

Halton is flaunting its own waste rules, says Scott

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clippings were being set to Growrich, a composting facility in Niagara Region.

He said he was also told the region was stockpiling yard waste to be ground up later and used for daily garbage cover at the Halton landfill site.

Mr. Scott told committee members the practice of burying materials

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Jim Scott

which could be composted goes against Halton's philosophy of waste diversion.

"Ground-up waste may qualify as wood waste and be a legal loophole,

but it is clearly a step backwards in diversion from landfill and recycling," he said.

"Conscientious efforts by taxpayers to be environmentally responsible are being negated by this plan. Why would the region provide dedicated containers and supervisory staff for separation of (the public's) leaf and yard waste only to have it buried in the landfill?" Mr. Scott asked.

Mr. Scott was also critical of Mr. Lee, and residents living near the site for endorsing the region's boycott.

"This group and councillor Barry Lee are wrong to dwell in the past. I believe the operation does currently conform (to the zoning) and the only real issue is the management of odor, which has been addressed."

Mr. Scott said he has made a conscientious effort to improve the site. As a result, the odor problem has been almost eliminated.

"We have been establishing a track record of some six months now where we have not produced any strong and significant odors," he said.

He also said a number of "neighbours, customers and growers" have expressed their support for the facility in a survey he conducted.

But Paul Saliba, a spokesperson for a group of residents living near the composting facility, said he supports the regional boycott against Mr. Scott.

He also disputed the contention that the odor problem is now under control. He said residents and their families have become "victims" of the odors which emanate from the composting facility.

"We endorse the three 'R's. But we don't believe when the provincial government mandated the three 'R's it meant you could pollute other parts of the ecosystem," he said.

"We're deeply disturbed the region uses any open-air composting site. The project has never worked

that there had been no "strong or significant odors" in the last six months. Mr. Saliba said residents had called an MOEE hotline to complain about odors from the site numerous times during August.

Mr. Saliba also said residents are concerned about the health effects of any airborne contaminants from the site. He said the MOEE hasn't guaranteed residents living near the composting facility that no health risk exists.



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