

# Information Report

**Title:** Blue-Box Transition Program

**Report Number:** Environmental Services-2024-15

**Director:** Infrastructure & Development

**Manager:** Environmental Services

**Meeting Date:**  
Wednesday, July 10, 2024

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## Executive Summary:

Significant changes are being implemented to the Blue-box program throughout Ontario impacting the Municipality of Kincardine. The onus for recycling is currently being funded by Municipalities, but the transition will see this responsibility now fall back on to the producers of product. The report will highlight some of the impacts and changes that will need council consideration.

## Context and Background Information:

The Blue-box transition has already started in portions of the province; however, the Grey-Bruce area is in capture area 17, which is in the final stage of the process, and must be prepared and in compliance for January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

The Municipality currently sub-contracts and is a partial owner of Bruce Area Solid Waste & Recycling (BASWR). In 1999, Kincardine and seven surrounding Municipalities entered into an agreement for joint operation of this partnership. BASWR has continued to provide waste management collection, recycling, commercial cardboard pick-up, and different forms of bin rental services throughout the Municipality.

Throughout the transition process several tenders and contracts were awarded for collection service. The Waste Management Company was awarded the local catchment area and will now provide depot services for the collection of all materials. For the Municipality it appears those services will be based out of Mount Forest.

BASWR has continued to work through the requirements within the transition program and through the board of directors submitted a proposal to be considered by Waste Management Company for the continued curb-side pickup of recycling and collection. Within this proposal there are several considerations that do not meet the recommended requirements set out in the new transition program.

Some of these include frequency of replacement of fleet, the inability to transport loads to Mount Forest as prescribed, and the continued usage of the Southampton site.

Significant impacts the Municipality will need to consider include:

Curb-side pickup is being discontinued for Industrial or Commercial properties. However, residential properties that exist over commercial properties are still eligible. Community Buildings such as an Arena and Libraries are no longer eligible. Daycares, Not-for-profit organizations, Places of Worship, Campgrounds, and Commercial Farms are also no longer eligible.

These changes are going to impact on how the Municipality manages these services. Options would include continuing to provide these services and paying associated costs. These costs may also need to be invoiced to the affected parties to recover costs. We could discontinue the service all together and have these affected groups enter into agreements with local collection services and fund this themselves. Or discontinue services and look to provide some form of depot system for those affected.

Additionally, tracking and auditing of these new regulations will become a vital component of the new producer's responsibility. This will add increased workload at all levels, but the waste management center is likely to be impacted significantly.

Depots like Bruce Avenue and Tiverton library are going to have to be closed. These types of systems have no ability to track materials or where these materials came from. It is possible that many of these bins may have to be removed and place at the Waste Management Center, but Kincardine will have to make decisions as to who we offer these services too. This directly relates back to tracking and handling of these materials.

Impacts of these changes could have an influence on areas like hours of operation and staffing levels at the Waste Management site. Perception among the public that taxes cover these types of services and additional costing and impacts to those affected. It is going to be difficult to separate and track these services, and it may result in Kincardine having to source Material Recovery Facilities to have these materials recycled. And finally, it may have a direct impact on landfill volumes. As these regulations are implemented it could become easier for people to landfill product as opposed to recycling it.

Further investment in infrastructure may also be required to accommodate possible surplus materials handled at the center.

The cost per household will likely escalate through this new process. Currently the agreement with BASWR allows some of the profits to offset overall operating expenses. The new program will not likely allow this and will result in additional cost per household.

### **Consultation Overview:**

Staff continue to review and take part in information sessions with contractors such as Circular Materials Ontario, BASWR, and other groups to best prepare for this project. Staff are also working with our waste management engineering firm to ensure compliance and updated information.

### **Origin:**

Obligations under new regulations.

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**Attachments:** None

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