



## MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

### Staff Report

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**Report To:** Council Meeting  
**From:** Jana Nethercott, Clerk  
**Date:** 2020-10-22  
**Subject:** Update on Blue Box Transition and Proposed Blue Box Regulation

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#### **Recommendation:**

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from J. Nethercott, Clerk re: Update on Blue Box Transition and Proposed Blue Box Regulation for information purposes.

#### **Purpose:**

This report is to provide an update to Council with regards to the newly released draft of the Proposed Blue Box Regulation and Proposed Blue Box Transition periods.

#### **Background:**

On October 19, 2020 the Ministry of the Environment released the proposed regulations under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*. These proposed regulations were released in draft format for public consultation until December 3, 2020. These regulations change the responsibility of the Blue Box program from Municipalities to full producer responsibility and set out the transition dates by Municipality.

The proposed regulation makes producers responsible for providing collection services to local communities, managing blue box materials, and establishing targets to increase diversion rates, tackle plastic waste and protecting the environment.

The proposed regulation identifies responsible producers for the scope of blue box materials that must be diverted and enable them to contract with producer responsibility organizations (PROs) to meet their regulatory requirements.

The proposed regulation would include printed paper, packaging, and non-alcoholic beverage containers, and expand collection requirements to include additional materials commonly put in blue boxes by residents:

- Unprinted paper;
- Single-use packaging-like products, such as foils, wraps, trays, boxes, bags; and
- Single-use items relating to food and beverage products such as straws, cutlery, plates, stir sticks.

The proposed regulation would maintain the accessibility and performance of existing deposit-return programs for alcohol beverage containers.

The proposed regulation would maintain or expand blue box services, including in communities with less than 5,000 residents. Producers would take responsibility for local Blue Box programs between 2023 and 2025 according to the proposed “Blue Box Transition Schedule” referenced in the proposed regulation. Producers would be fully responsible for all requirements, including expanding collection to communities outside the Far North that currently do not have blue box services, by 2026.

The proposed regulation also outlines a number of requirements that producers of Blue Box program will need to meet, including:

- Reporting on the amounts of blue box materials supplied and diverted each year
- Establishing collection systems, providing one convenient and accessible Common Collection System (CCS) for blue box materials in Ontario including small municipalities, unorganized territories and reserves and ensure no disruption
- Achieving management requirements for blue box materials, including diversion targets
- Providing promotion and education materials to increase consumer knowledge and awareness
- Registering with and reporting to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority
- Other requirements, including record keeping and third-party audits

#### What does this mean for West Elgin?

From what staff have read and understand this mean that curbside collection of Blue Box materials in West Elgin will continue even after our transition date. This new regulation gives the PRO's the ability to create the rules of a common collection system, which means at this time we do not know if this means the PRO's are going to pay Municipalities to keep on collecting recyclables or if they will contract out their own curbside collection companies, regardless West Elgin residents will not lose the curbside collection.

#### **Financial Implications:**

Financially West Elgin will see cost savings once we transition. In June West Elgin Council passed a resolution requesting a January 1, 2023 transition date to align ourselves with the other Municipalities that belong to the Municipal Recovery Facility in London and according to the draft Blue Box Transition Complementary Document provided by the Ministry of the Environment, West Elgin is listed in the 2023 London Area transition. This does not mean we will transition on January 1, 2023 as the Ministry will be working with each transition group to determine the best calendar day for transitioning. RPRA (Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority) has confirmed that funding through the Stewardship Ontario Data Call that staff submit each year will continue until transition has occurred. As this funding is one year behind, if West Elgin transitions in 2023, we will receive funds in the calendar year 2023 as it is for the 2022 year. Conversely if we transition part way through the year of 2023 West Elgin will receive pro-rated funds for that time once the data call has been completed in 2024.