



Waste-Free Ontario Act Updates

Item 8.2

Waste Free Ontario Act

Proposed Blue Box Program Regulation – Overview

- On October 19, 2020 the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) released the proposed Blue Box Program Regulation
- The proposed Regulation is posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for a 45-day comment period ending December 3, 2020
- The goals of the proposed Regulation include:
 - Producers are responsible for the cost of recycling products and packaging that they generate
 - Standardize the materials accepted in the Blue Box Program across Ontario
 - Maintain or improve Blue Box collection services
 - Increase waste diversion by expanding what materials can be recycled

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Proposed Blue Box Program - Designated Materials

- Producers will be required to collect a consistent list of materials in the Blue Box program across Ontario
- The designated materials in the proposed regulation includes:

Currently Accepted	New
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Packaging (e.g. cardboard boxes)▪ Printed & unprinted paper▪ Non-alcoholic beverage containers▪ Metal containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Single-use packaging-like products (e.g. wraps, trays)▪ Single-use items supplied with food & beverage products (e.g. straws, cutlery, plates)

- Concerns have been raised regarding the conflict with Federal legislation on the ban of single-use plastics, and if there are sustainable end markets for the new items

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Proposed Blue Box Program – Eligible Sources

- Producers will be required to collect from the following locations:
 - Permanent and seasonal dwellings
 - Multi-unit residential buildings
 - Public and private schools
 - Long-term care and retirement homes
 - A portion of parks and public spaces
- There are concerns that certain property types aren't included in the proposed Regulation, e.g. mixed-use commercial/residential buildings, municipal buildings

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Proposed Blue Box Program – Common Collection System

- The proposed Regulation allows producers to establish a common collection system to collect a consistent set of materials from all eligible sources
- Producers may establish an alternative collection system for specific products and packaging, e.g. deposit/return, return to retail system
- Producers will be able to create rules to ensure the common collection system is managed effectively. Rules may be different than the Blue Box program previously operated by the municipalities.

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Proposed Blue Box Program – Service Requirements

- During transition (2023 to 2025), producers will be required to provide service standards that equal or exceed what is being provided in that community
- Post transition (starting in 2026), the proposed Regulation includes service standards for eligible sources, e.g. collection method, collection frequency, provision and replacement of receptacles
- Municipalities are advocating that recycling service must be accessible and convenient as garbage collection

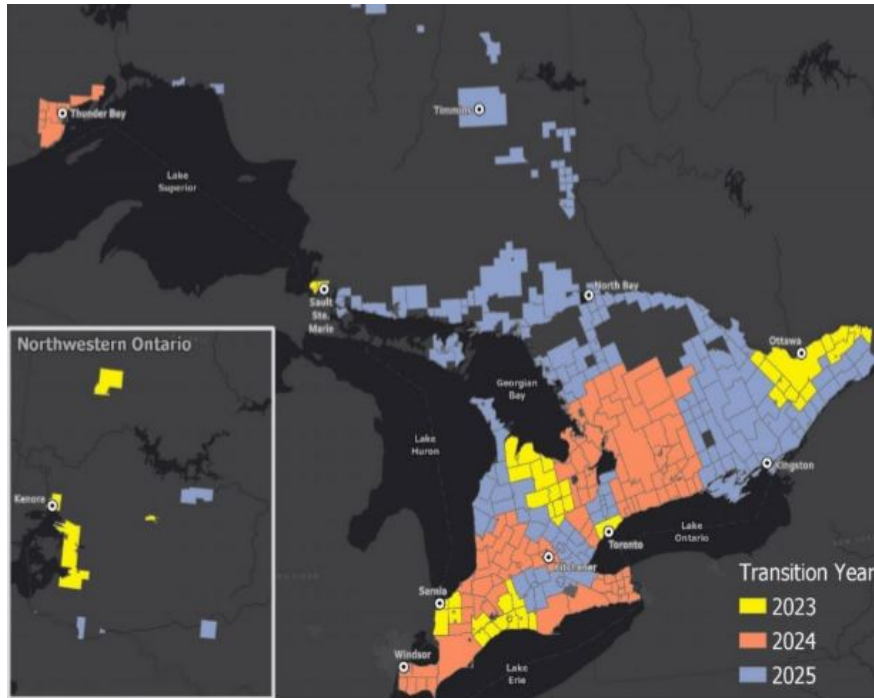
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Proposed Blue Box Program – Service Responsibilities

- All municipalities with a Blue Box program are required to register and provide information on collection and servicing on or before April 15, 2021
- Producers, service providers and other applicable persons will be required to register, maintain records, and provide audited data to the Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority (RPRA)
- Producers would have to meet management targets for the proportion of products and packaging they market

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Proposed Blue Box Program – Transition Schedule



- The transition schedule identifies the municipal programs that will transition between 2023 to 2025
- The City of Hamilton is scheduled to transition in 2025
- The City is advocating for an earlier transition date, e.g. preference is 2023, geographic implementation neighbouring municipalities such as Niagara Region will transition their program in 2024

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Food & Organic Waste Policy Statement Amendments (ERO 019-2498)

Proposed Changes

- Clarify and expand the types of materials that may be collected in municipal green bins and other collection systems, including certain compostable products and packaging such as certified compostable coffee pods
- Resource recovery targets are encouraged to capture harder to manage organic wastes, such as pet waste, hygiene products, and other certified compostable products and packaging
- Encourage innovation in the management and processing of compostable products, e.g. technology updates, research, and pilot projects

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Food & Organic Waste Policy Statement Amendments (ERO 019-2498)

Potential Concerns

- The majority of compostable products and packaging on the market (i.e. coffee pods, utensils) do not fully break down in many organics processing systems, which can impact compost quality and can increase contamination
- Some composting systems can't distinguish between compostable and non-compostable products (i.e. coffee pods) during the screening process used to filter out non-organic waste
- Possible confusion for consumers on which type of compostable packaging products are acceptable in the green bin program