



Subject: Funding Expiring for Cleanfarms Agricultural Plastics Recovery Project In Bruce County.

Dear Mayor Steve Hammell,

We are writing to remind you that the funding through the federal government's Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP) program for the Bruce County agricultural plastics pilot project is unfortunately coming to an end on March 31st, 2024. We have extensively explored other options for funding this project, however, we have not been successful in procuring additional funding to operate beyond CASPP's end date. Currently, we have a request in with Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, however, we have not yet received a response.

The Bruce County Pilot Project, initiated in 2021, has demonstrated its value and importance. In the first year, 9,944kgs of plastics were diverted from local landfills. As program awareness grew and as the need for the program was solidified, 43,800kgs were collected in 2022. Last year, the program continued to gain traction and immense support from users, and a total of 110,107kgs were collected in Bruce County in 2023.

The breakdown of collection tonnages for bale and silage wrap per site is listed below:

- Eastnor Landfill - Northern Bruce Peninsula: ~17,168 kgs
- Arran Landfill – Arran Elderslie: ~27,548 kgs
- Brant Landfill – Brockton: ~24,206.5 kgs
- Greenock Landfill – Brockton: ~9,182.5 kgs
- Kincardine Waste Management Centre – Kincardine: ~15,268.5 kgs
- Huron Landfill – Huron-Kinloss: ~4,632.5 kgs
- Teeswater-Culross Landfill – South Bruce: ~12,101 kgs

As you are aware, the current project is set up in a dual-option approach for farmers. The first option is for farmers to bring in bags full of loose bale or silage wrap to one of the 7 municipal waste sites. The bags that are brought to these sites are then collected in a compaction vehicle and brought to an energy-from-waste facility, which keeps these plastics out of the landfill. We are proud to have assisted your municipality in diverting bale and silage wrap from the landfill, whereas, in addition to the environmental benefits of segregating these plastics, they are also known to cause difficulties at landfill sites. Due to their length and stretchability, they can get caught up in heavy equipment which requires additional staff time and costs to rectify, and also take up a significant amount of space in a landfill which is challenging for many municipalities with limited or dwindling landfill capacity. The 2023 direct operational costs for this option came in at an average of approximately \$750 per tonne. If we were to access additional funding, the goal would be to build on operational efficiencies and cost savings for this option.



The second option that was put into place in Bruce County is for farmers to make their own bales of bale and silage plastics on their farms using compactors designed for use on site. There are 3 types of compactors for use: one that uses a manual wench/pulley system, one that uses weight for compaction (12 of these compactors were fabricated directly in Bruce County), and one that can hook up to a tractor's hydraulic system to mechanically compress the plastics. Each style of these compactors produce dense bales of materials and are more efficient for transport and are desired by our recycler in Listowel, Ontario. Cleanfarms was able to provide approximately 30 compactors to farmers during this project. After a trial of recycling these farmer-made bales, the recycler demonstrated a preference for these bales for both shipping and processing purposes. These bales are cleaner and easier to store and handle. The 2023 direct operational costs for this option to transport bales from municipal sites to the recycler came in at an average of approximately \$210 per tonne (please note this figure excludes the cost of compactors).

Please inform Cleanfarms of your interest in funding this program. While we are actively seeking additional funding sources, we cannot guarantee the success of alternative funding avenues at this time. Your support could significantly contribute to the program's success. While it would be our preference to continue the program, we recognize it may be time to prepare for winding up the collections if we have not secured funding by February 29th, 2024. If this is the case, we will use the month of March to communicate with your staff and users of the program that all materials collections must cease by March 26th, 2024. Final site clean-ups will take place after that date.

I would like to suggest organizing a TEAMS meeting to explore potential solutions. By collaborating, we may uncover a resolution together. Additionally, this will provide us with the chance to present the overall findings from our pilot project.

We want to thank you for your time and dedication to this project that has seen great success and diverted thousands of kilograms of plastics from the landfill. We will continue to seek funding for future projects and look forward to working with your municipality again in the future.

Thank you,

Lyndsay d'Entremont

Eastern Coordinator, Cleanfarms