



CMC Chair’s Briefing – Feds Release Landfill Methane Regs and HRM Closes in on Compostable Target

NEW FEDERAL METHANE REGULATIONS

“We feel pretty comfortable with the regulations and that we’re in compliance already,” Steve Copp, the manager of the Otter Lake Landfill, told the Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) at its January meeting.

This reassuring note was struck in a preliminary assessment of new federal regulations, released Dec. 16, 2025, to help the government reach its net-zero emissions goal. They are now being reviewed in detail by Mirror Nova Scotia, the operator of the HRM-owned landfill, for impacts on the Otter Lake facility. In 2023 landfills produced about 17% of Canada’s methane emissions and 3% of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The regulations are expected to slash GHG emissions by an estimated 100 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent between now and 2040.

Otter Lake’s operations have “been ahead of the curve,” he said, as they relate to methane collection and control measures.

The regulations require landfills to assess their methane emissions and, if required, to install and monitor gas collection systems for a new uniform approach to emission tracking and reduction.

Landfill gas recovery wells and equipment will be required for methane detection and collection and leaks will have to be controlled within set timeframes. The regulations can be found on the Government of Canada website.

PERFORMANCE TARGET WITHIN REACH

THE RESULTS – YEAR TO DATE

November 2025 Results: 9.52% Compostable Waste

	% Compostable Waste			
	2022/23 Baseline	2023/24 Year 2	2024/25 Year 3	2025/26 YTD
Target	N/A	11.61%	10.81%	10.00%
Actual	12.41%	11.64%	11.50%	9.78%

Otter Lake Landfill Compliance Plan **HALIFAX**

From a presentation to the CMC by Jordan Vallis, Manager Engineering and Contract Services, Solid Waste Resources, HRM. NOTE: The 'actual' figure for the 2025-2026 YTD (year to date) does not include results of the crucial February 2026 audit.

Results from the November 2025 Performance Audit suggest HRM could reach its objective for reduced compostable waste entering the Otter Lake landfill by March 31, the date set by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change.

While the outcome of the February audit will be the determining factor, a protocol to maintain the target, should it be achieved, has not yet been shared with the CMC. This issue is now of growing importance.

PUBLIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25



6:00 p.m. March 25



6:45 p.m. March 25

Where: The Pavillion, the Links at Brunello Clubhouse, 120 Brunello Blvd., Timberlea

The Halifax-Waste Resource Society* AGM, which starts at 6 p.m., will issue its annual report and elect a board of directors. Voting is restricted to members. Anyone, aged 18 or older, can register as a new member by emailing their name and civic address to cmc.hwrs@gmail.com by March 17. The AGM is open to the public.

The Community Monitoring Committee AGM will follow at 6:45 p.m. Those in attendance from the public will have an opportunity to question the CMC membership.
All are welcome to attend.

*The Halifax Waste-Resource Society is a citizens’ organization that works with representatives of HRM, through the Community Monitoring Committee, to monitor the HRM Solid Waste Program at the Otter Lake Landfill. See Otterlakecmc.ca for more information.

Reg Rankin, Chair

As a condition of the 2022 deactivation of the front-end processor and waste stabilization facility (FEP and WSF), HRM was given until March 31, 2026 to show that by better sorting at source it could get compostable waste down to 10% of the mass of solid waste entering the Otter Lake Landfill.

HRM provided the November results to the CMC in the 3rd Quarter report (2025-2026) from Strum Consulting, now posted on the CMC website: OtterLakecmc.ca

The FEP and WSF were central to the 1999 HRM contractual agreement that set up the CMC and were used at the landfill to open garbage bags, remove hazardous waste and retrieve and stabilize compostable waste before it was buried. Since the equipment was sidelined, against CMC objections, garbage bag contents now go unchecked before burial.

Reg Rankin
CMC Chair