

*The world will not evolve past its current state of crisis by using the same thinking that created the situation*

Albert Einstein

# Zero Waste

Every year brings an increase in complex, toxic and non-recyclable products and packaging. This increase is outpacing local government's ability to safely and cost-effectively handle the associated wastes, as well as increasing Halton's future environmental liability. Unless this cycle is corrected, not even a high-performing recycling region like ours can recycle our way to **Zero Waste**

# Sustainable Community & Zero Waste

The first step in Zero Waste is to minimize upstream resource extraction to create products. When products are created or required, Zero Waste wants industry-wide **redesign** of products and process for clean production. As it happens, clean production and lean production have been proven cost effective and is an important component of a sustainable community

# Corporate Strategic Planning & Policy

## Environmental Perspective

- Institute practices that reduce waste
- Purchase products that minimize environmental impacts
  - Toxics, pollutions, hazards to worker and community safety to the greatest extent practicable
- purchase products that include recycled content, durable & conserve energy/water

# Public Opinion

- Green is becoming the gold standard
- 88% of Canadians want green qualities in their home
- Over 80% Halton public wanted green cart program
- Willing to pay more to ensure green features or programs

# Triple Bottom Line

- The triple bottom line approach to business as taking environmental social and financial results into consideration in the development and implementation of a corporate business strategy
- Therefore price is not always the deciding factor

# Municipalities as Consumers

## Environmentally Green Purchasing

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# AGENDA

- Purchasing's Mandate
- What is a Green Procurement Policy
- Municipal Role in Zero Waste Goal
- Challenges
- Region of Halton's Achievements
- Potential Solutions

# PURCHASING'S MANDATE

- Competitive bidding
- Open and transparent
- Best Value
  
- Encourage procurement – that results in the preservation of the environment.

# What is Green Procurement

- Environmental consideration to price and performance - criteria used to decide,
- EPP – environmentally preferred purchasing
  - Attempts to identify and reduce environmental impacts and maximize resource efficiency

- from Pollution Prevention Regional Information Center

# Power of Municipal Purchasing

- Municipalities purchase a wide range of products/services:
  - Machinery & Equipment
  - Materials for Construction and Maintenance
  - Medical Supplies
  - Social Service related supplies
- Toronto Total Purchases processed in excess of \$1.0 Billion.
- Force the market place to change with the power of spending
- Incorporate Green standards/certification
- Influence the way others create/develop their products

# Potential Outcome of a Green Procurement Policy

In addition to:

- Environmental sustainability, but more importantly,
- Create a model that encourages other purchasers in our community to adopt similar goals

# Principles Common to Green Procurement

- Pollution Prevention:
  - Avoid creation of waste – start of process rather than managing it after = ZERO WASTE
  - Reduce/eliminate toxicity, air & water emissions

# Principles Common to Green Procurement

- Life Cycle Perspective:
  - Consider costs beyond the purchase price
  - Consider cost and environmental impact over lifetime of product/service, (packaging, transportation, energy consumption, maintenance, disposal, raw materials)

# Principles Common to Green Procurement

- Resource Efficiency:
  - Give preference to reusable content, recycled materials over virgin materials, as well as conservation of water and energy.

From Pollution Prevention Regional Information Center

# Buying Green

## Things to Consider

- **Source material**
  - What is the material(s) made from
  - Natural/organic sustainable & recycled
- **Manufacturing**
  - How is the product made
  - Lifecycle analyses
- **Use**
  - Effect on the environment while in use
- **Disposal**
  - End life
  - Bio degradable, recycled or disposable

# Encouraging Environmental Preferred Content

- Incorporate into purchasing specs
- **Levels the playing field**
  - Green Seal
  - Energy Star
  - Simple Green
  - Power Smart
  - Hybrids
  - Alternate fuels
  - LEED

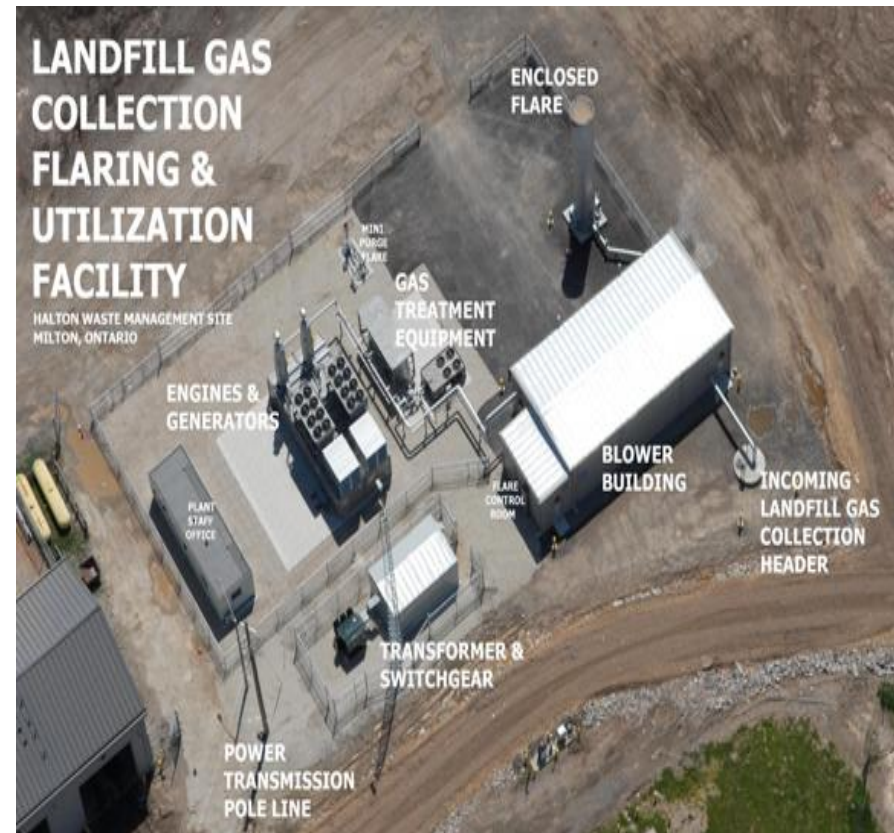


# Challenges to Practice Green Procurement

- Educate Procurement & Program staff
  - Green Certification or Standards
- Purchasing Mandate
  - Require NOT give consideration to Environmentally Preferred Purchases
  - Legislation & By Laws
- Resources
  - Templates/Guidelines to determine what certification or principles are to be considered
  - **Budget**
- Process Changes
  - Specifications
  - Selection Criteria
    - **Life cycle costing/environmental impact**

# Halton's Achievements

- Waste Diversion Program
- Landfill Gas & Collection Project 2MW
- Hybrid Vehicles
- Use of biodiesel and low sulphur emissions
- High efficiency lighting



# Halton's Initiatives In Progress

- Renewable Energy Generation Opportunities
  - Skyway WWTP co-generation project
- Develop Air Quality & Climate Change Plan
- Investigate opportunities to implement combined heat & power recovery systems
  - Environmental & Energy Mgm't System
- Develop a Green Procurement Program

# So what does Halton need to do

- Strategic Objective expanded to identify environmental goals through procurement
- Budget
- Develop a Procurement Policy & Process
  - Green Certification/EPP
- Educate Purchasing and Program staff
- Tools/Templates
- Measure Success and Communicate

# Opportunities to Effect Zero Waste

- Public Awareness
  - Influence manufacturers'
  - Influence elected officials
- Interest Groups/Influencing Factor's
  - MWIN
  - Environmentalists
  - Economy/Health
- Political Commitment
  - Legislation
  - Strategic Objective

Together we Effect Change to  
reach ZERO WASTE



## Next Steps

Partner with other Zero Waste and sustainability advocates to pursue and advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility and other 'upstream' materials management and system re-design solutions. Ensure that these solutions require manufacturers to assume Strategic Plan for Zero Waste responsibility for managing end-of-life products and materials, and that they do so in a way that conforms to the Environmental Hierarchy

# Next Steps

Continue leadership in development of a Provincial Product Stewardship Council to shift Ontario's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs; drive improvements in product design; and foster reuse, refurbishment, and repair