

April 16th, 2024

To: The Municipality of Tweed Council and Municipal Staff

From: Bill Sandison, General Manager - Quinte Waste Solutions

Subject: Blue Box Transition Update

On behalf of the Centre and South Hastings Waste Services Board, I am pleased to join you at your May 7th, 2024 Council Meeting to provide you with an update on the Blue Box transition.

As Background:

The Centre and South Hastings Board (CSHWSB) was formed over 30 years ago, when the Councils of nine municipalities got together with the primary mission of keeping material out of landfill, and they established Quinte Waste Solutions to manage the collection, processing and disposal of Blue Box recyclable material and Hazardous and Electronic waste.

Municipalities provided for their own waste management; garbage, organics and bulky items and operated a number of landfill sites across the catchment area.

Transition Status:

In 2019, the transition of Blue Box to Producer responsibility began to take shape. Municipal costs and political pressures led to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) where producers would be responsible for all 'eligible' source recyclable materials. The transition timeline is included in this report. The Ontario legislation: Blue Box Regulation 391/21 has been amended five times since the initial document was prepared.

In 2020, the CSHWSB 'Opted-out' of Blue Box recycling which meant that Producers would be responsible for the collection, processing and disposal of all 'eligible' recyclable material from the transition date onward.

The CSHWSB chose July 17th, 2025 as their Transition date, in part to benefit from the learnings of Municipalities that were transitioning earlier in the plan and to minimize risk.

The Producers engaged Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) as their agent to manage the transition of municipalities across Ontario.

The nine municipalities are part of Catchment Area 5. CMO issued RFP 2023-06 for our area early this year and the RFP close date was extended to April 19th, 2024.

As part of the process, QWS was asked to review, in conjunction with municipalities, the data originally submitted and segregate the 'non-eligible' sources.

A template to guide the determination of eligible and non-eligible sources is included in this report for your information.

The CSHWSB is exploring a number of options regarding the collection of 'non-eligible' source materials and that will be reviewed at their upcoming Board meeting on May 21st, 2024.

Summary Statement:

The CSHWSB is well positioned to effectively transition Blue Box recycling in July 2025 with the responsibility of eligible sources shifting to the awarded contractor, through CMO. The Board has developed alternatives for the continued collection of non-eligible source material.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Sandison", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Bill Sandison MBA, SCMP, CPIM, CITT

General Manager | Quinte Waste Solutions

Transition Timeline



2016	2016 Introduction of the Waste Diversion Transition Act (WDTA) and the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA)
2019	August 2019 Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) directs transition of the Blue Box Program to full producer responsibility
2020	March-June 2020 Stewardship Ontario stakeholder consultations on Blue Box Transition Plan August 2020 Stewardship Ontario submits draft Blue Box Transition Plan and Consultation Report to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) October 2020 MECP releases draft Blue Box Regulation December 2020 Following consultations, RPRA provides conditional approval of the Blue Box Transition Plan
2021	June 2021 MECP issues new Blue Box Regulation to implement full producer responsibility December 2021 Stewardship Ontario introduces proposal for simplified fee setting methodology
2022	May 2022 RPRA approves simplified fee setting following consultations; amendment added to Blue Box Transition Plan with Policy to guide implementation
2023	July 2023 The first Ontario communities begin receiving Blue Box services financed and operated by producers under the RRCEA and Blue Box Regulation
2025	December 2025 Transition of all Ontario communities completed
2026	2026 Stewardship Ontario winds up

Eligible versus Non-eligible Sources

