

# Your trash bound for incinerator in York or Durham

BY SERENA WILLOUGHBY  
Staff Writer

York Region has decided to support burning waste and turning it into energy.

Politicians voted last week to build a \$250-million incineration facility in York or Durham — which is also considering incineration — which would be completed by 2011.

Council may decide to separate recyclables to minimize what is being burned, an option endorsed by Markham deputy mayor Frank Scarpitti.

"We have to make one more attempt at separation before the garbage is finally burned," he said.

A way out of the York's

garbage dilemma has been a long time coming, some councillors said and applauded finding a solution.

As of 2003, York Region trucked more than 220,000 tonnes of garbage to landfill sites each year. With growth, the amount raises 4 to 5 per cent annually, matching the rate of population growth.

The region sends about 960 tonnes of garbage on 30 trucks to landfill sites daily from Tuesday to Friday.

Eight trucks go to Green Lane and 22 go to two Michigan sites.

As of 2003, it cost the region close to \$50,000 per day to truck garbage and store it at landfill sites. It costs \$35,200

daily to truck the garbage to two sites in Michigan.

Just because the region will incinerate trash doesn't mean the work to recycle more is over, said Mario Ferri, regional councillor and chairperson of the solid waste management committee.

Programs to stop manufacturers from producing goods that can't be recycled, called producer responsibility, are also needed, he added.

Not all politicians are on board with the incineration scheme, however.

Richmond Hill Councillor Elio Di Iorio and Markham Councillor Erin Shapero urged regional council to consider more progressive recycling and composting programs and a higher diversion rate before resorting to an incinerator.

"What will be put in incinerators? Plastic? Plastic that can be recycled?" Mr. Di Iorio asked. He advocates a zero-waste philosophy, since there is very little that can't be recycled.

Targets for waste diversion aren't high enough, Ms Shapero said. With green box recycling already implemented in Markham and on the way for other municipalities, there is a good chance the amount of waste we produce will decrease.

The proposal only puts



**ERIN SHAPERO:** More recycling, composting better solutions than burning waste, politician says.

diversion at 75 per cent by 2045 and Markham is already at about 68 per cent diversion with its green box program.

This means only a 7-per cent increase in diversion between now and 2045, Ms Shapero said.

The decision to endorse an incineration facility is a decision not to landfill, Markham Regional Councillor Jack Heath said.

Once the site is chosen, there will be more public consultations before construction plans are finished.

For more information or to receive notices about the public consultations, go [www.durhamyorkwaste.ca](http://www.durhamyorkwaste.ca)

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## Cycling Master Plan Open House

Thursday June 29, 2006

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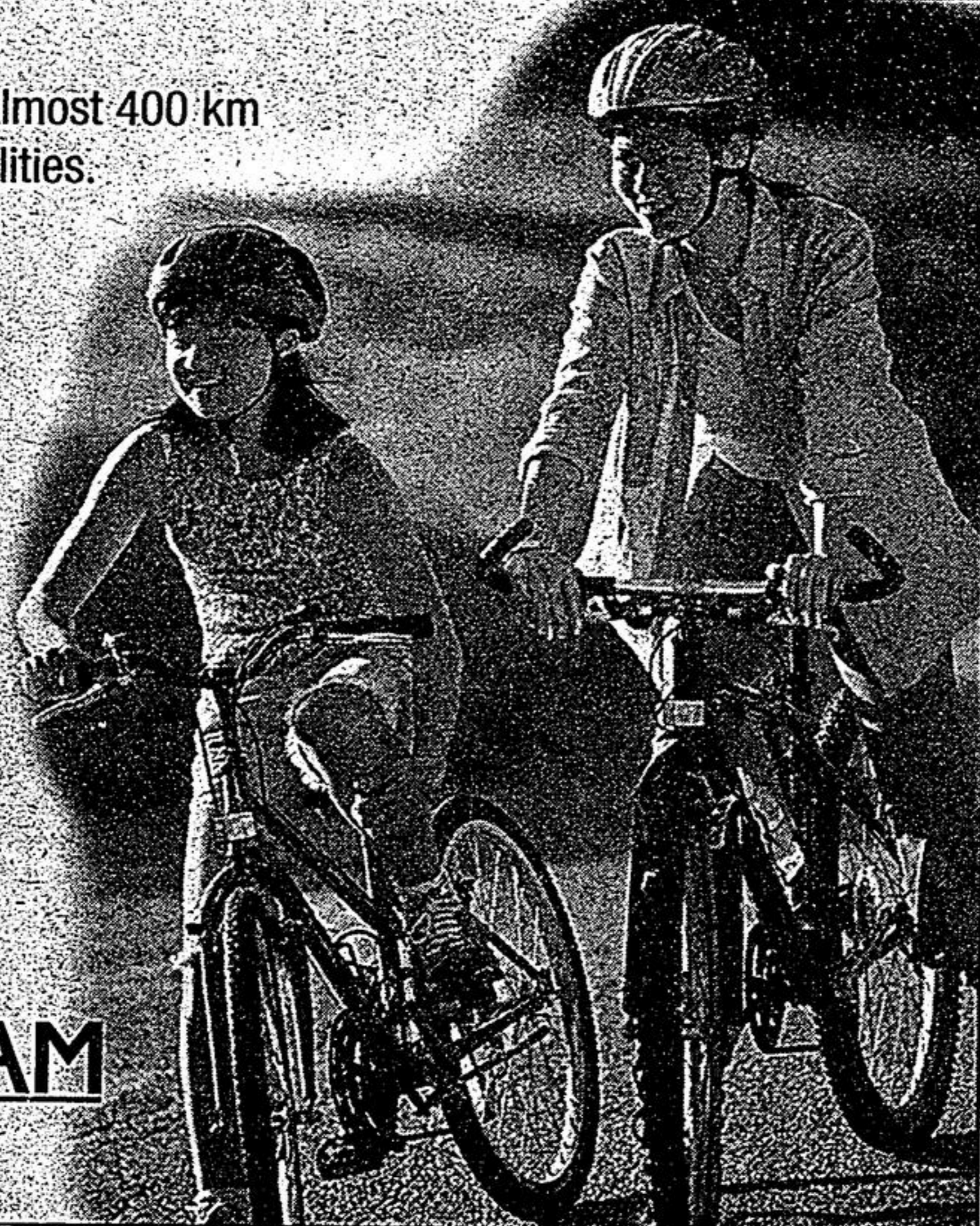
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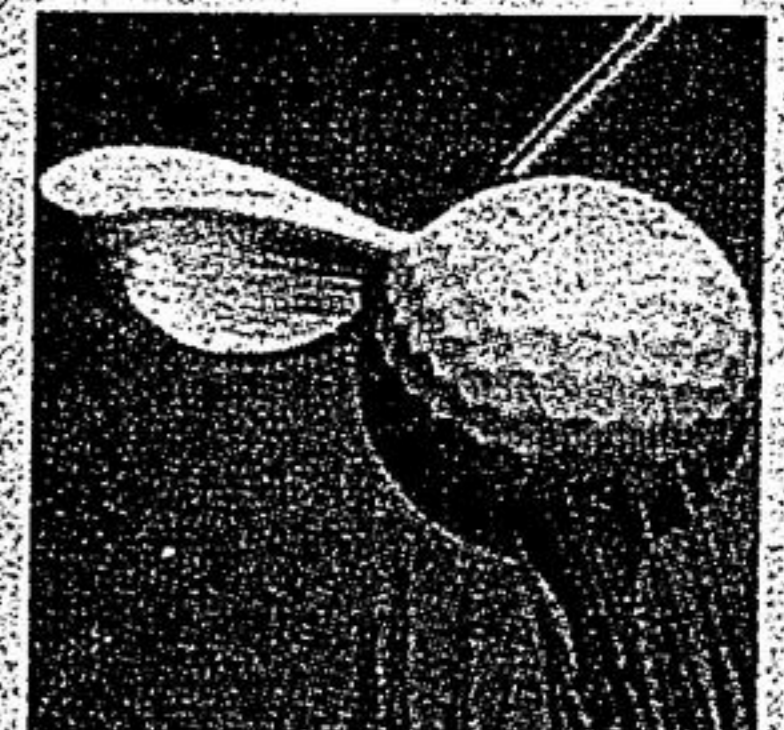
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