

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

Public Works Committee

June 16, 2020

Background

- Ontario is shifting to a Full Producer Responsibility Model for the residential Blue Box Program
- Timelines specific to new Blue Box Regulation:
 - **2019 - 2020 – Draft Regulations (Current phase)**
 - 2021 – Approval of Regulations
 - 2021 - 2022 – Stakeholders organize and prepare for Producer Responsibility
 - 2023 - 2025 – Producers take full responsibility from communities
- Concurrent Wind-up for Existing Blue Box Program:
 - **2020 – Stewardship Ontario develops plan for transition and submits to RPRA (Current phase)**
 - 2020 – RPRA approves plan by Dec 31
 - 2021 – 2025 – SO implements plan and each community continues to be funded until transition to EPR complete, with all communities complete by the end of 2025

Regulations

MECP will address the following in the new Blue Box 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.

AMO Request

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.

Recommendations



1. Proposed Transition Date

January 1, 2023

- Recommendation for this early date is based on anticipated cost savings for residents, compared to current process under which Niagara Region is responsible for 50% of net costs
- It is estimated that taxpayers will unnecessarily incur an annual expense of approximately \$8,175,000 for each year Niagara Region does not transition
- Curbside Collection and Haulage contracts include option for early removal of residential Blue Box collection (compensation for contractors is based on a formula)

2. Niagara Region's Role

Provision of Processing Services on Behalf of Producers

- Primary factor influencing decision to bid on processing services:
 - Timing and outcome of the MRF opportunity review

Provision of Collection and Haulage Services on Behalf of Producers

- Niagara Region will bid on collection and haulage services if commercially acceptable terms are available
- Primary factors influencing final decision to bid on collection and haulage services:
 - Full payment by producers
 - Reasonable and quantitative measures for standards and requirements related to collection and haulage

2. Niagara Region's Role Cont'd

Servicing Additional Property Types

- Continued provision of service to IC&I properties, select Multi-Residential properties and public spaces depends primarily on cost
- If Niagara Region continues to provide residential Blue Box collection, the IC&I properties will be part of the integrated collection system – otherwise producers must agree to provide the service
- Separate regulations related to IC&I properties will also impact how this service is provided longer-term
- The residential Blue Box regulation is expected to include Multi-Residential properties, but the full scope of properties encompassed, and timing for commencement, will be determined by the regulation

2. Niagara Region's Role Cont'd

Service for Non-Obligated Materials

- Niagara Region would be solely responsible for costs related to collection, haulage and processing of materials not defined in the regulation
- Removal of currently accepted materials may generate confusion for residents but it may be difficult to find a processor for non-obligated material

Service at Depots

- Potential costs related to depot reconfiguration requirements
- Residential convenience maintained
- May help reduce illegal dumping

3. Final Considerations

- Regulations
 - Not yet finalized
 - Niagara Region will continue to advocate for regulations that support best-practices
- During transition (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025) producers are obligated to maintain existing service levels in Niagara Region
- Post-transition (i.e. starting January 1, 2026) Niagara Region will have no operational program control over:
 - Collection frequency
 - Container type
 - Implementation of single versus dual stream
- Mitigating risks

Questions?