



For Immediate Release

August 24, 2021

### **Town of Erin secures more than \$90 million in funding agreements**

ERIN, ON: The Town of Erin has secured \$94,336,529 in infrastructure financing agreements with the development community for the construction of the Water Resource Recovery Facility (wastewater treatment plant). As per the agreements, the cost estimates and contribution amounts will continue to be updated and indexed over time.

To maintain transparency all agreements are posted online at [www.erin.ca](http://www.erin.ca) under wastewater costs.

Mayor Allan Alls commented: "This is a big win for the community. Staff has been working hard to secure these agreements that will help ease the burden, of the costs of building our wastewater treatment plant, on our taxpayers. As promised, developers are paying for the costs associated with the building the wastewater treatment plant and main trunk lines, as well as an additional \$7,000 per new single detached unit in Erin and \$10,000 per new single detached unit in Hillsburgh, in order to help reduce overall costs to current residents."

Construction tender for the plant will be reposted soon as the earlier bid invitation received more than 500 questions on various technical details that Town staff are currently in the process of answering.

#### **Facts the Wastewater Treatment Plant**

- The wastewater project has gone through a very thorough environmental assessment and has been approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).
- We worked with Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), leading engineering, environmental and planning firms that specialize in these areas, had numerous public engagements and are now at the design stage.
- We are fully committed to ensuring that the protection of our environment remains at the forefront of our discussions as this project moves forward, while making it a viable and sustainable solution for Erin and our residents who call it home.
- According to WSP, our technical consultant firm, this plant will adhere to one of the strictest effluent requirements in North America.
- Although, the ESR concluded that it was not necessary to reduce the effluent temperature, we will monitor the temperature of the effluent after construction.
- The full build out of the plant will occur in stages over many years up until 2040. If deemed necessary to reduce the effluent temperature in the future, suitable mitigation options will be incorporated then.

#### **About the costs**

- Total project cost is anticipated at \$118 million, which includes the treatment plant and all of the associated infrastructure such as sewer lines.



- The Town of Erin has successfully secured over \$90 million from the development community to construct the wastewater treatment plant and the collection system.
- Developers are paying for the costs associated with the building of the wastewater treatment plant and main trunk lines, as well as an additional \$7,000 per new single detached unit in Erin and \$10,000 per new single detached unit in Hillsburgh.
- The Town of Erin will be applying for funding to help subsidize the current costs estimates to residents. The exact cost to each household will be determined by the additional funding grants received from the federal and provincial governments and each specific property.
- There is no cost to rural residents as they will not be connecting to the new system. However, there will be a benefit as the new plant will include a septage handling station.
- Urban residents will be connected to the new system, and will be able to move off the current septic system, representing a significant upgrade to their property and is expected to increase the value of the home.

**The main costs to urban residents are:**

- **Connection:** Each existing house, in the urban area, will pay to connect their home to the pipeline. This cost will fluctuate depending on the distance from the house to the pipe. Average Connection Cost: \$4,000 - \$8,000
- **Annual Costs:** Once the facility is built and the home is connected, user fees will be applied. The average costs are based off a review of wastewater rates in nearby municipalities. Annual Average User Cost: \$500 - \$600

The construction cost for bringing the sewer pipes to the community, and the associated road repairs, which will be covered by the Town, is anticipated to be approximately \$15,000-\$18,000 per household. This cost will be recovered through property taxes after the house has been connected to the sewer lines, and could be potentially spread out over 10 to 15 years.

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The Town of Erin is home to nearly 12,000 rural and urban residents. It is focused on achieving stable growth and long-term sustainability, while creating a prosperous, healthy, environmentally progressive, livable, and inviting community through well managed municipal services, programs, assets and amenities.

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