




Hamilton

# INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	July 9, 2019
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Regulations on Electronic Waste and Batteries (ES19021) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Division Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Background

On May 9, 2019, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) released draft Regulations for Recycling Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) and Batteries under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. The comment period for these draft regulations ended on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The intent of these draft regulations is to establish a full producer responsibility model for EEE and batteries and to create a circular economy where resources are reused and/or recovered as opposed to being disposed.

Currently, the City of Hamilton accepts EEE and batteries at its three Community Recycling Centres (CRCs). The EEE material that is accepted at these locations includes, but is not limited to, computers, DVD/Blu Ray players, digital cameras and monitors. In 2018, the amount of EEE collected at the CRCs was approximately 170 tonnes and the amount of batteries was approximately 90 tonnes.

The comment period for the draft regulations was insufficient for a report to be brought to Council before the Ministry's deadline. Comments submitted by staff are summarized below.

## Staff Comments

Staff reviewed the draft regulations and submitted comments to the MECP on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Prior to submission, the Waste Management Advisory Committee was provided with a

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Regulations on Electronic Waste and Batteries  
(ES19021) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 3**

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summary of staff comments which focused on the following subject areas of the regulations:

1. Definitions of EEE and Batteries
2. Management and Registration of Producers
3. Promotion and Education
4. Collection sites for EEE

#### Definitions

The draft regulations include proposed definitions for what is included as EEE and batteries under the new full producer responsibility program.

The draft regulations define EEE as having an electric current and a voltage not exceeding 1000 volts for alternating current and 1,500 volts for direct current. Additionally, the definition includes four categories:

1. Information technology, telecommunications and audio-visual equipment
2. Lighting
3. Large equipment
4. Small equipment

Excluded from EEE are large-scale fixed installations (such as elevators), toys, textiles and clothing containing EEE, motor vehicles and any product that is, or designed for use with, any marine, military, aeronautic or space equipment.

Staff commented that the definition of EEE should be expanded to include anything with a cord and current (with some minor exceptions) and include toys.

The definition of batteries in the draft regulation means a product that has at least one voltaic or galvanic cell and is used as a source of electricity. Additionally, the definition includes three categories:

1. Small single use batteries
2. Small rechargeable batteries
3. Large batteries

Staff commented the definition for batteries should be expanded to include any type of battery.

#### Management and Registration of Producers

The draft regulations include rules around how producers are to register, collect and report on EEE and what targets they must meet. However, these rules and targets are

**SUBJECT: Regulations on Electronic Waste and Batteries  
(ES19021) (City Wide) - Page 3 of 3**

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only applicable to the first two categories (information technology, telecommunications and audio-visual equipment and lighting).

Staff commented that rules and targets should be applicable to all categories of EEE.

#### Promotion and Education

The draft regulations for EEE and batteries state that the minimum promotion and education obligation for producers is to create a website which includes details of the program including collection sites.

Although this information is valuable, staff commented that there must be more forms of promotion and education. Producers should use all media forms such as print, radio and digital to inform residents on the program. Additionally, packaging of EEE and batteries, and in some cases, the material themselves, should be used to direct residents to producer websites, and ultimately, the location of collection sites where the material can be dropped off for proper recycling.

#### Collection Sites

Under the draft regulations there are no references to municipalities operating collection sites or events if they choose to do so.

Staff commented that the regulations should include the option for municipalities to operate collection sites or events if they choose, and how a municipally runs collection sites should not be required to meet the same requirements as producer owned/operated collection sites.

The draft regulations also include that in lieu of having permanent collection sites, producers could hold collection events that last at least four consecutive hours. Staff commented that these collection events should run for at least six consecutive hours.

#### Next Steps

The MECP will review comments on the draft regulations and use these to form the new regulations on EEE and batteries. When the results of the review and eventual final regulations are known, staff will provide an update to Council.

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not applicable