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**From:** Tara Kainer [REDACTED]

**Sent:** December 2, 2024 9:13 PM

**To:** Ridge, Gregory <gridge@cityofkingston.ca>; City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofkingston.ca>

**Subject:** Kingston's proposed biogas facility

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Dear Councillor Ridge,

I sent a letter to you on October 28<sup>th</sup> outlining my concerns about the proposal to build a methane-producing facility at Knox Farm, adjacent to the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. After attending a webinar tonight to discuss the City's proposed biogas project which included an environmental lawyer and two engineers, I am even more alarmed about the proposed project going ahead.

The plan to combine organic materials from the green bin program with sewage sludge from wastewater treatment plants to create methane which would then be refined and sold for household use is potentially risky for the environment, wildlife, and human health. Methane leakage, I learned at the webinar, is likely at every stage of the process. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with 84 times the impact of CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20-year time span. When burned, it generates toxic airborne gases and particles. Environmental impacts include land and water contamination as well as contributing to global warming and climate change.

The use of sewage sludge as fertilizer on farmers' fields will undoubtedly contaminate our drinking water as well as any food farmers are growing. Acknowledging the risks, the use of sewage sludge on agricultural land is not allowed in some American states and countries in Europe. Biogas impurities contain PFAS, what are commonly called "forever chemicals", which can cause cancers, immune system dysfunction, decreased fertility in women, pulmonary paralysis, asthma, respiratory disease, and even death.

An Environmental Justice report adds that such plants are not sustainable. "The production of biomethane from manure-to-energy projects, such as manure digesters, is hazardous to local communities, locks farmers into more debt, and perpetuates the expansion of current harmful agriculture practices, while increasing fossil fuel infrastructure by entrenching Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) with pipelines for the gas that is produced" ([Environmental Justice Vol. 15, No. 6](#)).

The proposed facility, which closely borders the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, will take up a lot of space -- an area the size of 12 football fields. Moreover, the proposed facility

would receive an estimated 34 truckloads of green bin and sewage sludge material every day from the City of Kingston with more trucks anticipated from neighbouring municipalities (Utilities Kingston report prepared by Dillon Consulting, 2024). Such heavy traffic will disrupt wildlife and human activity.

Producing biogas, finally, will be expensive. The estimated construction cost is \$71 million, with operating costs well over \$1 million a year. Money better spent on alternatives like solar, which is cheaper, safer, more reliable, easier to maintain, and longer lasting.

Please consider the risks and alternatives and vote *No* to the proposed biogas facility at Knox Farm.

Sincerely,

Tara Kainer, King's Town