



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL INFORMATION ITEM

Committee: Committee of the Whole Admin. Finance

Date: September 13, 2021

Department: Operations

Topic: Blue Box Program – Transition to Producer Responsibility

Background: In 1994, under the Environmental Protection Act, all municipalities over the population of 5,000 were required to implement a blue box waste management program. On a yearly basis, reports to Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) are submitted quantifying the waste diverted via blue box. Compensation for the program is based on this report.

Due to program inefficiencies, Minister Yurek, (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks), directed Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority (RPRA) and Stewardship Ontario to prepare a proposal to transition the Blue Box Program to full producer responsibility. In August of 2019, recommendations were accepted by the Government. Minister Yurek announced the Government's intention to move to full producer responsibility.

On June 3, 2021, the Government of Ontario finalized the Blue Box Regulation under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, Ontario Regulation 391/21, setting the framework for the transition from shared fiscal responsibility, (50% municipal and 50% producer), to full producer responsibility. The transition is to take place over a three-year span starting January 2023 and to be complete by December 2025. The regulation transitions existing blue box services to producer responsibility in three groups according to the "Blue Box Transition Schedule." The "Blue Box Transition Schedule" identifies eligible municipalities and local services board areas and the date they are to transition. Producers would be responsible for transitioning communities on or before the dates contained in the schedule. Edwardsburgh Cardinal has been included in the final stage with a February 2, 2025 completion date.

Attached is a Template provided by RPRA to help Council understand steps taken to date and the next steps and decisions that Council should consider. Two reports are required to be submitted by Municipalities:

- 1) Initial Report to be submitted on or before September 30, 2021

The Initial Report is based on Section 54 of the Act and is a mechanism to advise Producer Representative Operators, (PROs), of Municipal contacts, population distribution and numbers of properties qualified to benefit under the program so they can plan efficient and cost-effective service. Staff is in the process of completing this report in advance of September 30.

- 2) Transition Report to be submitted on or before August 31, 2023

The Transition Report, based on Section 55 of the Act, provides a more detailed description of collection requirements in terms of who is eligible, pick-up locations, frequency of pick-ups etc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon", followed by a large, stylized flourish.

Director of Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dad Sart", written in a cursive style.

CAO