

Attachment 1: Background on Transition to Full Producer Responsibility

Municipal governments have been advocating for over a decade for producers to have full fiscal and operational responsibility for end of life management of their packaging, printed paper and paper products. Producers are best positioned to reduce waste, increase the resources that are recovered and reincorporated into the economy and enable a consistent province-wide system that makes recycling easier and more accessible.

In August 2019, Minister Yurek announced that municipal Blue Box programs will be transitioned to full producer responsibility over a three-year period based on the recommendations from the Special Advisor’s report titled, “Renewing the Blue Box: Final report on the blue box mediation process.” Municipal governments played a key role in helping to develop the recommendations within this report. These recommendations broadly reflected the positions advocated by AMO and there was also a great deal of alignment with producers on how the Blue Box should be transitioned.

The municipal transition is proposed to occur between 2023 and the end of 2025, as shown in the table below:

Date	Description
Sept. 2019 → Dec. 2020	Blue Box wind-up plan developed for Stewardship Ontario
	Development of a Regulation under the <i>Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016</i>
Jan. 2021 → Dec. 2022	Producers prepare to assume control and operation of system and work with municipal governments and service providers
Jan. 1, 2023 → Dec. 31, 2025	Transition of individual municipal Blue Box programs to full producer responsibility. Occurs in phases over three years with a rolling total of up to one-third of the Provincial program transitioning annually

The Minister wants to ensure that the transitioned Blue Box system is affordable for producers, workable for the waste processing sector, and effective and accessible for residents. AMO and municipal representatives are involved in the consultation process to develop a new regulation for the Blue Box. The Province’s intent is to finalize a Regulation by the end of 2020.

AMO staff held in-person workshops on the Blue Box transition across the Province through October and November 2019 to discuss this topic with municipal waste management staff. Over 165 staff and elected officials attended the sessions in Vaughan, London, Smiths Falls, North Bay and Dryden. The workshops provided an opportunity to engage directly with our sector to build understanding about this transition process and the level of engagement from attendees was excellent.

We also began the discussion about what municipal governments should take into consideration about how to prepare for this change and what factors might be considered as to when a Council might want to transition.

HOW YOUR RESOLUTION WILL HELP INFORM THE DISCUSSION:

The resolutions will be used to map out an ideal transition timeline, and determine whether there are years that are over or under subscribed, as it has been dictated that a rolling total of up to one-third of Blue Box programs can transition each year. This information will also allow AMO and the Province to better understand whether there are conflicts. If there are too many conflicts, the Province may still need to retain a third-party expert to develop a methodology as to how municipal Blue Box programs will transition.

However, rather than deferring to the Province to retain an expert immediately, we think this information would provide a good basis for a more informed decision to be made.