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## **MEMORANDUM**

**PWC-C 40-2020**

**Subject:** Update on Extended Producer Responsibility – Electrical and Electronic Equipment

**Date:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020

**To:** Public Works Committee

**From:** Lucy McGovern, Collection & Diversion Program Manager

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on Niagara Region's Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) collection and recycling program with the transition to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model as of January 1, 2021.

### **Overview of Electrical and Electronic Equipment Current Collection Program**

#### Regional EEE Collection Sites

Niagara Region has operated an EEE collection program for recycling since April, 2009 under a recycling agreement with the Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES). Phase 1 of the EEE recycling program began in 2009 and included televisions, computers, printers and monitors. Phase 2 of the program, implemented in 2010, included phones, cameras, stereos and audio visual equipment. The program continues to be available at no charge to Niagara region residents at the following waste and/or recycling drop-off depots:

- 7015 Concession 7 Rd. (Niagara Road 12) - West Lincoln
- 700 Humberstone Rd. – Welland
- 1300 Bridge St. – Fort Erie
- Regional Recycling Centre, 5030 Montrose Rd. - Niagara Falls.

In addition to these drop-off locations, many reuse and recycling options are also available to residents for the free disposal of EEE materials for recycling such as return-to-retailer outlets and at the Walker Environmental Group Waste and Recycling Drop-Off Depot in Thorold.

Prior to the agreement with OES, Niagara Region collected EEE at their annual Environment Days.

A Niagara Region ban on the curbside collection of EEE to divert this material away from disposal into landfills in region, and encourage recycling at available collection sites came into effect in November 2013. The diversion of EEE from landfills has many environmental benefits such as reducing the entry of potential hazardous components into landfills and the recovery of precious metals, aluminum, copper and plastics.

OES offers Niagara Region a funding incentive for EEE collected at the participating Regional sites on a per tonne basis. Between 2009 and the end of 2019, a total of 3,890 tonnes of EEE have been diverted from disposal in landfills, generating a financial return of \$717,650. Region staff time is included within annual operating budgets, and promotional education costs are minimal. OES is fully responsible for all of the collection service expenses.

#### Multi-residential EEE Collection

In April of 2015, and in partnership with OES, Niagara Region initiated a program to collect EEE from eligible multi-residential properties resulting in enhanced collection services for the residents of participating apartments and high-rise condominiums. While there is no financial incentive for EEE collected from multi-residential properties, this collection program is delivered at no cost to Niagara Region and results in reduced disposal of recyclable and hazardous materials to Region landfills. OES is fully responsible for all of the collection service expenses of the multi-residential program. Between 2015 and the end of 2019, a total of 50 tonnes of EEE material was collected for recycling from this sector.

The cost for promotional materials at multi-residential properties including posters, information sheets, door hangers and tabletop displays has totaled approximately \$3,000 since 2015.

#### **Extended Producer Responsibility**

With the enactment of the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 (RRCEA), the Province is shifting to a producer responsibility framework for products and packaging, making producers and brand holders accountable for recovering resources and reducing waste associated with their products.

The Province's Made-in-Ontario Plan, released on November 29, 2018, refers to and reinforces the Province's position on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): "Make producers responsible for the waste generated from their products and packaging"

(<https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2018-11/EnvironmentPlan.pdf>). Public Works Committee was informed of this plan in WMPSC-C 9-2019.

On July 2, 2019, the Ministry of Environment, Community and Parks (MECP), under the Waste Diversion Transition Act, issued direction to OES to wind-up and cease operations of the waste electrical and electronic equipment program by December 31, 2020 to prepare for the new EPR model. Starting on January 1, 2021, producers of EEE will be individually accountable and financially responsible for collecting and reusing, refurbishing or recycling their products when consumers discard them.

The Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulation, O. Reg. 522/20, under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 designates information technology, telecommunications, audio-visual (ITT/AV) and lighting equipment under Ontario's producer responsibility regulatory framework. The ITT/AV equipment that falls within the new framework includes:

- Computers
- Printers (desktop and floor-standing)
- Printer cartridges
- Video gaming devices
- Telephones, including cellular phones
- Display devices
- Radios and stereos, including after-market vehicle stereos
- Headphones
- Speakers
- Cameras, including security cameras
- Video recorders
- Drones with audio or visual recording equipment
- Peripherals and cables used to support the function of information technology, telecommunications and audio visual equipment, including charging equipment
- Parts of information technology, telecommunications and audio visual equipment sold separately, such as hard drives
- Handheld point-of-sale terminals or devices
- Musical instruments
- Audio recording equipment

Responsibilities for lighting do not come into effect until January 1, 2023, and more information on lighting will be made available in the future.

OES currently administers the electronics program through an operating agreement with the Electronics Product Recycling Association (EPRA). EPRA is an industry led not-for-profit organization that currently manages and operates OES.

With the Province moving to an EPR funding model, and Niagara Region's desire to maintain existing funding incentives, Niagara Region will merge both the multi-residential and Regional collection site EEE agreements with the EPRA for a period of one year until December 31, 2021. A 30-day termination clause without cause will be included in this agreement. This will allow adequate time to release a public tender for both of these EEE collection programs in an effort to obtain possible increased funding incentives from other Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs). At the current time, there are five registered PRO organizations in Ontario. The extension will allow time for a larger roster of registered PROs to be available from which Niagara Region can develop a new agreement. Further, it will allow the existing EEE collection containers to remain in place at participating multi-residential properties and at the Regional collection sites, offering residents continued service during the transition. The decision for this extension is reasonable based on EPRA's experience, existing EEE producer agreements, existing and in-place collection containers, established EEE recycling infrastructure and current funding rates.

Staff will report back with the details of a new funding agreement once available.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Lucy McGovern  
Collection & Diversion Program Manager