

Let's Talk Trash about the Future of Waste Management

Tracy Annett

Senior Environmental Engineer



Region of Waterloo

Agenda

- Project background and overview
- What is the circular economy
- Current state of waste management
- Phase 1 Engagement
- Questions



Project background



- Address changing waste management needs of our growing community
- Support sustainable and affordable waste management practices
- Strategy framework for the next 25 years, with completion anticipated by spring 2026

Project purpose and goals

- Establish a 25-year framework to:
 - Minimize environmental impacts
 - Manage waste sustainably, affordably, and responsibly
 - Align with provincial and federal regulations
 - Foster a circular economy
 - Improve system efficiencies
 - Enhance public awareness and engagement
 - Foster collaboration and explore relationships



Project timeline

Phase 1 – Build the Foundation – spring 2025

Phase 2 – Evaluate the Possibilities – fall 2025

Phase 3 – Create a Roadmap – winter 2026



Mission and Guiding Principles

Mission

To develop a sustainable and inclusive long-term waste management strategy, in consultation with our community, that is environmentally, socially and fiscally responsible while meeting our current and future needs

Principles

- **Collaborate** with community and Region partners to achieve climate and energy consumption reduction targets.
- **Align** waste management services with the principles of a circular economy.
- **Explore** new and additional opportunities to reduce waste.

What is the Circular Economy?

- Minimizes waste by extending product and material use
- Reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover to maximize resource efficiency
- Creates a continuous loop of resource repurposing for environmental and economic benefits



Region's Waste Management System



Responsibilities:

Management of eligible residential dwelling waste, including collection, diversion and disposal, and some industrial, commercial and institutional waste.

Waste Collection



Curbside collection includes garbage, green bin, yard waste, Christmas trees, metal, bulky items and appliance collection

Materials Found in Garbage



How to get involved

Visit us online:

www.engagewr.ca/LTWMS



Questions?

Tracy Annett
LTWMS@regionofwaterloo.ca

