

The following information was provided as a response from the Director of Public Works.

Township staff have investigated constructing a leaf and yard waste composting facility at the Huron Landfill and found that it is not feasible at this time. The Ministry of Environment will require a large area with a hard surface (likely asphalt) that provides adequate space for regular turning of the composted materials and there are restrictions of how close the facility can be to a water course and neighboring properties, which eliminates any areas outside of the fill area or existing collection areas. There are also significant costs involved. The last estimate for the preparation of an Environmental Compliance Application (ECA) to the Ministry is over \$20,000 and this does not include any construction or operational costs, which will be significant as well.

Partnering with other municipalities in the operation of a compost facility has been discussed, however, the municipality that currently has a composting facility would have to agree to amend their ECA to allow for this program to expand to other municipalities and expand their current facility. There are also operational costs of transporting the material to the host municipality. To date, we are not aware of any municipalities in our area that have the ability to construct and operate a compost facility that is shared by multiple municipalities, although this may change in the future.

We have been chipping larger branches and stumps at the Huron Landfill since 2019. The mulch produced is used on site as cover material in the winter. The only material that is burned are smaller branches that are less than 150mm (6") in diameter.

The Township recognizes that many homeowners prefer to remove fallen leaves from their property for a variety of reasons, whether it is for aesthetic reasons or concern that the accumulation could damage their lawn by restricting access to sunlight and oxygen. For this reason, the Township provides a one-day leaf collection program in the communities of Lucknow, Ripley and along the Lakeshore. This is a common program in municipalities across the province, with many areas providing multiple collection days.

Township staff have partnered with local farmers and market gardeners to dispose of collected leaves that are then used in crop production. Roughly half of the leaves collected annually are diverted from the Landfill through these partnerships.