

Report to Council

Report Title: Blue Box Transition Update 2

Prepared By: Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations

Department: Materials Management

Date: September 24, 2024

Report Number: PW2024-17 **File Number:** C11PW, E07RE

Attachments: N/A

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2024-17 - Blue Box Transition Update 2, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations for information purposes.

Background:

On August 15, 2019, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks issued direction to Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) and Stewardship Ontario to begin transitioning the management of Ontario's Blue Box Program to producers of plastic and other packaging. This will enable the transition of materials collected under the program to individual producer responsibility under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016. The Blue Box Program transitioned to the new regulatory framework for resource recovery starting from July 1, 2023 through to December 31, 2025.

On June 3, 2021, the Government of Ontario released the final Blue Box Regulation under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA) requiring producers to establish and operate systems for the collection, recycling and reuse of blue box materials.

Producers were required to hire a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO). There are 4 PRO's in Ontario, Circular Materials (CMO) being the one that was contracted for our region.

How do PROs Operate?

PRO's will establish and operate common collection systems to replace the hundreds of individual municipal and First Nation Blue Box programs operating across Ontario under the Waste Diversion and Transition Act, 2016. In January 2023, Circular Materials and Ryse (PRO's) announced the execution of a System Access Agreement to operate a common collection system. The System Access Agreement sets out the administrative, operational, and procurement policies and practices by which this common collection system will be operated. Circular Materials is the Administrator of this common collection system.

PRO's will also establish and operate management systems to ensure that Blue Box materials collected through common collection systems are recycled and turned into recovered resources. These recovered resources can be counted towards meeting a producer's management requirement.

A producer's management requirement is how much Blue Box material they must ensure is collected and processed into recovered resources each year. Management requirements are calculated based on what they supplied into Ontario two years prior, and the resource recovery percentage as set in the regulation. A producer's management requirement is calculated separately for each Blue Box material category (beverage container, glass, flexible plastic, rigid plastic, metal and paper).

To help producers meet their promotion and education requirements, PRO's will inform residents in Ontario about the changes to their Blue Box programs and how to correctly dispose of Blue Box materials when they are ready to discard them.

All collection, management, promotion, and education systems must meet the requirements set out in the Blue Box Regulation.

Eligible vs. Non-Eligible Sources

Most of the sources that are currently being picked up are considered eligible sources under the new Blue Box Regulation. Non-eligible sources include industrial or commercial properties, not-for-profit organizations, municipal buildings or facilities, daycares, places of worship, campgrounds and trailer parks (without permanent or seasonal households) and commercial farms.

Analysis:

The two convenience collection depots, one at each landfill, will be permanently closed at the end of 2025, prior to Brockton's transition of January 1, 2026. Beyond that date, CMO will no longer continue to operate the recycling portion of our landfills. Even if Brockton wished to maintain these two depots, it is beyond the scope of staff or Council to decide. Since Brockton offers curbside collection for recyclables to all residents, it will continue in that manner, with little effect on most residents.

The Walkerton Recycling Depot ("MTO Yard") will no longer be accepting corrugated cardboard, as that product will also move to curbside collection. It remains to be seen if expanded polystyrene will be included in curbside collection after the transition date. If polystyrene collection is offered curbside, the municipality will cease to continue collections at the depot, as it will also be beyond the scope of council and staff to maintain that facility for collection purposes. Staff continue to consult with Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling (BASWR) staff and CMO as the transition date moves closer to realization.

Hanover Transition

The Town of Hanover's transition date is January 1, 2025. What this entails is Hanover entering an agreement with CMO to continue to run the Hanover/Walkerton collection site until December 31, 2025. The agreement allows the collection site to be run by Hanover staff without interruption. It also allows the residents of Walkerton to continue using the site. Beyond December 31, 2025, it will be solely up to the discretion of CMO to determine if the recycling collection site remains in operation. Since curbside pickup is offered in

Walkerton, it will have little effect on residents if CMO does not continue to operate the Hanover collection site.

Since Brockton has a transition date of January 1, 2026, it is anticipated that the transition will be smoother than what other municipalities have had to contend with. Brockton will not be required to work “as a contractor” for CMO throughout the transition.

Next Steps

Staff will continue providing the necessary information to CMO to ensure that a seamless transition will occur for residents and determine if there are any existing non-eligible sources that should be included in curbside pickup. More information on non-eligible sources and how to approach their collection will be available in the future, at which time staff will provide another update to council.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?		
• Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision		Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community		N/A
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life		Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment		N/A
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development		Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance		Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

Reviewed By:




Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonya Watson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer