

# Update on Transition of the Residential Blue Box Program to Extended Producer Responsibility

Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

January 27, 2020

# Definitions

- Waste Free Ontario Act (WFO)
  - Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 (RRCEA)
  - Waste Diversion Transition Act (WDTA)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA)
- Stewardship Ontario (SO)
- Industry-Funded Organization (IFO)
- Wind-up Plan
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

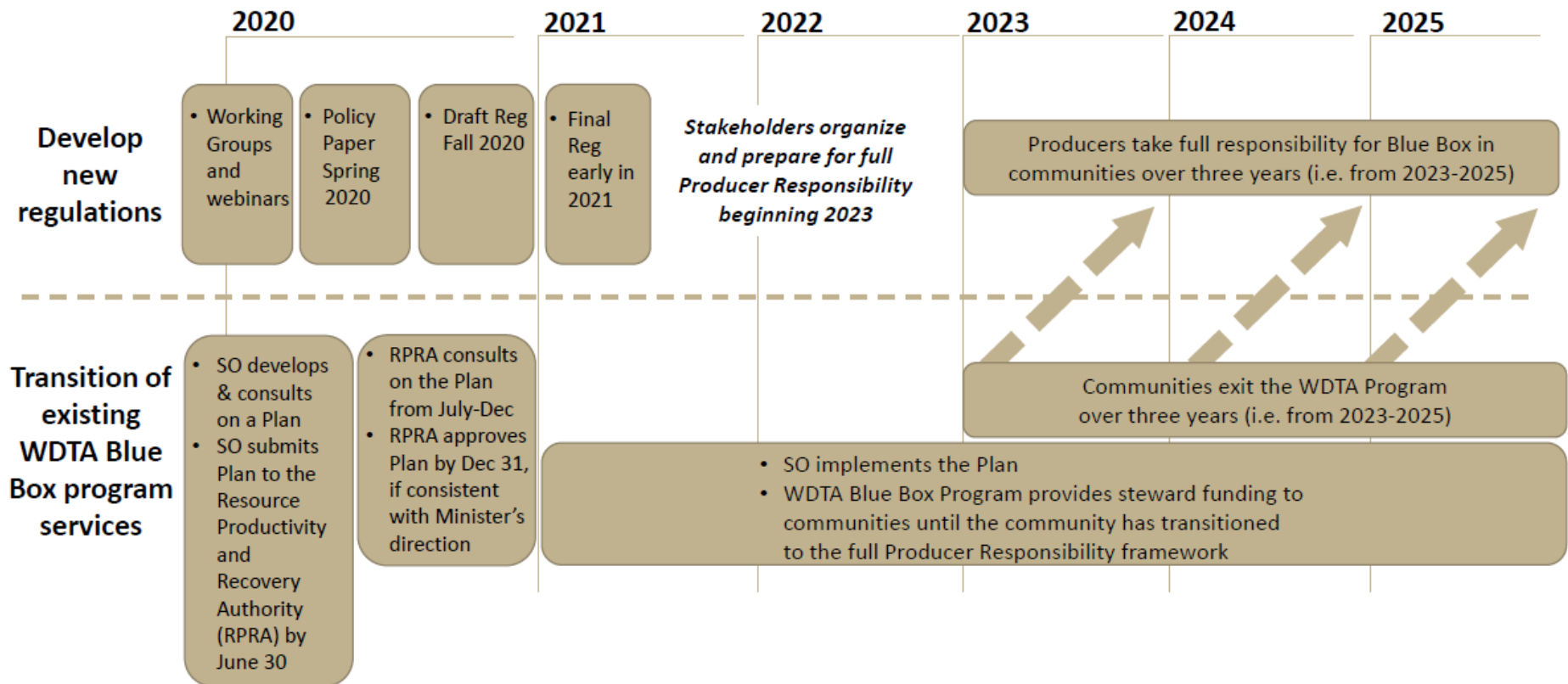
# History

- Amended Blue Box Program Plan
- Made-in-Ontario Plan
- Special Advisor's report on Recycling and Plastic Waste
- Direction letter from MECP to SO

# Provincial Roadmap

(Excerpted from Provincial Webinar November 27, 2019)

## Roadmap to Producer Responsibility for Blue Box



# Regulations

MECP will address the following in the new regulation:

1. Definition and scope of designated materials;
2. Collection and accessibility requirements;
3. Management requirements that producers must meet; and
4. Transition approach – criteria to select which communities will transition from the current Blue Box program to the EPR framework under the RRCEA in each of 2023-2025.

# Request for Council Resolution

AMO has requested a Council resolution, passed by June 30, 2020, directed to AMO and MECP that specifies:

1. Council's preferred date to transition based on exiting service provision (between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025);
2. Rationale for transition date;
3. Whether Council is interested in potentially continuing to provide services (e.g. contract management, collection, haulage processing services etc.) or not; and,
4. Key contacts if there are any follow-up questions.

# Blue Box Program Decision Points



# 1. Timing

## **What factors influence timing of Niagara's preferred shift date to EPR?**

- Method for determining order of transition (dictated to municipalities or self-nomination) and for managing over-subscribed years, in the event that too many municipalities wish to transition at the same time
- Expiration dates of current contracts
- Asset condition and value
- Integrated waste management system
- Potential cost savings with early transition date

## **What information do we need from the Province?**

- Confirmation of method for determining order of transition
- Confirmation of method for determining management of oversubscribed years (if applicable)



## 2. Niagara Region's Role

### **What factors influence Niagara Region's decision to bid on collection and haulage, and/or processing of material?**

- Existing infrastructure and contracts
- Competition and/or partnerships with the private sector
- Performance standards and targets

### **What information do we need from the Province?**

- Performance standards and targets for collection, haulage and processing

# 3. Service Levels

## **What level of service will Niagara Region provide under the new system?**

- Some sectors currently serviced by Niagara Region are not expected to be included in the regulations, notably small ICI properties
- Service of any sector not included the regulations would continue to be at full cost to Niagara Region
- There is potential for customer service impact through less tolerance for incorrect set-outs and contamination
- If Niagara Region no longer provides residential Blue Box collection, there may be additional customer impacts (e.g. residential confusion stemming from change in phone numbers/contacts for one material stream).
- Niagara Region will need to decide on the appropriate level of participation with respect to Promotion and Educational material and collection program enforcement

## **What information do we need from the Province?**

- Confirmation of property types to be included in the regulations

# Status of RPRA

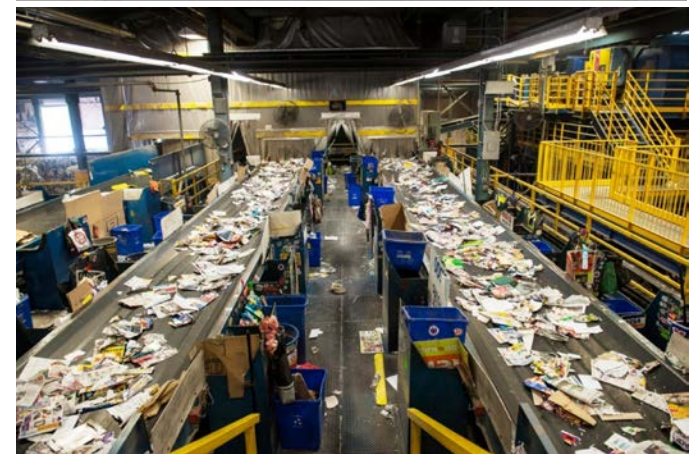
**December 5, 2019:** MECP proposed changes to modernize governance, accountability and transparency of Administrative Authorities via the Rebuilding of Consumer Confidence Act

**December 29, 2019:** MECP approved expansion of RPRA's mandate

**January 17, 2020:** Article in the Toronto Star regarding loss of RPRA's regulatory powers to investigate industry recycling claims  
*-no formal announcement forthcoming from RPRA or from the Province to date*

# MRF Phase 4 Opportunity Review

- Building on Niagara Region's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Opportunity Review Phases 1 to 3, the Phase 4 review will develop a recommendation for the preferred ownership structure
- Assessment based on actual market considerations using Negotiated RFP process or another alternative, to determine the best future opportunity for the MRF and minimize the risk of a potentially devalued facility



# Questions?