
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Council approves preferred location for Organics Processing and Materials Management Facility

Midhurst/ March 22, 2016 – During its meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, County Council approved the location for the co-located Organics Processing Facility (OPF) and Materials Management Facility (MMF) at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater.

Council has also directed staff to proceed with this open process, which will include scoped environmental and engineering studies on the preferred location beginning spring 2016. The County will host two public information sessions on April 19, 2016 at the Simcoe County Museum at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. The procurement process and Request for Proposal (RFP) for organics processing technology will follow. The opportunity for County Council to provide full approvals for development of the OPF is scheduled to occur in 2017 with results of the RFP and business case. Additional approvals from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and local planning authorities will be required.

“Approving the best location was an important milestone in this process as we look to manage and control our waste in a more responsible way,” said Warden Marshall. “Our staff will now focus their efforts on determining site-specific requirements, work to identify technology and continue to engage our neighbours and stakeholders in an open and transparent manner.”

The Preferred Location and Process

2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater ranked first for all three options – an OPF, MMF and a co-located facility. Industry-leading consultants evaluated 502 locations in three screening phases. Although not required for these projects, Environmental Assessment methodology and criteria was applied to the siting evaluation. Extensive public, Aboriginal and stakeholder consultation supported the evaluation process.

Additional Information

Details about the proposed facilities including siting methodology, anticipated costs, completed meetings and reports, and a detailed FAQ can be found at www.simcoe.ca/opf and www.simcoe.ca/mmf. The agenda and staff report can be found at www.simcoe.ca/dpt/clk/amr.

Recently Asked Questions

How large is the facility?

The facility footprint is anticipated to be 11 acres (approx. 5%) of the 207 acre location.

What is the impact on the forest?

Replanting of trees will be considered for trees cleared for construction. Trees not impacted by construction will remain.

Will the property remain open for recreational use after the facility is built?

Yes. Site design will allow for continued use of the forest for recreational purposes.

What is the County's position on forest conservation?

- **Largest in Ontario and Growing:** At more than 32,600 acres and still growing, the Simcoe County Forest is the largest municipally-owned forest in Ontario and among the largest of its kind in Canada with over 150 properties ranging in size from 13 to over 3,500 acres. Simcoe County is one of the few municipalities in Ontario that continue to invest in additional lands to ensure that the substantial environmental, social and economic benefits continue into the future. Within the past decade, the County Forest has expanded by more than 3,600 acres; in 2015 alone, a further 436 acres has been added in Springwater, Oro Medonte and Clearview Townships.
- **Planting new Forests:** More than 20 million trees have been planted within the County Forest since inception, with more than 240,000 seedlings planted within the last five years. Furthermore, \$35,000 from forestry revenues is directed annually to local agencies to support tree planting on private lands within our communities.
- **Self-Sustaining:** The County Forest is economically self-sustaining and operates without the use of tax-dollars. As a 'working forest', approximately 1,200 to 1,500 acres are thinned annually to maintain forest health, improve future timber values and achieve other objectives. Sections of the Freele Tract (located at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater) are scheduled to be assessed for harvesting in 2016/2017. All revenue from the sustainable management of the Forest is directed back into management activities and the strategic acquisition of additional lands. The Simcoe County Forest is wholly owned by the County of Simcoe; it is not Crown land and as a managed forest, it provides an important economic benefit to the County and therefore all residents who enjoy these lands.
- **Stewardship:** County of Simcoe Forestry received re-certification from the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) in 2015, meeting the FSC's strict environmental and social standards. The County first achieved FSC® certification in July 2010, and is widely recognized for its conservation efforts and ongoing forest expansion initiatives. Learn more about the FSC® certification program at <https://ca.fsc.org/index.htm>

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

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