
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Memorandum ENV-M01-2021 Transition of the Blue Box Program Update For Consideration by Council in Committee on October 26, 2021



To: Mayor Hewitt and Members of Council
From: Nancy McKinnon, Environmental Operations Supervisor

Background Review

- As previously reported to Council, the Province is initiating significant changes to the current Blue Box program as noted below. Final Blue Box regulation (Ontario Regulation 391/21) under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 passed on June 3, 2021 that transitions municipal Blue Box programs to full Producer Responsibility.
- The Blue Box Regulation transitions the responsibility for promotion and education, collection and processing for Blue Box materials to producers and identifies minimum service, and diversion targets. The transition will occur between July 1, 2023 and end December 31, 2025.
- Council in Committee, on January 14, 2020, advised the Province that it was supportive of a timely, seamless and successful transition of the Blue Box program to full financial and operational responsibility by producers of packaging, paper and paper products.
- As per the new Blue Box Regulation, all transitioning municipalities were required to submit an Initial Report to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) by September 30, 2021. The Initial Report identified current service levels, number of residences, number of eligible locations and number of recycling containers located in public spaces.
- Haldimand County is currently scheduled to transition on January 1, 2024. Details on the transition are not yet known but staff will continue to provide information and details to Council during the transition process.

Eligible Properties Reported to RPRA for Blue Box Collection in 2024

- Residential
 - Single Family (including seasonal) = 19,316*
 - Units within multi-residential = 1,300
- Facilities
 - Retirement homes (non-profit) = 3
 - Long-term care homes (non-profit) = 2
 - Schools = 27
- Public Spaces
 - Cayuga's BIA receptacles = 6**

*includes 2,040 properties from FARM properties, which is not clear whether they will receive collection or not, still need clarity from RPRA.

** Solid Waste has asked for RPRA's approval to remove and replace with single garbage receptacles.

Ineligible Properties for Blue Box Collection through RPRA in 2024

- Farm = 48
- Commercial = 453***
- Industrial = 142
- Institutional = 2
- Special and Exempt = 113
- Government = 17

***includes 244 residential units

Note: Currently an industrial, commercial and institutional establishment that is on an existing residential collection route is permitted to receive material collection. If they are not on a residential route, they would not necessarily be guaranteed collection. Based on the information we are aware of to-date, in January 2024 these establishments would have to make arrangements for collection at their own cost.

What are other Neighbouring Municipalities doing when asked in September 2021

- Brant County – transitioning Blue Box program to producers
- City of Brantford – transitioning Blue Box program to producers
- City of Hamilton – Council has not made official decision
- Niagara Region – Council has not made official decision
- Norfolk County – transitioning Blue Box program to producers

Going Forward

- Haldimand County By-Law No. 1736/16 being a by-law for the collection of waste, recyclables, and other materials within the County will require updating.
- Ontario Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement (2016, 2018) supports the provincial interest in municipalities waste reduction. Once Haldimand reaches a population of 50,000, we will be required to have a food and organic waste program for single-family homes in an urban settlement. Due to low population density, we will not necessarily need to provide curbside collection of the food and organic waste. That being said, any savings in the transition of the recycling program will likely need to be put towards an organics program.
- Haldimand County requires a strategic communication plan to be utilized for the properties that it currently services.
- Continuous talks and participation with RPRA, Association of Municipalities Ontario, Policy Integrity Inc., the Continuous Improvement Fund, in addition to peers from other municipalities, in order to gather and present information that is right for Haldimand County and the properties that Haldimand County currently services.