



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of General Committee**

**From:** **Cynthia Fletcher**  
**Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services**

**Meeting Date:** **July 13, 2020**

**Subject:** **Report IPSES20-020**  
**Transition of the City's Blue Box Program to Extended**  
**Producer Responsibility**

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## **Purpose**

A report to provide an update on the transition of the City's Blue Box recycling program to full producer responsibility, as per the Call for Action by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and to recommend a preferred date for the transition of the City's Blue Box program.

## **Recommendation**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report IPSES20-020, dated July 13, 2020, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services as follows:

That November 1, 2023 be the preferred date to transition the City of Peterborough's Blue Box program to Extended Producer Responsibility and that this be submitted to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with adoption of the recommendations contained in this report. As post transition program details and costs have not been finalized by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Parks, the long-term financial benefits of transitioning Ontario's Blue Box program to the Extended Producer Responsibility system are not fully known at this time; however, there are indications that there will be savings to the City in not providing a recycling program.

## **Background**

Ontario's Blue Box Program is currently partially funded through a formula established by Resource Productivity Recovery Authority (RPPA) which determines how much Producers are required to pay each municipality for their residential recycling program based on their recycling program's performance. The City of Peterborough has historically received approximately 50% of costs associated with the collection and processing of the City's Blue Box materials from RPPA, net of revenues received for the sale of the recyclable commodities collected.

On August 15, 2019, Minister Yurek of the Ontario Ministry of Environmental, Conservation and Parks (MECP) issued a direction to Stewardship Ontario and RPPA to begin the transition of Ontario's Blue Box program to an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system by December 31, 2025. Under such a program, industry would take over funding 100% of all related costs of Ontario's Blue Box program.

The MECP identified the timeline for transition; aside from proposing that approximately one third of municipalities will be transitioned each year from 2023 to 2025, it did not identify the process that would be used to determine when municipalities will transition within the three-year window. The MECP wants to ensure that the transitioned Blue Box Program is affordable for Producers, workable for the waste processing sector, effective form municipalities, and accessible for residents.

In December 2019, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) contacted Municipal Councils to gather information on transitioning communities Blue Box programs to the EPR system. They asked municipalities to seek Council approval outlining municipal Council's preferred date to transition and the rationale for the selected transition date. AMO and MECP will use this information to develop a transition timeline across the Province.

Staff reviewed the impacts of transitioning the City's recycling services and determined that the preferred date of November 1, 2023 will:

- Cover the recycling collection and processing, as well as the recycling drop-off depot adjacent to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) on Pido Road. These services are all currently offered under contract from Emterra Environmental.
- Coincide with the City's plans to launch a residential source separated organics (SSO) collection and processing program in the Fall of 2023. The timely transition of the recycling program coinciding with the implementation of the SSO program will enable the City to prepare a comprehensive education and communication package to inform residents of all program changes.

Although municipalities are being provided the opportunity to indicate their preferred transition date, the MECF and the EPR system will make the final decision on the timing for municipalities.

## Summary

Staff is recommending the transition date for the City's recycling program to move to the new EPR system be November 1, 2023. The City will continue to have legislated responsibility for providing recycling services until the City's Blue Box program is fully transitioned to the new EPR system, where the service will continue, but with different responsibility.

Municipalities may expect to continue to receive funding of up to 50% of the annual recycling service costs from RPRA until the program is transitioned, based on previous information shared by the MECF.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Fletcher  
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services

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