

BurlingtonGreen

Dear Members of Burlington Council,

BurlingtonGreen understands that you will soon be making decisions regarding two items with environmental implications that we would like to respectfully offer our input to for your consideration.

On March 26, at your Community and Corporate Services Meeting, we believe you will be voting on a bylaw that would provide the Region of Halton with the authorization to oversee matters regarding waste management. BurlingtonGreen hopes that each of you will vote to support this important bylaw that will allow the Region to move forward with its' programs designed to meet or exceed Ontario's waste diversion goal of 60%, while extending the life of our landfill.

Now, more than ever before, the state of our planet requires our municipal leaders and citizens to work together with a unified vision to take action to make a difference. Supporting this bylaw will demonstrate this cooperation and commitment to the environment.

On April 9, at the Region's Planning & Public Works meeting, we believe you will be reviewing the proposal regarding the acceptance of the privately owned, Algonquin Power's incinerator bottom ash. BurlingtonGreen does not support this proposal and recommends that the current pilot project accepting this waste be stopped.

We recognize that as our municipal leaders, you are expected to evaluate the facts of a given issue and make your decisions accordingly. One of the key challenges with the bottom ash contract proposal is that the necessary facts are not known. Inadequate annual testing on the incinerated waste does not provide you with the information and assurance you need in order to carry out your important responsibilities to safeguard human health and protect the environment.

Using the bottom ash from the Algonquin Power incinerator will offer no benefits to the people of Halton but it may pose potential hazards. A unified vote in opposition to this proposal from all Burlington Councillors will demonstrate that this is not a risk you are willing to take.

The argument that acceptance of this material to Halton will reduce the current transport distance to Sarnia and therefore lower GHG emissions is not a position consistent with proactive, preventative sustainable practices. Providing a risky end-of –the-pipe "solution" to clean-up another municipalities waste material does not accurately reflect this Council's approved strategic plan to "*be a clean, green and environmentally healthy city where the city actively participates and encourages environmentally responsible programs, policies and actions that work to improve and restore our natural environment*". We believe that acceptance of the bottom ash would be a contradiction to this important principle.

BurlingtonGreen hopes that you will stand behind your commitment to build a sustainable city by voting yes to support the waste management bylaw and no to the acceptance of potentially toxic bottom ash.

Respectfully,
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Communications Co-Chair/Website
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