

# Sea Change: the Blue Box under Full Producer Responsibility

City of Kawartha Lakes

March 10, 2020

Dave Gordon,  
Senior Advisor

# AGENDA

- Context & Minister's Announcement
- Key Recommendations from Blue Box Report
- Transition Process
- Decisions for Council to Make:
  - When to transition?
  - Call for resolutions
- Questions & Answers

# WASTE & PLASTICS ARE TOP ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Municipal governments have advocated for over a decade for full producer responsibility
- Waste, plastics and litter are polling as some of the most urgent environmental issues and your consumers want change urgently
- False start in 2017 with failed amended Blue Box Program Plan with Stewardship Ontario
- Province's special advisor David Lindsay mediated a productive process and the government has responded



# MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

- August 15, 2019 Minister Jeff Yurek announced that the Blue Box program is transitioning to full producer responsibility
- Government accepted the recommendations from David Lindsay report
- Consultation on development of a Regulation under the *Resource Recovery & Circular Economy Act* (RRCEA) to commence this fall and be completed by end of 2020



Minister's Announcement, August 15, 2019

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BLUE BOX REPORT

- Transition to full producer responsibility of the Blue Box program:
  - Should occur over 6 years from 2019 to end of 2025
  - Must not negatively impact the recycling services that the people of Ontario use every day
- Producer responsibility regulations should maintain Blue Box collection as an essential part of any collection system.
- Producers should have:
  - Flexibility to collect some packaging through other methods; and
  - Access to a common collection system and the materials they need to recycle to ensure that the people of Ontario have uninterrupted service across the province during the transition period.



## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BLUE BOX REPORT (CONT'D)

- Having full responsibility and accountability of the system means that producers must have control to decide which assets will be used in a future collection and management system.
- Producers should not be forced to use, or pay for, municipal assets they do not need.
- Municipal governments must be able to bid fairly on future services for producers, and decide whether, and how, their existing assets may be part of their bids.
- It should be easier for Ontarians to understand what is recyclable and what is not. A common collection system should have a standard list of materials.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BLUE BOX REPORT (CONT'D)

- Producers should provide Blue Box services wherever it is currently provided as of a specified date; going forward they should take on new residential developments.
- After transition is completed, producers should gradually expand collection in multi-residential buildings, as well as parks and public spaces where municipalities provide waste collection.
- Blue Box services should not be expanded to industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) establishments as these facilities already have their own waste servicing arrangements and existing contracts for diversion.
- Ontarians need similar opportunities to recycle whether they are at home, work or out in public.
- The province should review and modernize the regulatory framework for IC&I facilities to improve overall diversion rates, and better align the kinds of materials recycled in this sector with those that are recycled through the Blue Box.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BLUE BOX REPORT (CONT'D)

- Reduce, reuse, recycle should count as diversion (e.g., processes that continue to make materials available as a resource for new products or packaging)
- Incineration and energy-from-waste should not count as diversion.
- Where feasible, regulations should recognize and reward producers for reducing waste and improving their environmental performance.
- Co-ordinated, province-wide promotion & education is critical to build upon our Blue Box culture, reduce litter, and make waste reduction a part of everyday life.
- Ontario should take strong action to reduce plastic pollution and be a voice for decisive, focused, and co-ordinated action at both the national and international level. All parties must not lose sight of the fact that packaging is only one part of our plastics problem.
- The province should ensure that all ministries work together to develop a collaborative plan for Ontario to become a leading jurisdiction for innovation and economic growth in the recycling industry.



# TIMELINE FOR BLUE BOX TRANSITION

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</i> , 2016
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 3 years with 1/3 of the program transitioning annually

# MUNICIPAL 3RS COLLABORATIVE

**Established:** 2017

**Members:** Comprised of the following organizations



**Purpose:** Develop and promote policies & programs on behalf of all municipalities in Ontario to support the transition to a circular economy

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DECIDE OPTIMAL TIME FOR TRANSITION

- **Why?** Municipal councils know all operational & financial obligations that need to be transitioned
- **How to decide?** Examine your municipal government's current situation (e.g., assets, contracts, and integrated waste management system)
- **How to declare?** Council resolution directed to AMO and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks that specifies:
  - Preferred date to transition based on exiting service provision
  - Rationale for transition date
  - Whether the municipality is interested in potentially continuing to provide services (e.g. contract management, collection, haulage processing services etc.) or not
  - Key contacts if there are any follow-up questions
- **Timing?** Resolution provided before June 30, 2020 ahead of the finalization of the Regulation.

# TRANSITION DECISIONS – KEY CONSIDERATIONS

## **Assets:**

Land, buildings,  
infrastructure, human  
resources

## **Contracts:**

Existing contract terms &  
expiries

## **Integrated Waste Management Services**

What services will you continue to provide?

# RESOURCES FOR COUNCILS & STAFF

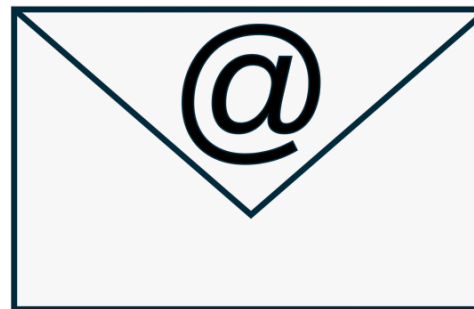
- There are many ways to stay involved
- Stay engaged through signing up for the Waste Portal at [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)



AMO Website & Portal



Webinars



E-mail



In-person Workshops

# KEY TAKEAWAYS....

- Successful transition of the Blue Box program addresses long standing municipal concerns about the cost and complexity of recycling being borne by the taxpayer
- It also establishes a system where producers can design packaging and products to be more sustainable and respond to consumer demands for less waste, better recycling and elimination of litter
- Discussions on the transition of your Blue Box program need to happen at your Council table with input from your staff
  - When do you want to transition?
  - Do you want to consider service provision to producers in the future?
- AMO is here to help and resources are available



# Questions?



Dave Gordon, Senior Advisor

416-389-4160

[Dgordon@amo.on.ca](mailto:Dgordon@amo.on.ca)

Amber Crawford, Policy Advisor

416-971-9856 x 353

[Acrawford@amo.on.ca](mailto:Acrawford@amo.on.ca)