Northumberland County

Joint Operations Base (JOB) Feasibility/ Needs Study

Waste Operations

Presentation Overview

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Waste Operations Overview

- The Public Works Department – Waste Operations is responsible for waste management services
- The County manages three active disposal sites (one landfill and two waste transfer stations) along with monitoring and maintenance of 8 closed landfills
  - Brighton Landfill and CRC
  - Seymour CRC
  - Bewdley CRC
- Bewdley CRC would benefit most from the Joint Operations Base – focus presentation on Bewdley CRC
- Formerly operated Material Recovery Facility (MRF) which was sold in January 2024

Staffing Complement

Bewdley Community Recycling Center (CRC) waste operations:

- 11 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff
  - 6 staff supporting waste operations
  - 5 staff working in the portable trailer onsite due to loss of office space from the sale of MRF

Bewdley CRC Working Conditions
Slide 1

- 14 acres, 1 building
  - Scale house (250 sf) – 35 years old
  - Quonset shelter (1,200 sf) – 8 years old
  - Mobile field office trailer (160 sf) – 5 years old
  - Mobile office/ washroom trailer (200 sf) – 1 year old
- Facility is over capacity during peak times causing:
  - Long line ups at inbound and outbound scales
  - Traffic backups onto CR 9
  - Vehicle congestion within the site a various drop-off locations
  - Delays when exchanging bins

Bewdley CRC Working Conditions
Slide 2

- Scale house is in poor condition and utilizes an outhouse for employees and public
- Increase in material sorting and diversion since original site conception has resulted in inefficient traffic flow on site and an increase in hazards to workers and public
- Facility provides limited environmental containment measures
- Structures are aging and will require replacement
- Does not meet AODA requirements for public or staff

Bewdley CRC Current Challenges
Slide 1

- Annual visits increased from 47,000 to 71,000 over 10 years (51%)
- Despite considerable efforts to accommodate increasing demand by adapting the site layout, the site continues to have limited capacity
- The overall result is a facility that struggles to meet existing operational needs, environmental regulations, and public service expectations

Bewdley CRC Current Challenges
Slide 2

- There is no room to expand on the current site and the facility is reaching the end of its useful life
- Long lines during peak times have created traffic hazards and visibility issues at the entrance to the site on CR 9
- Current facility does not align with the County's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Current Conditions/Challenges – Slide 1

Washroom, Changeroom & Storage

Poor vehicle accessibility to waste bins

Hazardous waste storage area

Limited storm water control

Office trailer with water & septic holding tanks

Supervisor office/ lunchroom

Current Conditions/Challenges - Slide 2

Looking Ahead – Slide 1

- Trips to Bewdley CRC have grown 5% per year for the last 10 years and are expected to continue to grow
- Population forecasted to grow to 122,000 by 2051(1% per year)
- Bewdley CRC does not have capacity to handle existing and future demands
- Waste Services staff need a permanent facility for current staff and future needs

Looking Ahead – Slide 2

- Alternative option if JOB does not proceed would be to construct a new modern community recycling center at a cost of ~ $5 million. This would include:
  - Purchasing a new property
  - Construction of several new buildings (Administration Building, 2 Scale Houses, HHW Building, and Large Waste Receiving Building)
  - Installing new weigh scales, concrete bunkers, interior roads, environmental controls, etc.

Estimated Future Operating Cost

The future operating cost savings of a new CRC compared to co-locating the new CRC at the new energy-efficient JOB will be minimal but will provide improved operating efficiencies.

1. **Long-Term Cost Management:** Initial savings may be minimal, but efficient operations and maintenance will support financial sustainability over time.
2. **Streamlined Operations:** Reduces logistical challenges and optimizes staffing, leading to more efficient fleet and facilities maintenance.
3. **Consolidated Facilities:** Combining facilities cuts property maintenance, utilities, and administrative costs.

Overall, Co-locating a CRC with an energy-efficient facility will boost efficiency, support integrated service delivery, and advance sustainability goals, aligning with the County's strategic plan.

Benefits of a New CRC – Slide 1

- A new modern community recycling center will significantly benefit and assist the County to reach the 75% waste diversion rate goal.
  1. **Convenience and Accessibility**: Modern facilities are designed to be easily accessible to residents to drop-off and sort recyclables and waste. This will encourage greater participation in diversion of materials from landfills.
  2. **Enhanced Environmental Benefits**: By diverting recyclable materials from landfills, modern recycling centers help reduce the environmental impact of waste disposal. This includes conserving natural resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and minimizing pollution.

Benefits of a New CRC – Slide 2

3. **Educational Opportunities**: Many modern recycling centers offer educational programs and resources to raise awareness about recycling practices, waste reduction, and environmental sustainability.
4. **Community Engagement and Participation**: Residents may feel more motivated to recycle when they have access to a well-managed facility that supports their efforts.
5. **Cost Efficiency**: Modern facilities often incorporate technologies that improve operational efficiency and reduce long-term operational costs. This can lead to cost savings for the County, potentially resulting in lower fees for residents.

Benefits of a New CRC – Slide 3

6. **Regulatory Compliance**: Investing in a new CRC ensures compliance with environmental regulations and standards for waste management.

In summary, a new modern community recycling center or transfer station benefits the public by providing convenient access to recycling services, promoting environmental stewardship, enhancing community engagement, and supporting economic and environmental sustainability goals.

Benefits of a JOB – Slide 1

The benefits of co-locating the new CRC with a new Joint Operations Base include:

1. **Improve Communication and Resource Allocation**: Consolidating operations facilities county-wide will streamline communication, supervision, and resource allocation. This centralized approach enhances operational synergy and responsiveness.
2. **Enhance Service Delivery and Cost Savings:** Consolidating locations will save time and costs by reducing truck trips, cutting equipment duplication, lowering repair expenses, and optimizing utility use. It also eliminates the need to transport equipment for maintenance between Bewdley CRC and the Cobourg fleet garage.

Benefits of a JOB – Slide 2

3. Improve Workplace Inclusivity: The new facility will be designed to be inclusive and accessible, accommodating diverse needs with features like accessible entrances, workstations, washrooms, changerooms, and lunchrooms. This promotes a supportive and equitable workplace environment.

4. Improve Access: For expediting traffic flow in and out of the new facility, dual weigh scales will be installed at the entrance and exit.

Challenges of a new JOB – Slide 1

While investing in a new Joint Operations facility for Public Works – Waste Operations can bring numerous benefits, there are potential drawbacks and challenges to consider:

1. **Cost Overruns**: Construction projects, especially large-scale ones like a new facility, can often exceed budget estimates due to unforeseen expenses, delays, or changes in scope.
2. **Resistance to Change:** Employees may resist transitioning to a new facility due to concerns about commute times, workspace adjustments, or changes in organizational culture.
3. **Potential for Overcapacity:** If not carefully planned, a new facility could be designed with more capacity than needed, leading to underutilization and inefficiency.

Challenges of a new JOB – Slide 2

4. Community Concerns: Residents or stakeholders might have objections related to noise, traffic, or visual impact of the new facility in their neighborhood.

5. Regulatory and Permitting Issues: Delays or complications in obtaining necessary permits or complying with regulations could slow down the project timeline and increase costs.

6. Technology and Infrastructure Requirements: Upgrading or integrating existing technology and infrastructure with the new facility may require additional investments and expertise.

To address these potential challenges, staff will need to plan accordingly to mitigate risks associated with the implementation of a new Joint Operations Base.

Summary – Slide 1

Investing in a new Joint Operations Base co-located with a new Community Recycling Center is a prudent decision for several reasons:

1. **Infrastructure Renewal:** The current CRC needs replacement to ensure continued effective waste management.
2. **Population Growth:** A larger facility is needed to handle increased waste and recycling demands.
3. **Operational Integration:** Co-locating public works operations with the CRC enhances operational efficiency. It allows for streamlined operations and optimized service delivery.

Summary – Slide 2

4. Accessibility: A new facility would be designed to be inclusive and accessible, meeting the needs of all residents and staff for convenient waste disposal and recycling.

5. Long-Term Viability: Investing in a new facility ensures that County waste management infrastructure is future-proofed to accommodate growth, technological advancements, and evolving regulatory requirements.

A new Joint Operations Base co-located with a CRC is a forward-thinking investment in sustainable County infrastructure, addressing end-of-life issues, meeting population needs, enhancing efficiency, promoting environmental stewardship, and ensuring long-term viability.