Subject: Blue Box Transition Update

Report Number: Public Works-2020-21

Meeting Date: Monday, May 11, 2020

Recommendation: THAT Council select a blue box transition date of December 31, 2025;

AND FURTHER THAT Council consider motion regarding transitioning the municipal Blue Box program to full producer responsibility as recommended within Report No Public Works-2020-21.

Date to be considered by Council: Monday, May 11, 2020

Report Summary:

The Ontario government has unveiled plans to transition the costs of the Province’s Blue Box Program away from Municipal taxpayers by making the producers of products and packaging fully responsible. A statement was released on Aug. 15, 2019 announcing that the Provincial government is “moving forward immediately by issuing direction to Stewardship Ontario outlining the next steps and timelines to transitioning the program to producer responsibility starting in 2023. Staff are recommending Council support transitioning during the third and final year of the transition period to allow for appropriate review of our current collection arrangement and consider how it may function under the new framework.

Origin: Provincial Government/Stewardship Ontario

Existing Policy: N/A

Background/Analysis:

On August 15, 2019, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, announced that the Blue Box program will transition to full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). On November 22, 2019, the Minister announced
consultation on developing a Regulation under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA) to be completed by the end of 2020. The aim is to transition the Blue Box program as early as January 1, 2023, with one third of Ontario Municipalities transitioning annually until all Municipalities are transitioned by December 31, 2025.

The transition will ultimately make producers of product and packaging fully responsible to manage the collection, processing and marketing of materials collected in the Blue Box Program, as well as the costs to manage the system.

The transition’s phased approach is intended to ensure time to consult with the public, stakeholders and Indigenous communities, while providing a clear road map for Municipalities and time for producers to engage service providers.

The first group of Municipalities or First Nations will transfer responsibility of their programs to producers starting Jan. 1, 2023. By Dec. 31, 2025, producers will be fully responsible for providing blue box services Province-wide.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has requested that transitioning Municipalities pass supporting Council resolutions by June 30, 2020.

With the current agreement to operate under a shareholder arrangement with Bruce Area Solid Waste and Recycling (BASWR), we will need an appropriate amount of time to review how that functions under a producer responsible system and either amend or dissolve the terms. This rationale is shared amongst peers across the County.

Staff is recommending a transition date of December 31, 2025. To that end staff will provide an update to Council well in advance of this date and recommend a subsequent transition plan for Kincardine’s Blue Box program to full EPR.

Council is being asked to pass the attached resolution.

**Community Plan and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Considerations:** Environmental Stewardship – Continue to collaborate and demonstrate environmental awareness, responsibility and stewardship.

**Financial Implications:** N/A

**Attachments:** Draft Resolution, AMO Letter dated December 18, 2019 “Background on Transition to Full Produces Responsibility”