



Agenda Operations Committee

September 18, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

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None.	
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None.	

8.d Transit

None.

8.e Water and Wastewater

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There are no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There are no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

11.a Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup - World Rivers Day September 28, 2025

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11.b Grey County Joint Municipal Services Committee Report Re: Waste
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12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

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Minutes

Operations Committee

June 26, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Scott Greig
Vice Chair Carol Merton
Member Donald Anderson
Member Arlene Blue Indoe
Member Robert Droine
Member Michele Hawkins
Councillor Brock Hamley (via video)
Councillor Suneet Kukreja

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Mike Crone

STAFF PRESENT: Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Chris Webb, Manager of Engineering Services
Bruce McDonald, Manager of Water and Wastewater
Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Manan Monga, Engineering Technologist
Riley Brugess, By-law Enforcement Officer
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greig called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Member Anderson Re: Recognizing Helen Keller

2.b Chair Greig Re: Tender for 9th Ave East and 6th St East

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. a Councillor Hamley – Item 8.b.1 Report OP-25-024 Re: Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest during discussions arising out of item 8.b.1 regarding the Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup grant funding agreement, due to his personal employment with the Government of Ontario.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on May 15, 2025

OP-250626-001

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT the Operations Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on May 15, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a Presentation from Jeff Graham and Timothy Larose of GSS Engineering Re: 16th Avenue East - 17th Street East to 20th Street East Sanitary Sewer Replacement

The Manager of Engineering Services introduced the consultant and provided a brief overview of the presentation.

Timothy Larose and Jeff Graham of GSS Engineering provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 16th Ave E -17th St E to 20th St E Sanitary Sewer Replacement highlighting the details of the project, cost estimates, and project schedule.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Larose noted that the goal is to keep the project within the road base, including the portion of the salt road. Mr. Graham added that the fill from the project will be kept at the location as much as possible.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Webb clarified that there will be a servicing agreement with the developer of the proposed hotel in this area for their contractor to install the multi-use path and pedestrian facilities, as well as outlining that the cost of sanitary and water servicing to the property line will be the responsibility of the developer. Mr. Larose added that there is currently no existing sidewalk at that point on 16th Ave E where the proposed hotel would be located.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Larose noted that while the contractor includes a detour plan, they are planning for one lane of the roadway to remain open during the majority of the construction period, and that there will be a full detour plan in place at the time when watermain service to the hotel is being provided.

"THAT in consideration of the presentation on June 26, 2025 from GSS Engineering respecting 16th Ave E - 17th St E to 20th St E Sanitary Sewer Replacement, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the presentation for information purposes."

Carried.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Transit

8.a.1 Verbal Report from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Transit Dashboard January to May 2025

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the Transit Dashboard from January to May 2025, highlighting transit revenue statistics and ridership trends and distributions.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that there is not currently signage at bus stops indicating bus schedule times, and that information is found either online or on the mobile app.

OP-250626-003

Moved by Member Anderson

"THAT in consideration of the verbal report provided June 26, 2025 respecting Transit Dashboard January to May 2025, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.b Environment

8.b.1 Report OP-25-024 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen clarified that while the Georgian Bay Folk Society is working with the City for this event, other groups and individuals are also welcome to participate.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen clarified that the funds in the grant funding agreement are being received from the Province through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest at this time due to his employment with the Government of Ontario and turned his camera off for the remainder of this discussion.

OP-250626-004

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-024 respecting Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the grant funding agreement with Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative."

Carried.

Councillor Hamley turned his camera back on and rejoined the meeting.

8.c Engineering

8.c.1 Report OP-25-016 from the Manager of Engineering Services Re: Roads Condition Update

The Manager of Engineering Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Webb clarified that the range of fees in the report are for 3 cycles of inspections happening over a 6-year period.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Webb noted that the data collected could provide the City with pavement condition indexes and additional information to monitor our transit system routes in the future.

OP-250626-005

Moved by Vice Chair Merton

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-016 respecting Roads Condition Update, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.c.2 Report OP-25-023 from the Engineering Technologist Re: Traffic By-law Amendments - On-street Parking, Loading and Stopping Regulations

The Manager of Engineering Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 1a., Mr. Monga clarified that the stretch of 16th St W between 5th Ave W and 8th Ave W currently has a sidewalk on the north side.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 1c., Mr. Monga clarified that new signage would state the specific time allowances as applicable.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Webb noted that parking enforcement is normally initiated by complaints, other than within the River District that has regular parking enforcement. The By-law Enforcement Officer added that officers can schedule times to monitor school zones as needed and that they do issue tickets if they see an infraction while out on route. Mr. Brugess added that it is best to report infractions during business hours through owensound.ca/reportaconcern or by phone, and after-hours it is best to contact the police non-emergency line.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 1c., Mr. Monga noted that the main concern with this section of 15th St 'A' E is the stopping that occurs during school hours, which ends after 4pm and therefore this would be consistent with other school zone verbiage.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 3., Mr. Monga noted there are approximately 12-15 parking spots that would be included in the proposed 2-hour parking limit. He added that for one of the spots to be marked as accessible, it would need to be a paved spot, which this off-shoulder parking is not.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Brugess clarified that the recommendation does not change what is currently prohibited, but instead changes the mechanism for staff to enforce the issue of parking on yards of residential properties.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Brugess noted that there has been approximately 10 complaints relating to this issue in the past year. Ms. Widdifield added that these issues are typically monitored on a complaint basis.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Brugess clarified that this amendment only pertains to residential and private property and does not include on-street parking in areas that have no street parking regulations.

Councillor Hamley left the meeting.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Bruggess noted that this change is recommended based on feedback from the City's prosecutor as well as to increase efficiency.

In response to a question from Committee regarding recommendation 7., Mr. Bruggess noted that an educational campaign and a period of issuing warnings would take place before ticketing persons for this infraction.

OP-250626-006

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-023 respecting Traffic By-law Amendments – On-street Parking, Loading and Stopping Regulations, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to amend Traffic By-law No. 2009-075 to include:

- 1. The following parking and stopping prohibitions:**
 - a. The prohibition of parking on 16th Street West from 5th Avenue West to 8th Avenue West – Both sides of the road;**
 - b. The prohibition of parking on 9th Avenue East from 23rd Street East to 25th Street East - Both Sides of the road; and**
 - c. The prohibition of stopping on 15th Street 'A' East from 8th Avenue East to 9th Avenue East - South side of the road;**
- 2. The removal of an on-street parking stall on the north side of 9th Street East, west of the driveway for the parking lot of 901 2nd Avenue East;**
- 3. The implementation of a '2-hour parking limit' for the perpendicular parking on the west side of 1st Avenue East, north of 12th Street East;**
- 4. The elimination of Schedule 21C – Loading and Unloading Zone;**
- 5. The amendment of Schedule 8 – No Parking Anytime – for 8th Street East:**
 - a. To remove the on-street parking prohibition on 8th Street East from 4th Avenue East to 5th Avenue East - South side of the road; and**
 - b. To revise the on-street parking prohibition that indicates 9th Avenue East to 28th Avenue East – both sides of the road to 5th Avenue East to 28th Avenue East – both sides of the road; and**

6. The elimination of Schedule 9E – No Parking – 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM – Monday to Friday and the amendment to Schedule 8 – No Parking Anytime – to include 7th Avenue East, south of 6th Street East."

Carried.

8.d Public Works

8.d.1 Report OP-25-030 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: 2023-2025 Winter Control Operational Update

The Director of Public Works and Engineering provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that spring cleanup is still in progress, and that there may be some changes to routes, road ratings and staffing ahead of next winter once this is completed.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield clarified that in addition to snowplow routes, sidewalk plow routes will also be investigated for efficiencies.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that untreated salt was used from 2012-2014, treated salt was used from 2014-2018, and a 2 to 1 mix of treated salt and sand has been used from 2018 to present. She added that it can be a challenge to find a road salting solution that works as well as possible while remaining within environmental and fiscal limitations.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that the costs included in the report do not include the costs of the sweeper and vacuum trucks used for cleanup after the winter.

OP-250626-007

Moved by Member Blue Indoe

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-030 respecting 2023-2025 Winter Control Operational Update, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.e Water and Wastewater

8.e.1 Report OP-25-027 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Water Management By-law

The Director of Public Works and Engineering provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield clarified that while there are condominium complexes where each unit has their own meter, typically there is only one City water meter per property.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that offering leak adjustments risks transferring the burden of a homeowner's negligence or lack of maintenance to the City, and that additional guidelines would need to be in place to offer these. The Manager of Water and Wastewater added that the goal of the by-law is to encourage responsible utility usage.

OP-250626-008

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-027 respecting , the Operations Committee recommends that City Council approve the recommendations in the report and direct staff to:

- 1. Bring forward a by-law substantially in the form of the Draft Water Management By-law attached to the report, pending further refinement by Clerk's staff; and**
- 2. Bring forward a by-law to amend the Delegation of Authority By-law to include the delegation of powers outlined in the Water Use By-law to the Director of Public Works and Engineering."**

Carried.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Recognizing Helen Keller

Member Anderson communicated that there is an event on June 27 for the Day of Recognition for Helen Keller, and provided background information on the importance of her legacy and remarkable accomplishments.

12.b Tender for 9th Ave East and 6th St East

Deputy Mayor Greig shared that City Council has awarded the tender for the 9th Ave E and 6th St E capital project to E.C. King and that construction is now underway.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Greig adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.



Water Treatment Plant Filter Improvement Update

Operations Committee

September 18th, 2025

Background

The City of Owen Sounds, Neath Water Treatment plant utilizes direct a filtration process which means there is no sedimentation or removal of particulates and organic matter between the coagulation and filtration process. This process is generally quite acceptable with low turbidity source water but can result in heavy filter loading in times of higher turbidity. Heavy filter loading requires increased backwashing to maintain water quality.



So why the need to upgrade?

1. Current backwash process without air scouring was not achieving optimal media separation resulting in shorter filter run times
2. Backwash processes without air scour require significantly more water depleting our storage and increasing treatment costs
3. Current underdrain system was not compatible with air scour or advanced filter medias to better support any desire future taste and odour control media
4. Many filter components were at the end of their useful lifecycle
5. Climate change impacts have resulted in more high turbidity events and warmer source water temperatures

Climate Change Resiliency

Climate change and the increased frequency of significant weather events results in source water quality challenges including more frequent and longer duration turbidity events. The addition of air scour provides faster, more efficient backwashes to conserve water supply. Warmer source water temperatures and nutrient loading add to the potential for increased algae blooms that can create excessive filter loading and taste and odour concerns, the new underdrains are better equipped to handle advanced filter medias



Progress to Date

Significant work has been completed to date, and the bulk of the heavy electrical and mechanical work is behind us

- Backwash Blowers Installed
- Process Piping
- HVAC duct work
- Electrical
- Filter 1 Underdrain Installation and Concrete Repair
- Automation and Programming
- Instrumentation including UV and Turbidimeters

Backwash Air Scour Blower



Large Diameter Process Piping



Duct Work



Process Electrical



Filter 1 Underdrains



Challenges

This project is not unlike many retro fit or process upgrade projects at an aging facility that utilizes an existing footprint. Some of challenges we have worked through and are anticipating moving forward include:

- Blower fitment and installation
- HVAC routing
- TSSA
- Backwash pump and motor performance
- Ultrasonic flow meter accuracy and performance
- Availability of qualified construction site inspectors
- Original design decisions including clear well access
- Limited redundancy with backwash pumps
- Lack of in-house professional project management support
- Staff Overtime
- Operating with reduced capacity during weather events

Current Status and Schedule

We are currently testing and reviewing backwash pump operations and flow measuring devices to ensure we can achieve proper flow rate for underdrain and filter commissioning. The first filter should be commissioned in the up coming weeks.

The most recent schedule shows substantial completion targeted for April 2026. Our consultant is currently reviewing the contractors most recent schedule adjustment and will have comments this week.



Questions?

Staff Report

Report To: Operations Committee
Report From: Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Meeting Date: September 18, 2025
Report Code: OP-25-035
Subject: Automotive Materials Stewardship Inc Amending Agreement

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-035 respecting Automotive Materials Stewardship Inc Amending Agreement, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Amending Agreement with Automotive Materials Stewardship Inc. (AMS) for the collection of used oil filters, empty oil containers and used antifreeze as outlined in the report.

Highlights:

- In 2024, 1,045 kg of empty oil containers and 450 kg of antifreeze were collected at Household Hazardous and Special Products events.
- The Amending Agreement guarantees municipalities a minimum payment of \$500 per collection event, with annual rate increases tied to the Ontario Consumer Price Index beginning in 2026.
- The Amending Agreement will provide approximately \$4,000 annually to support Household Hazardous and Special Products events, which will be distributed among participating municipalities on a prorated basis.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Green City.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by creating conditions to minimize health and safety risks.

Previous Report/Authority:

[OP-24-006 Amending Agreement with Automotive Materials Stewardship Inc](#)

[OP-21-033 Service Agreement for Municipal Hazardous and Special Products](#)

Background:

In 2024, the City entered into an Amending Agreement with Automotive Materials Stewardship Inc (AMS) to collect used oil filters, empty oil containers, and antifreeze. The current practice involves City Staff coordinating with an approved AMS contractor to pick up these materials within one or two business days (or as needed) after each Household Hazardous and Special Products event, at no cost to the City. In 2024, 1,045 kg (1.045 tonnes) of empty oil containers and 450 kg (0.5 tonnes) of antifreeze were collected at the Household Hazardous and Special Products events.

Currently, the City does not receive funding from AMS for the collection of empty oil containers and antifreeze.

Analysis:

Under the Amending Agreement with Automotive Materials Stewardship (AMS), Municipalities/Collectors will receive a guaranteed minimum payment of \$500 for each collection event, even if little or no material is collected. Beginning in 2026, payment rates (excluding the minimum) will increase each year in line with the Ontario Consumer Price Index, and AMS also has the ability to raise rates at any time with 15 days' notice.

Collectors are required to maintain at least the same number of depots and events that were operated two years prior (or the current year, whichever is less). The Amending Agreement is in place until December 31, 2030, and

will automatically renew for an additional five years unless it is terminated earlier.

Financial Implications:

This Amending Agreement will provide an additional \$4,000 annually towards Household Hazardous and Special Products events which will be distributed to each participating municipality on a prorated basis.

Communication Strategy:

The City actively promotes Hazardous and Special Waste events through:

- Waste management calendar.
- Owen Sound Waste Management webpage.
- Media Advisories are issued before each event, promoting the upcoming event and each remaining event date.
- Each event is promoted on social media platforms.

Each participating municipality is responsible for promoting the events as well.

Consultation:

Automotive Materials Stewardship (AMS) Field Services Specialist.

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services

Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services at hjennen@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 Ext 3223.

GREAT LAKES COASTAL CLEANUP 2025



Hosted by:



**GREAT LAKES AND
ST. LAWRENCE**
CITIES INITIATIVE

Funded by the Government of Ontario

World Rivers Day September 28, 2025

Six Communities. One Purpose:
Cleaner Great Lakes.



Chatham-Kent, Cobourg, Collingwood,
Kingston, Owen Sound, and Thunder Bay

To:	Chair and Members of the Joint Municipal Services Committee
Committee Date:	July 29, 2025
Subject / Report No:	CAOR-JMS-11-25
Title:	Waste Management Community of Practice – Share Opportunities
Prepared by:	Niall Lobley, Deputy CAO
Reviewed by:	
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All

Recommendation

1. That report CAOR-JMS-11-25 be received by the Joint Municipal Services Committee; and
2. That members of the Community of Practice be encouraged to provide as update to respective member municipality Councils and;
3. That based on Council feedback the Community of Practice identify priorities for collaborative and/or shared services in respect to waste collection.

Executive Summary

This report outlines the work being undertaken by the Waste Management Community of Practice and seeks endorsement by the Shared Services Committee to share an update with member municipalities in respect of next steps.

In October 2020, the Municipality of Meaford passed a resolution in favour of the County assuming responsibility for waste management. [The resolution](#) was circulated to member municipalities with the Councils of the City of Owen Sound, the Town of Hanover responding in support, the Town of the Blue Mountains in opposition and no response from the other municipalities.

In 2021, staff [sought approval for a project](#) to be considered under the Provincial Municipal Modernization Fund that would undertake a review of existing waste management services across Grey County with a view to making recommendations around potential efficiencies. Unfortunately, this work was not able to be completed due to competing priorities on staff time and given the tight funding deadlines.

In late 2023, through discussions at both the CAO table and at the Climate Change Community of Practice, it became clear that there were common elements of concern in respect to waste

collections. Based on these, a Community of Practice was struck which began meeting in early 2024. The group has met six times since.

This work is supported by both the Grey County Strategic Plan and Going Green in Grey:

- Priority 2 of [Working Together for Success](#) is Building Communities for the Future identifies the following actions:
 - Assess potential for county wide waste management services focusing on efficiency and diversion from landfill, and,
 - Complete regional waste management assessment
- [Going Green In Grey](#) Action 5 identifies the need to support Waste Diversion and specifically the need to
 - Support waste diversion initiatives and resource-sharing in municipalities
 - Promote community waste diversion initiatives and re-use events

Background and Discussion

Waste collection practices are changing and evolving. In 2016 the Province passed two significant legislative elements, the [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016](#) and the [Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016](#). Together, these Acts form the legislative foundation for Ontario's shift toward a producer-led, circular economy that minimizes waste and maximizes resource recovery. Underlining much of this work is a shift toward producer responsibility, also known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which means that producers (the companies that design, create, and market products and packaging) are legally responsible for managing the waste generated from their products throughout the entire lifecycle, including after consumers are done using them.

Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 (RRCEA)

This Act is part of Ontario's "Waste-Free Ontario" strategy and aims to:

- Promote a circular economy by encouraging the reduction, reuse, and recycling of materials.
- Establish a provincial interest in resource recovery and waste reduction.
- Enable the creation of regulations for extended producer responsibility (EPR), making producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products and packaging.
- Create the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) to oversee compliance and enforce regulations.
- Require producers to register, report, and meet performance targets for waste diversion.

Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016 (WDTA)

This Act:

- Facilitates the transition from the old Waste Diversion Act, 2002 to the new framework under the RRCEA.
- Allows for the winding down of existing waste diversion programs (like Blue Box and MHSW) and the transfer of responsibilities to producers under the new EPR model.
- Provides the legal tools to manage the transition process, including oversight by RPRA and the Minister of the Environment.

These legislative tools are a decade old; implementation through regulation has been progressive and continues. For example, various regulations have;

- Implemented EPR for tires, batteries and electronics
- Initiated the municipal 'blue box' program transition to a new, province-wide EPR framework which will be fully implemented in early 2026

Changes have been experienced in other areas as well; some communities have seen mandated requirements to implement green bin and organic diversion programs, and all municipalities have provincial targets for waste to landfill reductions that they should be working toward.

These progressive changes to waste collection are causing significant shifts in the collection industry. New technologies, increased need for waste separation and a sizeable shift in the commercial and procurement environment around waste are having direct effects on communities and the ways in which municipalities handle waste.

The Community of Practice model was implemented, stemming from the discussions in 2020/2021 to provide a forum for local municipalities to share information, initially with a focus on the impending transition of 'blue box' recycling materials and implementing waste targets within both the Counties and member municipality climate action plans.

The Community of Practice has become a valued forum for discussing waste collection pressures and as a result, discussions around future potential efficiencies have arisen.

There are several elements of waste collection which are currently shared between member municipalities.

- Chatsworth and Grey Highlands share a landfill at the Holland-Markdale site
- Hanover and Brockton share a landfill site
- Georgian Bluffs and Meaford currently contribute to the City of Owen Sound leaf and yard waste site to enable residents to access the site
- Georgian Bluffs, Meaford, Chatsworth, Grey Highlands contribute toward the City of Owen Sound household hazardous waste collection program for residents to access these facilities

There are also notable differences between communities across Grey in respect to waste collection.

- Bag tag fees are collected by some, and not by others; tag fees are variable
- Amount of garbage permitted is variable
- Some municipalities collect source separated organics, others do not
- Some collect bagged waste while others have transitioned to carts
- Some municipalities provide access to broader recycling opportunities for products such as Styrofoam and battery recycling, building waste and textile recycling while others rely on private commercial contractors for receiving this material, or do not provide recycling/diversion options.

In short, community experiences and access to waste collection services are highly variable across Grey and there are well established partnerships between municipalities.

Against this backdrop, the Community of Practice has identified some initial areas where potential exists to explore further collaboration. The desired outcome of this would be to enhance efficiency and cost effectiveness while delivering sustainable waste collection services.

The following areas have been identified for potential exploration where further coordination may deliver community benefit and realize both efficiencies and cost-effective service delivery:

- **Partner on Recycling and Diversion services** – reduce waste to landfill by offering collection of items that are not currently recycled or collected such as construction waste, Styrofoam, mattresses, lumber, bale wrap etc.
- **Joint educational campaigns** to manage illegal dumping, support household waste reduction, increase composting and recycling rates
- **Joint procurement of waste collection services**; exploring shared collection services, or uploading of services for household waste collection
- Develop **regional composting facilities** to support localized organic waste composting
- **Collaborate and partner regionally on household hazardous waste programs** and drop off sites/locations
- Identify potential opportunities for **landfill sharing and access**
- Explore the potential locally for **waste to energy partnerships**

Many of these areas for potential collaboration could be further explored through the development of a **Combined Waste Master Plan** which could identify priorities for joint services. While some of the above topics could be considered more readily achieved, such as running joint educational campaigns or investigating wider sharing of household hazardous waste contracts, many reflect significant projects and all will require both time and resources to further investigate and implement. There could be some elements of work that there is interest in across all member municipalities while other elements may draw interest from some but not all member municipalities.

Next Steps

Staff are seeking the Joint Municipal Services committees feedback and comments in respect to the work of the Community of Practice and potential for seeking service efficiencies and cost effectiveness of those services in respect to waste collection.

Following feedback from the Joint Municipal Services committee, staff will coordinate a discussion with the Community of Practice before members provide updates and discussion with individual member municipal councils to help inform priorities for further work.

Legislated Requirements

Member municipalities are required to undertake actions under the Circular Recovery Act and Waste Diversion Act and regulations stemming from them. This work can help municipalities meet requirements under these Acts.

Legal Considerations

None at this time; future projects stemming from this work may require future agreements to be developed.

Financial and Resource Implications

Currently, no resources are dedicated to this work aside from the staff resources dedicated toward sharing of information through the Community of Practice.

Relevant Consultation

- ☐ Internal (list)
 - ☐ AODA Compliance (describe)
 - ☒ Contribution to Climate Change Action Plan Targets: Going Green in Grey identifies a target of 30% solid waste and 50% of organic waste being diverted away from Landfill by 2050
- ☒ External (list) CAOs and Waste Management Community of Practice.

Appendices and Attachments

[Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016](#)

[Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016](#)