



**Environment
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P8 • www.novascotia.ca/nse

Our File number:
10700-40-54180

January 16, 2019

Dear Municipality:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of amendments we have made to our Solid Waste Resource Management Regulations. As you know, the waste-to-energy industry is evolving and some companies are now promoting their technologies in Nova Scotia. As these are new technologies, we need to clarify how they fit within our regulations.

Nova Scotia Environment, Divert NS, and municipalities have worked diligently over the years to divert valuable materials from landfill and back into the economy. Despite these efforts, a portion of the material now landfilled still contains designated materials that are banned from disposal. Waste diversion continues to be a priority. We will work with municipalities and other stakeholders to increase the level of diversion and maintain our leadership in this sector.

To recognize the value of creating energy from municipal solid waste, we have amended the definition of waste diversion in the regulations to include energy recovery. We have also defined energy recovery as the extraction or production of energy, including fuels, from municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris. With this addition, waste diversion now means waste reduction and reuse, recycling, composting, or energy recovery.

To clarify the regulations for waste to energy technologies, thermal treatment facilities will be able to accept designated materials from Schedule 'B.' This clarification is consistent with the waste hierarchy where creating energy from waste is preferable to disposal in landfills. Please note that these materials will continue to be banned from landfills.

A summary of the changes is attached to this letter. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Andrew Murphy, Executive Director of Sustainability and Applied Science, at Andrew.j.murphy@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,

Margaret Miller, MLA
Minister of Environment

Attachment:
Summary of Amendments

Summary of Amendments to the Section 2 of the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations

The following definition was added:

- energy recovery - the extraction or production of energy, including fuels, from municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris

The following definition was modified:

- waste diversion - "recycling or composting" was replaced with "recycling, composting or energy recovery"

The following changes were made:

- Subsection 3(1) - "an Administrator" was replaced with "1 or more Administrators"
- Clause 12(1)(a) - "landfills, incinerators and thermal treatment facilities" was replaced with "landfills and incinerators"
- Section 30, subsections (1) and (2) - "a landfill, incinerator or thermal treatment facility" was replaced with "a landfill or incinerator"
- Schedule B, title - "Landfills, Incinerators and Thermal Treatment Facilities" was replaced with "Landfills and Incinerators"