



## TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL INFORMATION ITEM

**Committee:** Committee of the Whole – Administration & Operations

**Date:** February 10, 2025

**Department:** Community Development and Operations

**Topic:** Blue Box Transition Update

**Background:** The Blue Box Regulation shifts financial and operational responsibility for recycling programs from municipalities to producers of packaging and paper products. Edwardsburgh Cardinal transitioned to this new system on February 1, 2025. This change applies to all residential properties, with minimal disruption expected for residents during the transition period, which continues until December 31, 2025.

For Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) properties, the regulation excludes recycling collection from the producer-funded program. The Township has taken steps to ensure these properties are informed and supported during this transition based on the consensus outcome at the October 15 Committee of the Whole – Administration & Operations.

### Key Actions Taken

#### 1. Communication to Residents

A news release was prepared and shared on the Township's website and social media channels and printed on mailed curbside collection schedules. The communication highlights that:

- There are no changes to the materials residents can recycle or the collection schedule in 2025.
- Residents with recycling inquiries should contact Emterra, which is managing the program on behalf of Circular Materials.
- Garbage collection services remain unchanged and will still be managed by the Township, through HGC.
- FAQs were included to address common questions and clarify the roles of Circular Materials, Emterra, and HGC.

## 2. Communication to ICI Properties

Letters were sent to all ICI property owners outlining their exclusion from the producer-funded system. Key points included:

- The Township will extend HGC's contract to provide recycling collection for ICI properties in 2025, at a cost of approximately \$120 per property, to be billed in January 2026.
- An **opt-out option** was provided for properties that do not require municipal curbside recycling collection.
- A caution that ICI property owners will be responsible for arranging their own recycling services as of January 1, 2026.

## 3. Staff Preparedness

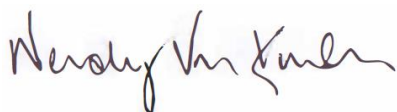
- Staff were briefed on the transition to respond to public inquiries effectively. Internal resources include a summary of the transition, contact information for Circular Materials, Emterra, and HGC, and a flowchart for handling escalations.

## Next Steps

Updates to our website will link directly to a webpage prepared for EC residents by Circular Materials: <https://www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-communities/edwardsburgh-cardinal/>.

Additional communications and educational materials will be distributed later in 2025 as the Township approaches the full transition deadline in 2026.

Staff will monitor inquiries from residents and businesses for any trends or issues that may require further action.



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Community Development Coordinator



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Director of Operations

## Attached:

- **News Release: Changes to Blue Box Recycling Program, January 16, 2025**
- **Letter to Industrial, Commercial, Institutional properties, January 16, 2025**