

Waste Legislation Update

Committee of the Whole Working Session

March 7, 2018



Waste Legislation Update

Update on the new provincial legislation, and changes to the Blue Box Program Plan

The Province of Ontario enacted the Waste-Free Ontario Act June 1, 2016

- Waste Diversion Transition Act
- Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act

The goal of the legislation is to divert more waste from landfills, build a circular economy for these materials, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions



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Waste Diversion Programs

- Under the new legislation, private sector producers have responsibility for program design, and 100% of costs
- Municipalities will decide how they wish to transition these services under new program plans
- New oversight agency, Resource Productivity and Recovery Agency (RPRA), will now enforce the Act and collect data





Consultation to Date

As per Council direction February 16, 2016, City of Vaughan staff have participated in consultation on the new legislation and regulations through the following channels:

- In-person meetings
- Board of Directors, Municipal Waste Association
- Staff comments through the Environmental Registry
- Staff comments to Stewardship Ontario on the amended Blue Box Program Plan







Municipal Sector Collaboration

Based on interest and support from Ontario municipalities, the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative advocacy working group formed early 2017:

- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Municipal Waste Association
- Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario
- City of Toronto





Early Transition of the Blue Box Program

Municipal 3Rs Collaborative successfully advocated for early transition of Blue Box Program Plan in July 2017, through an accord with producer representatives.

In August 2017, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), directed the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority and Stewardship Ontario, to produce an amended Blue Box Program Plan by February 15, 2018.









Ministerial Directive for amended Blue Box Program Plan

- Preserves the residential Blue Box program and improves environmental outcomes
- Increases Provincial diversion to 75%
- A seamless transition uninterrupted collection services to residents
- Expand and harmonize a province wide list of items accepted in the blue box
- Avoid disruption of existing contracts
- No negative impact to existing Blue Box curbside recycling services



Full Producer Responsibility in Ontario

Currently we receive approximately 50% of the Blue Box program costs from Stewardship Ontario which is \$1.28 million annually for the City of Vaughan.

Under an amended Blue Box Program Plan, financial responsibility for Blue Box recycling collection and processing will be borne by the private sector.





Overview of Transition Options in Draft Amended Blue Box Program Plan

In Stewardship Ontario's draft plan, municipalities would have the option to choose how they wish to continue their role during the transition phase:

- a. Enter into a contract with Stewardship Ontario as a collection service provider
- b. Opt out of providing Blue Box collection services altogether. Under this scenario Stewardship Ontario would be required to provide the service directly to residents through tendered contracts
- c. Continue as a non-transitioned municipality and operate under a shared cost/responsibility model and receive approximately 50% funding from Stewardship Ontario



Proposed transition process in draft amended Blue Box Program Plan

2018-2019
Blue Box Plan finalized
Municipalities determine
course of action based
on options

2020-2025
Stewardship Ontario
works with
municipalities to
transition contracts

2025+
Stewardship Ontario
winds up, transition to
individual producer
responsibility under
RRCEA





Delayed Submission, Consultation Extended

Consultation on the draft amended Blue Box Program Plan took place October 2017 to January 2018, and municipalities were organized and involved in each round of comments on the draft plan.

Although we anticipated the draft plan would be submitted to the MOECC in February, Stewardship Ontario chose to request an extension to the consultation process.







Next Steps

- The Municipal 3Rs Collaborative has indicated that they will continue to facilitate work within the municipal sector to propose regulations under the RRCEA in a concurrent process.
- Staff will remain engaged in these consultations, and share updates on the Blue Box Plan and other relevant program changes related to the new legislation.
- We anticipate Ministry approval on the Blue Box Program will be delayed until after the Provincial Elections, fall 2018.





