

## **Study provides the 'true cost' of waste management options for Region's organics**

NIAGARA REGION, January 21, 2008 – As part of its ongoing level of service review, Niagara Region's Waste Management Services Division commissioned a study to assess the 'true costs' associated with composting its more than 47,000 tonnes of Green Bin (self separated) organics. The study results show that while the Region will be paying about \$86.50 per tonne to compost organics, its 'true cost', as clearly outlined in the detailed study, is only \$19.66 per tonne.

"'True costs' represent the cost of operations minus the environmental cost of each option," said Barry Friesen, director, Waste Management Services. "The environmental cost is calculated by giving a value to items like greenhouse gas emissions." As part of the 'true cost' analysis, the report showed it is far cheaper, and significantly less damaging to the environment, to compost organics than to otherwise dispose of them.

Recent waste audits showed that, on average, over one-third of the material in Niagara residents' garbage bags is organic. "We need more of our citizens to participate in separating organic material into the Green Bin for composting," said Mr. Friesen. "The study shows that composting the Region's organics is by far the most beneficial option for our environment and our wallet; two more good reasons for residents to participate in the Green Bin program."

The study will be presented on Tuesday, January 22, to the Region's Waste Management Planning Steering Committee.

- 30 -

Contact:

Barry Friesen  
Director, Waste Management Services  
905-685-4225 ext. 3642  
Cell - 905-401-1062

Clarissa Morawski (Study Author)  
CM Consulting  
416-682-8984