

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

Public Works Committee

February 11, 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)

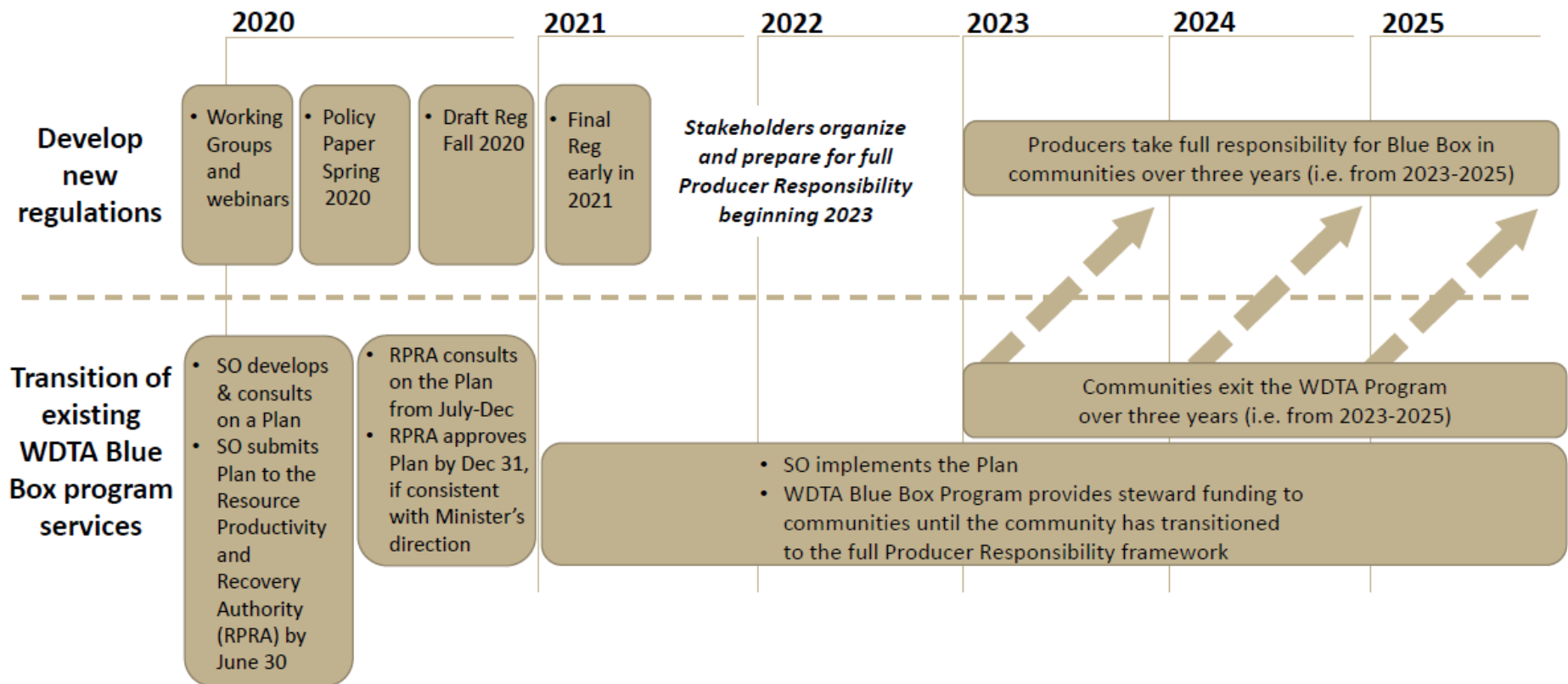
History

- 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?