

Report to Council

Report Title: Blue Box Transition Update – Municipal Sources

Prepared By: Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator and Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations

Department: Operations – Waste Management

Date: August 26, 2025

Report Number: WM2025-09 **File Number:** C110P, E07

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number WM2025-09 - Blue Box Transition Update – Municipal Sources, prepared by Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator and Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations and in doing so directs Staff to work towards Option _____.

Report:

Background:

Ontario's Blue Box recycling program is undergoing a legislated shift to a full producer responsibility model under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 and Ontario Regulation 391/21. This transition—being managed by Circular Materials Ontario, a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)—removes municipalities from operational and financial responsibility for Blue Box services.

Effective December 31, 2025, the Municipality of Brockton will no longer operate local Blue Box depots, including the Walkerton Recycling Depot cardboard bins. All municipal recycling depots will be permanently closed as producers move toward standardized curbside collection models under the provincial framework. The closure aligns with Ontario's phased transition, which will be completed by December 31, 2025. Additionally, ineligible sources will no longer be apart of the recycling program.

Eligible sources should not be drastically affected by these changes and should see an increased level of service, including corrugated cardboard being added to curbside collection, and include the following property types - single-family homes, multi-family homes and multi-residential buildings (apartments and condos, specified non-profit or municipal long-term care facilities and retirement homes, specified public spaces (e.g. parks, sidewalks), Public or private, primary and secondary schools, and residences on mixed-use properties.

Ineligible sources are defined as any entities not an Eligible Source. As far as the regulation is concerned, any ineligible source must make private arrangements for recycling collection.

Analysis:

As staff require time to plan and implement, the following information has been provided to Council to seek direction on which plan Council would like to see happen beginning 2026. Staff have two options currently, which are as follows:

Option A: Collection of ALL ineligible sources.

Option B: Collection of ONLY Municipal Sources.

Option A: Collection of ALL ineligible sources

BASWR provided a pricing estimate for the collection of all ineligible sources in Bruce County. The total cost of this estimate, per year, is \$870,897.62 with Brockton's portion being \$89,467.21. This estimate is based on servicing 143 Brockton sources with an estimated 113 tonnage. This cost is assuming one (1) recycling bin is placed curbside each week. Based on the amount of tonnage per municipality the cost may fluctuate, and with the removal of corrugated cardboard bins at the Walkerton Recycling Depot, staff anticipate the tonnage will increase. Staff also note that this option will have limited quantities allowed and may not provide the necessary volume required by businesses. This may fluctuate, based on how many businesses are picked up each week and how much each puts out. Further noting that most businesses already have undertaken their own arrangements for recycling, leaving only a few to place recycling at the curb. Staff have visually confirmed this. This would essentially be an added service for many existing commercial businesses that already have options in place for this service.

Staff note that should any municipality not proceed with this option, the fees will increase for the remaining municipalities.

Option B: Collection of Municipal Sources (preferred option)

Staff also requested a pricing estimate for the 11 municipal sources from Waste Management, and with one (1) two (2) yard bin at each municipal location and varying pick up schedules based on need, for approximately \$9,884.64 plus HST, per year. This cost is a set cost and can be budgeted accurately each year.

It is important for the 2026 budget preparations and planning and implementation of services related to the in-eligible sources that we received direction related to a preferred path forward.

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 | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Dependant on the option chosen as outlined above.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator



Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer