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**MEMORANDUM**

**WMPSC-C 31-2021**

**Subject: Nespresso Coffee Capsule Pilot – Update**

**Date: Monday, August 30, 2021**

**To: Waste Planning Steering Committee**

**From: Lucy McGovern, Program Manager**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to update members of the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee (WMPSC) on the matter respecting the approved recommendation from the WMPSC meeting held on August 26, 2019 directing staff to meet with Nespresso Canada to consider implementing the Nespresso “Green Bag” pod recycling program as part of Niagara’s curbside recycling program.

Since the WMPSC committee meeting held in August 2019, staff discussed the details of a possible pilot program with Nespresso Canada. Unfortunately, with two WMPSC meetings cancelled in 2019/2020, due to lack of quorum and the COVID-19 pandemic, staff have not reported back on this subject matter.

On June 3, 2021 the Government of Ontario finalized the Blue Box Regulation under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016, requiring producers to establish, operate and fund residential Blue Box collection and processing systems. The new responsibility framework and collection model in Niagara will be determined over the next two years and will be initiated on January 1, 2024. Coffee pods may be included in the list of Blue Box designated materials under the new Blue Box regulation, O. Reg. 391/21. The list of designated materials is not expected to be finalized until July 2022. The Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) was created by the Government of Ontario to support the transition to a circular economy and a waste-free Ontario. The RPRA is not recommending that municipalities make any changes to the Blue Box program during the program transition period.

Based on the expected changes to the Blue Box program as the province moves to an Extended Producer Responsibility model and the request to maintain existing Blue Box program levels until the formal transition to producers occurs in 2024, Niagara Region will not be moving forward with the Nespresso coffee pod pilot program.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Lucy McGovern  
Program Manager