



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: J. Nethercott, Clerk
Date: 2020-06-11
Report: 2020-07
Subject: Blue Box Program Transition to Full Producer Responsibility

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from J. Nethercott, Clerk re: Blue Box Program Transition to Full Producer Responsibility; and

That West Elgin Council authorize the Mayor to advise the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) that the Corporation of the Municipality of West Elgin would like to transition the collection, processing and marketing of recyclables to full producer responsibility on January 1, 2023; and

That the Municipality of West Elgin has no interest in continuing to provide contract services for the Blue Box Program after the transition date, with the exception of promotion and education.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council regarding the transition of the Blue Box program to full producer responsibility and receive Council's direction as to a preferred transition date; which needs to be provided to AMO no later than June 30, 2020.

Background:

On August 15, 2019 Minister Yurek announced the next steps for the transitioning of the costs and operations of the Blue Box Program away from municipalities to the producers. This announcement states that the Blue Box Program will be transitioning in phases over a three-year period starting January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025. The Minister has directed Stewardship Ontario to submit a plan outlining how the current program will operate over the three-year phase in, with this plan to receive approval no later than December 31, 2020. Currently the Province is developing regulations and a framework for the transition period as part of the *Resource, Recovery and Circular Economy Act*.

Based on existing information, it is assumed that each year of the transition period 1/3 of municipalities will transition and in order to assist with the coordination of this the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has requested that Municipal Council's select a preferred transition date and include a rationale behind the date and submit this to them no later than June 30, 2020.

Currently West Elgin has a contract with Waste Connections to provide curbside pick-up of recycling on a bi-weekly basis. This contract is set to expire on April 1, 2022, with two 1 year contract extensions available at that time. With this date in mind we are in a prime position to

transition in phase 1, with no penalty from our current provider. As we are in negotiations around the possibility of extending curbside garbage collection to the entire municipality, if a contract is negotiated with the provider for that expansion of service, wording will be included in the contract regarding the transition.

West Elgin is a partner municipality in the Municipal Recycling Facility owned and operated by the City of London. On April 21, 2020, the City of London passed a resolution requesting a transition date of January 1, 2023, which included exploring the opportunity to process and market recyclables as part of the new procedure. At the quarterly MRF meeting on May 21, 2020 the partner municipalities decided that it would make a stronger case if we as a group chose to transition at the same time, in order to strengthen the MRF's position as a processor.

Policies/Legislation:

Resource, Recovery and Circular Economy Act.