municipality had an assessment done of the organics transfer station. The estimated cost to rebuild the organics transfer station at that time was \$450,000 - \$500,000, with some assumptions. At this time staff would estimate the cost closer to \$750,000.

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## Discussion

Past discussions with Council on opportunities for onsite composting showed interest, however the consultation report (2014) showed we need more material than we had at that time and the discussion was paused.

### Highlights from 2023 Report

- East Hants exceed the 2014 report on anticipated tonnage of organics in 2022 (vs. 2023/24 assumption)
- Population and development growth assumptions in 2014 are significantly lower than current actual and expected for East Hants
- The facility design remains the same as in 2014 report, only larger scale due to growth impacts (actual and projected)

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This work aligns with the Municipality's strategic goal of sustainable infrastructure for now and future growth.

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## Alternatives

Executive Committee direct staff to issue an RFP for the reconstruction of the organics transfer station cover and required repairs to bring the transfer station back to compliance.

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