

Oshawa to tackle incinerator battle

By Lindsey Cole
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Even though the City of Oshawa has no bearing on the Clarington Energy from Waste facility, many city councillors want their disdain for the project heard. And they made it quite clear at the last city council meeting of the summer, which happened to be just days after regional council approved the environmental assessment and design plan for the more than \$200 million facility. For Regional and City Councillor Brian Nicholson, the whole process should be re-done. "The region may have okayed the environmental assessment...I believe this council should reiterate our position."

And the majority of council's position is to kibosh the entire plan and develop other options. "The battleground is with the province," says Councillor Robert Lutczyk, adding the entire project still has to be approved by the province. "We should be doing everything we can to prove that this war is not over." However, Councillor Joe Kolodzie, who voted in favour of the incinerator, says the whole discussion is redundant, reiterating the regional council meeting lasted more than 15 hours and the whole time was filled with delegates and discussion about the topic. "We've had this discussion," he says. Councillor Nester Pidwerbecki echoed his statements. "I think the process was very transparent," he says referring to the studies conducted about the incinerator.

But for most of the councillors, the idea of burning waste simply doesn't sit well with them. One councillor in particular says he has first-hand experience with incineration. "We don't have the luxury to vote as a city councillor on these matters. I'm probably the only person on council who has worked for an incinerator. It's not something that you would choose. I just want to speak my mind," says Councillor Tito-Marimpietri. "We should look at ways to reduce the environmental impact." A motion was passed at council to send the province a letter explaining the city's stance on the issue.

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