

REGION OF PEEL

REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN

REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT  
NUMBER 21A (ROPA 21A)  
AIR QUALITY AND INTEGRATED WASTE  
MANAGEMENT POLICIES

(Revised November 19, 2009)

Schedule A  
By-Law 110-2009

**PART A – THE PREAMBLE**

1. Purpose of the Amendment

To revise and add policies related to air quality and integrated waste management to the Region of Peel Official Plan.

2. Location

This Amendment applies throughout the Regional Municipality of Peel.

3. Basis

In September 2007, Regional Council endorsed a work program to proceed with a five-year review of the Regional Official Plan (ROP) through the Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) process. The review is considering amendments that are necessary to bring the ROP into conformity with relevant legislation, plans and policies including the Provincial Policy Statement (2005 PPS), the Greenbelt Plan (2005) and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2006).

On March 5, 2009, Regional Council gave direction to circulate Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 (ROPA 21) for comment. At that time, ROPA 21 included proposed policy updates related to natural heritage, agriculture, air quality and integrated waste management, which addressed four of the fifteen focus areas included in the PROPR work program. On November 12, 2009, General Committee of Regional Council considered a staff report recommending adoption of ROPA 21 and, by Resolutions GC-201-2009 and GC-202-2009, recommended adoption of the air quality and integrated waste management policies and deferral of the natural heritage and agriculture policies until additional consultation is completed. In accordance with the Council Resolutions, adoption of ROPA 21 is being considered in two stages. ROPA 21A includes the policies recommended for adoption by General Committee on November 12, 2009 related to air quality and integrated waste management. ROPA 21B will be brought forward at a future date for further consideration of the natural heritage and agriculture policies when additional consultation is completed further to Regional Council's direction.

The Region of Peel Official Plan was initially adopted by Council on July 11, 1996 and approved with modifications by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on October 22, 1996. The Regional Plan was subsequently updated through the ROP Strategic Update (ROPSU) process that was initiated in 2002, as a scoped review of the Official Plan. In 2005, through ROPSU, air quality policies were included in an amendment related to transportation policy in ROPA 16 (Transportation Network and Policies). Since it was initially adopted in 1996 and updated through ROPSU, there have been no further updates or amendments to the ROP's air quality and waste management policies.

Revisions to the Plan's text, glossary and figures are being proposed in ROPA 21A to ensure that policy is up-to-date and conforms to provincial policy

requirements. Further information related to air quality and integrated waste management policies is set out below.

### **Air Quality**

The Air Quality Policy Review component of PROPR addresses the air quality policies in the Official Plan and brings it into conformity with new provincial legislation. The existing Airshed section of the ROP is being amended for the following reasons:

- to conform with Provincial legislation;
- to consider air quality in the context of the rapid growth in population and employment in Peel;
- to address growing concerns related to air quality impacts on human health, the environment and economy;
- to address climate change and the use of fossil fuels; and
- to support sustainability objectives of the ROP.

As part of the air quality policy review process, a discussion paper was completed which included the following information:

- an overview of air pollutants, sources and impacts;
- an assessment of the current air quality situation in Peel Region;
- a summary of best practices and key policy directions; and
- recommendations for Official Plan policy.

Regional staff consulted with the PROPR Air Quality Advisory Committee, which included representatives from all three area municipalities. In addition, a half day consultation workshop was held with key stakeholders to obtain comments on the discussion paper and recommended draft Official Plan policies.

Based on the policy directions outlined in the discussion paper and comments received during the consultations, air quality policies for the Regional Official Plan were developed. The policies contained in ROPA 21 strengthen the current Airshed section of the existing Official Plan and bring the plan into conformity with new provincial legislation. Due to the complex, integrated nature of air quality, there are direct inter-relationships with other PROPR focus areas which are proposing additional air quality related policy amendments. The additional policies are being considered in the sustainability, energy and transportation focus areas.

### **Integrated Waste Management**

The Integrated Waste Management component of PROPR reviews the existing waste management policies in the ROP and brings the Plan into conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement (2005) and Growth Plan (2006). The Growth Plan emphasizes planning for a culture of conservation with references for municipalities to develop the following integrated waste management (IWM) policies: enhanced waste reduction, composting, and recycling; a comprehensive plan with integrated approaches to waste management; promotion of reuse and recycling of construction materials; consideration of waste management

initiatives within the context of long term regional planning and collaboration with the neighbouring municipalities.

A consultation meeting was held with the area municipalities, Waste Management staff, Real Property Assessment staff, Purchasing staff, and external stakeholders for input on the draft discussion paper and draft Official Plan policies. ROPA 21 modifies out of date policies in the existing Official Plan and brings the plan into conformity with new provincial legislation in the following areas: innovative source reduction and reuse measures, industrial, commercial and institutional waste, construction and demolition waste management, impacts of intensification on IWM planning, energy from waste and residual waste, and municipal collaboration.

## **PART B – THE AMENDMENT**

All of the Amendment entitled PART B – THE AMENDMENT, consisting of the attached text and figures constitute Amendment No. 21A to the Region of Peel Official Plan, 1996. The renumbering in the amendments is based on the latest office consolidation which incorporates approved Regional Official Plan Amendment Numbers 15, 16 and 17 to the Regional Official Plan and Regional Council adopted Amendment No. 20.

### a. Amendments to Text

1. Chapter 2, Section 2.2.1.2 is amended by deleting the words “conserve and maintain” and replacing them with the words “conserve, restore and enhance”.
2. Chapter 2, Section 2.2.3 amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

#### **“2.2.3 Air Quality**

Air quality is a significant issue which can negatively affect human health, the environment and economy. Peel is part of a Great Lakes Basin climatic system or airshed. Peel’s air quality is affected not only by local sources of air pollution, but also regional, national and international sources. Larger weather systems may flush out, bring in, or trap polluted air. On average, approximately fifty per cent of the air pollution experienced in Peel comes from sources in the United States. In addition, Peel’s emissions also affect our neighbours downwind.

Air pollution comes from a number of natural and man made sources which include industry, transportation, heating and cooling, dust and forest fires. Poor air quality affects everyone, including healthy individuals. Certain groups of people however, face a greater health risk from poor air quality and are referred to as vulnerable populations. These vulnerable populations include: children, seniors, people with allergies, asthma, heart and/or lung conditions and people who work or exercise outside.

Air has no boundaries and is constantly moving. The Region does not have the authority to regulate air emissions. However, the Region in conjunction with the area municipalities plays a significant role in creating healthier and sustainable

communities. Air quality can be improved by the Region through the land use and infrastructure planning processes and through leadership in reducing emissions associated with corporate operations. Policies to improve air quality are also valuable in mitigating the effects of climate change, as both issues require changes to land use, minimizing use of fossil fuels, decreasing auto modal share and shifting towards alternative energy sources. Policies related to air quality are captured below. However, due to the interrelationships with other sections including transportation, energy and sustainability; policies to address air quality can also be found in other sections of the Official Plan.

#### **2.2.3.1 Goal**

To create healthier and sustainable communities by improving local air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **2.2.3.2 Objectives**

- 2.2.3.2.1 To improve local air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2.2.3.2.2 To promote sustainable development and land use patterns which address public health, transportation systems, energy conservation and environmental concerns.

#### **2.2.3.3 Policies**

It is the policy of Regional Council to:

- 2.2.3.3.1 In consultation with the area municipalities, develop tools to assess the air quality implications of development that minimize adverse human health effects. These tools would be applied to but not limited to development applications and projects that may be insignificant by themselves, but cumulatively are significant.
- 2.2.3.3.2 Develop a multi-stakeholder air quality management plan to provide more detail on policies and strategies for reducing air pollution.
- 2.2.3.3.3 Raise awareness of local air quality issues and climate change through partnerships with all levels of government and the private sector.
- 2.2.3.3.4 In consultation with area municipalities and other levels of government, develop outreach programs to promote air quality and to encourage behaviour change in order to reduce air pollution.
- 2.2.3.3.5 Proactively engage all levels of government and the private sector to promote more health protective emissions standards for vehicles, industries and energy producing facilities.

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- 2.2.3.3.6 Establish corporate targets for greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution reductions to improve local air quality and address climate change.
- 2.2.3.3.7 Support the development of area municipal official plan policies including, but not limited to, setbacks for residential developments, transportation corridors and the separation of sensitive land uses from both planned and existing sources of harmful emissions.
- 2.2.3.3.8 Monitor and model air quality to accurately establish local air emissions in Peel and report on the findings from the monitoring and modelling.”
3. Chapter 6, Section 6.4 is amended by deleting the first paragraph and replacing it with the following:
- “The municipal *waste* generated in *Peel* is managed by means of reuse, recycling, composting, incineration and landfill. In keeping with the sustainability theme of this Plan (environmental, social, economic, and cultural imperatives) *the Region* promotes reductions in material consumption and *waste* generation, and the recognition of *waste* as a valuable resource that, if fully utilized, can have minimal negative impacts on the environment. *The Region* will continue to focus on reduction, reuse, and recycling programs (3Rs), examine and implement *waste* management alternatives that recover resources from the residual waste stream, explore the resource potential of *waste*, strive for a cost-effective *waste* management system, and recognize waste as a valuable source of alternative energy. *Waste* will be managed so as to minimize environmental impacts and emphasize the responsibility of *waste* generators to reduce the amount and type of *waste* generated and bear the costs of collection and management.”
4. Chapter 6, Section 6.4 is amended by deleting the second paragraph and replacing it with the following:
- “*Peel* is also committed to maintaining the Long Term Waste Resource Management Strategy to meet the needs of citizens and businesses.”
5. Chapter 6, Section 6.4 is amended by deleting the third and fourth sentences and by deleting the second sentence in the last paragraph and replacing it with the following:
- “The Caledon landfill site is the only active public landfill site in *Peel*.”
6. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.1.2 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “To promote the integration of the principle and hierarchy of reduction, reuse, and recycling into the decision making of residents, including consumers, businesses, and governments.”
7. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.1 is amended by adding the following new section after Section 6.4.1.2 and by renumbering Section 6.4.1.3 as Section 6.4.1.4:

- “To maximize the recovery of resources from residential and non-residential residual *waste* prior to landfill.”
8. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.1.3 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “To establish and maintain an environmentally responsible and cost-effective system for managing municipal solid *waste*, including *municipal hazardous or special waste*, generated within *Peel Region*.”
9. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2.1 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Maintain, in cooperation with the area municipalities, the Long Term Waste Resource Management Strategy to achieve the *waste* management objectives by focusing on reduction, reuse, and recycling programs, and recovering resources of residual waste prior to landfill.”
10. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2.2 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following
- “Actively encourage, promote and support the efforts of government, the area municipalities, the private sector and the general public which reduce waste, or emphasize reuse, recycling, composting and other minimization options including extended producer responsibility.”
11. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2.3 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Require new *development* to comply with the Peel Waste Collection Design Standards Manual to ensure safe and efficient *waste* collection and diversion through consultation with the area municipalities and applicants.”
12. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2.4 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Require the area municipalities to develop, review, and amend official plan policies to permit waste facilities, including processing and storage in appropriate locations so that the policies do not present unreasonable barriers to development of waste facilities.”
13. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2.5 is amended by deleting the word “disposal” and replacing it with the word “management”.
14. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2 is amended by deleting Sections 6.4.2.6 to 6.4.2.15 and replacing them with the following new sections and sub-headings after Section 6.4.2.5:

- “6.4.2.6 In partnership with the area municipalities, use *procurement* as a method to promote *source reduction* through the significant purchasing power of the Region and the area municipalities.
- 6.4.2.7 Develop specifications where possible for all Regionally funded projects to incorporate materials from *waste* diversion programs where viable to help create stable, sustainable markets for materials from Regional diversion programs.
- 6.4.2.8 Encourage the area municipalities to require developers and contractors to incorporate materials from *waste* diversion programs into construction projects where practical.

#### **Energy from Waste**

- 6.4.2.9 Recognize energy from *waste* facilities and other technologies as options for recovering resources from residual *waste* generated within *Peel Region* prior to landfill.
- 6.4.2.10 Maximize to the extent reasonably practical, the recovery of resources from the *waste* stream such as extracting energy from the residual *waste* stream prior to final disposal.
- 6.4.2.11 Monitor and evaluate technology developments and consider options for recovering energy from *waste* on an on-going basis.
- 6.4.2.12 Request the provincial government to recognize energy from waste as a method of waste diversion to ensure that the maximum resources are extracted from all municipal waste prior to final disposal.
- 6.4.2.13 Encourage the area municipalities to develop guidelines to permit energy from waste facilities in appropriate locations.

#### **Industrial, Commercial & Institutional Waste and Construction & Demolition Waste**

- 6.4.2.14 Encourage the area municipalities to use their authority to issue site approvals and building permits as a means to require materials generated at construction and demolition sites to be diverted and reused.
- 6.4.2.15 Develop *procurement* specifications where possible for all new construction and demolition projects which the Region funds to maximize diversion and reuse requirements and encourage the reuse of construction materials through economic and other incentives.
- 6.4.2.16 Encourage the area municipalities to adopt *procurement* specifications for maximizing diversion and reuse of construction and demolition *waste* for all new construction and demolition projects which the area municipalities fund. Economic and other incentives

should be considered to encourage high reuse of construction and demolition *waste*.

- 6.4.2.17 Explore and consider options to address industrial, commercial and institutional waste diversion such as mandatory recycling plans, pay-as-you-throw, and waste hauler reporting programs.

#### **Intensification**

- 6.4.2.18 Consider economic and policy tools for all multi-residential buildings to encourage *waste* diversion.

#### **Partnerships and Collaboration**

- 6.4.2.19 When exploring the development of new *waste* management infrastructure, consider potential partnerships with neighbouring municipalities and private industry. The partnership can involve a contribution of land, capital, or a commitment to tonnage which will improve the economics of a new facility.

#### **Maintaining Existing and Closed Landfill Sites**

- 6.4.2.20 Recognize the Caledon landfill site, as shown on Figure 10 of the Appendix, as the only active landfill site in *Peel Region*.
- 6.4.2.21 Maintain the operating landfill site in a manner which protects the environment, public health and adjacent land uses.
- 6.4.2.22 View the use of land for landfill during the operational life of the site as an interim land use, until such time the landfill is deemed by the Ministry of the Environment and *Regional Council* to be closed and the land is suitable for other uses.
- 6.4.2.23 Review proposed *development* in proximity to the Caledon landfill site for consistency with the objectives and policies in this Plan, the Town of Caledon Official Plan, and any applicable provincial legislation, policies, standards and guidelines.
- 6.4.2.24 Carefully manage those closed landfill sites which *the Region* owns and rehabilitate them to appropriate uses, determined *jointly* with the area municipalities.
- 6.4.2.25 Direct the area municipalities to develop policies for development including land use compatibility within or on lands in close proximity to active and closed waste management facilities including landfills.”

b. Amendments to Glossary

15. The Glossary definition of “infrastructure” is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

- Infrastructure:** physical structures (facilities and corridors) that form the foundation for development. Infrastructure includes: sewage and water systems, stormwater management works, septage treatment systems, waste management systems, electric power generation and transmission, communications, telecommunications, transit and transportation corridors and facilities, oil and gas pipelines and associated facilities.”
16. The Glossary definition of “municipal hazardous waste” is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Municipal hazardous or special waste:** has the same meaning as in the Waste Diversion Act, 2002, Ontario Regulation 542106 Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste.”
17. The Glossary definition of “municipal special waste” is amended by deleting it in its entirety.
18. The Glossary definition of “waste” is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Waste:** includes anything discarded for collection from any source and litter.”
19. The Glossary is amended by adding the following new definitions:
- Essential:** necessary to the public interest after all reasonable alternatives have been considered.
- Procurement:** preferable goods and services that have a lesser or reduced impact on the environment over the life cycle of the good or service, when compared with competing goods and services serving the same purpose.
- Source Reduction:** changes in the design, use of materials and energy used during the manufacturing or distribution of products and packages to reduce their amount or toxicity before they become municipal solid waste.
20. Where sections have been renumbered by this amendment, the Regional Official Plan is amended by replacing all references to the renumbered sections throughout the Plan accordingly.
- c. Amendments to Figures
21. Figure 10 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the attached new Figure 10.

**Figure 10**  
**Waste Management Sites**