




INFORMATION UPDATE

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| TO: | Mayor and Members City Council |
| DATE: | October 20, 2020 |
| SUBJECT: | Waste Free Ontario Act Update – Proposed Blue Box Transition Plan Regulation (ES20010) (City Wide) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department |
| SIGNATURE: |  |

This Information Update is to provide the Mayor and Members of City Council with details of the proposed Blue Box transition Regulation released by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) on October 19, 2020. This regulation, when enacted, will make producers responsible for operating Ontario's Blue Box program under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 (RRCEA).

Overview of the Proposed Blue Box Transition Program Regulation

On October 19, 2020, Minister Jeff Yurek of the MECP announced the release of the proposed Blue Box Program Regulation which will transition the responsibility of the Blue Box Program from municipalities to the producer responsibility framework model. The new model will make producers fully responsible for the cost and operation of the residential Blue Box Program by the end of 2025.

The proposed regulation will require producers to operate a common Blue Box collection system to service all eligible sources in Ontario and manage the recycling program in an environmentally responsible manner. The key aspects of the regulation include the following:

- Establishing one common curbside Blue Box collection system across Ontario including small sized communities;
- Expanding the range of Blue Box materials collected and managed which would include recyclable packaging, single-use packaging-like products and single-use

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food and beverage service products;

- Increasing Blue Box collection services to additional sources such as schools, retirement homes, long-term care homes and some public spaces, such as parks;
- Providing province-wide promotion and education materials to increase consumer knowledge and awareness; and
- Ensuring data management requirements which requires producers, service providers and other applicable persons to register, maintain records, and provide audited data.

Proposed Blue Box Program Transition Schedule

The Ontario government will use a phased approach for the producer responsibility model to operate the Blue Box program, with municipalities transitioning their program between January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025. Approximately one third of municipalities will begin transitioning each year between 2023 to 2025.

In response to a request from the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) in December of 2019, and as outlined in Report PW20028, Hamilton City Council endorsed the preferred transition date for Hamilton to be between April 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. Although municipalities were asked to provide their transition date to AMO and the MECP, the MECP made the final determination on the transition timing for municipalities. The proposed Regulation identifies that the City of Hamilton's transition is scheduled to take place in 2025 along with neighbouring municipalities including Halton Region, City of Guelph, City of Brantford, and Brant County. A map showing the clusters of municipalities geographically divided to transition in each of the three years is attached as Appendix "A" to Information Update ES20010. The City will continue to have legislated responsibility for providing recycling services until the City's Blue Box program is fully transitioned to the new producer responsibility model in 2025.

Next Steps

The proposed Regulation is posted on the Province's Environmental and Regulatory Registries (ERO #019-2579) for public consultation from October 19, 2020 to December 3, 2020. Staff will review the proposed Regulation in consideration of potential implications for the City's budget and recycling operations. Subsequently, staff will report to the November 16, 2020 Public Works Committee on potential impacts of the proposed Regulation and recommended comments for submission to the Province. In addition to providing comments back to the MECP, staff will continue to participate in all consultation opportunities available through industry organizations.

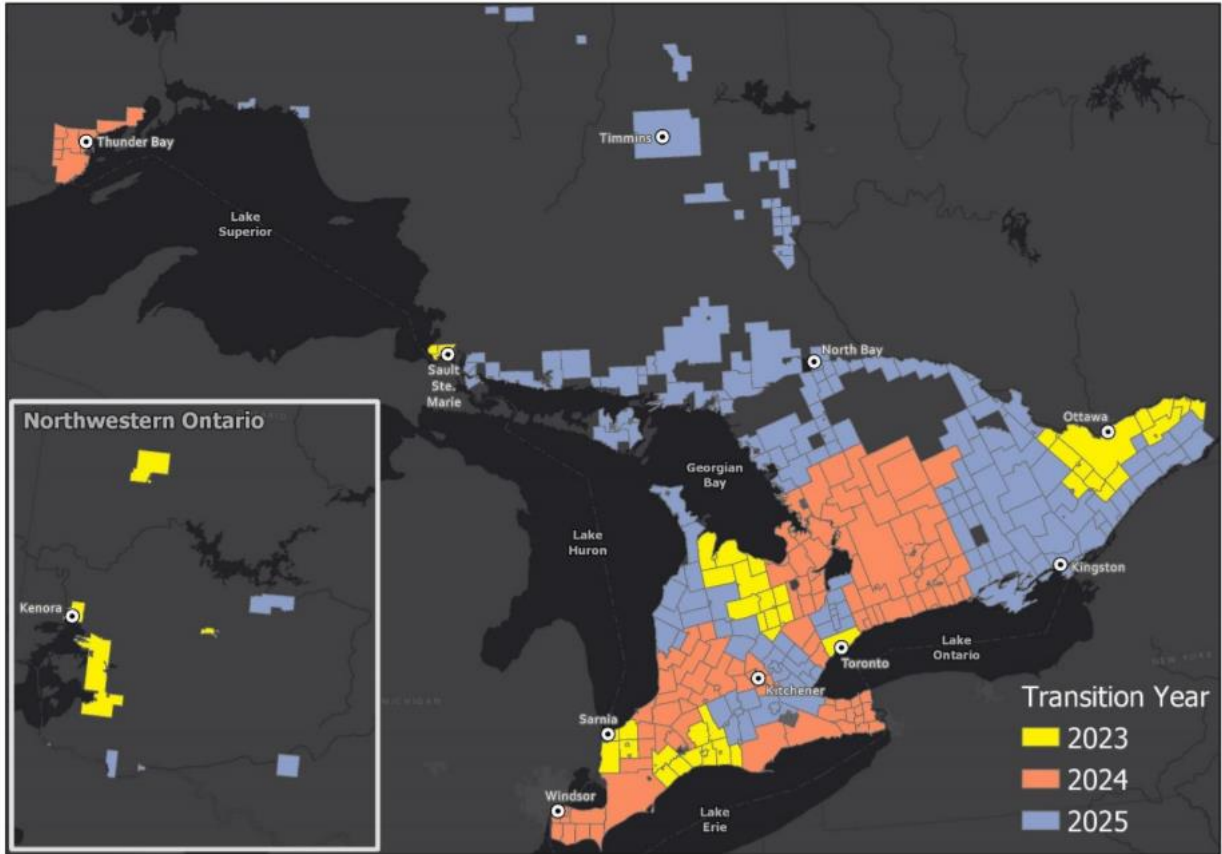
If you require more information please contact Angela Storey, Manager of Business Programs, at extension 6483.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Information Update ES20XXX – Proposed Blue Box Residential
Recycling Program Transition Map

Appendix “A” to Information Update ES20010

**Blue Box Residential Recycling Program
Lower / Single Tier Municipalities**



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