

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate release

COUNCILLOR CONTINUES TO WORK FOR COMMUNITY IN FIGHT AGAINST LANDFILL EXPANSION

Stittsville Councillor Shad Qadri would like to clarify certain misunderstandings about key points made at Ottawa City Council's meeting on July 14 regarding Waste Management's proposal to expand the Carp Road Landfill.

"While some may suggest that I want the landfill to be relocated elsewhere, that is not the case. I am 100 per cent against creating or expanding any landfill facility anywhere," said Councillor Qadri. "My point has always been that burying waste in this day and age does not make sense. We need other alternatives and solutions. We have access to them and we have more modern solutions rather than the landfill option."

The City is able to manage with such modern programs as its blue and black box recycling, and organics programs, while working on additional modern solutions such as plasafication with the Plasco technology.

"I would also suggest that the Trail Road Landfill is as modern as any that Waste Management would construct and in fact, there are technologies in use there that Waste Management would do well to copy," added Qadri.

The current landfill facility on Trail Road, just to clarify, will soon only handle very small amounts of residual waste far less than the 80 per cent that the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector sends to landfills. Plasco's pilot project is also located at this site so the facility is currently serving as more than just a garbage dump.

The City has a memorandum of understanding with the Plasco Energy Group for a 400 tonnes per day plant to handle residential waste and it is expected Ministry of Environment approval will be obtained in the near future to allow for the construction of this Canadian solution for waste to energy production.

Qadri is working to see construction and demolition waste recycled and was successful in having City Council approve a motion on this topic.

"I am continuing to support increased diversion and am investigating options to have organics banned from all landfills, both municipal and private sector which will further enhance the composting of organics and reduce the amount going into landfills," stated Qadri.

The provincial target of 60 per cent diversion rate for IC&I waste is achievable with alternative technologies. In fact, with these alternate solutions, a diversion rate of up to 90 per cent is attainable, which has been proven in other countries, such as Sweden.

The more landfill space created, the less incentive there is to develop new recycling technologies and other initiatives. Limiting the amount of landfill space forces to look for better and less expensive options in recycling, diversion and alternative disposal technologies.

The City's new Green Bin Program combined with Plasco Technology's plasmafication system provides better and more effective waste disposal for the citizens of Ottawa than the archaic process of burying waste. These new technologies and diversion strategies that are currently available mean that no new expansions of landfill are needed in Ottawa. The residents of Ottawa are currently diverting over 42% of their waste stream, and this is increasing monthly with the Green Bin program, and will be even higher with Plasco online.

“We are diverting two and one half times as much waste as the IC & I sector, it's time they joined the race,” said Qadri. “I am disappointed that Council did not agree on my recommendation for a rejection of Waste Management’s Terms of Reference, however, the motion that was passed sends a strong message to the Ministry of Environment. I will continue to work on behalf of my constituents and the City as a whole regarding this issue. I also hope to arrange a meeting with Environment Minister John Gerretsen to address concerns in person.”

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