



City of Kingston
Information Report to Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies
Committee
Report Number EITP-24-014

To: Chair and Members of the Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee

From: Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation & Emergency Services

Resource Staff: Karen Santucci, Director, Public Works & Solid Waste

Date of Meeting: April 9, 2024

Subject: Blue Box Transition Update

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 3. Build an Active and Connected Community

Goal: 3.2 Beautify City streets and spaces.

Executive Summary:

On July 30, 2025, the collection and processing of blue box materials for Kingston will transition from a municipal responsibility to a new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model. Under this model, the organizing company, Circular Materials Ontario (CMO), will award contracts to those companies that will provide the collection and processing of the regulated materials. The transition, which began in July 2023, will gradually transition the province over to this new system by December 31, 2025, with Toronto and Ottawa having transitioned in July of 2023.

Curbside collection processes will not change for residential customers. There may be some changes that affect churches, daycares, industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) properties, and potentially some not-for-profit locations. The program will also not support the operation of a recycling drop-off location, such as at the City's Kingston Area Recycling Centre (KARC). Further information will be forthcoming as part of a future diversion report targeted for first quarter of 2025.

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At this time the material processing facility at KARC will not be utilized for processing of materials after July 31, 2025. CMO has yet to identify where the materials from Kingston will be sent or who will process them.

Both the Household Hazardous Waste Depot and the Leaf and Yard Waste Drop-off Facility will remain open and unchanged moving into 2025.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Brad Joyce, Commissioner,
Infrastructure, Transportation &
Emergency Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services	Not required
Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Major Projects & Strategic Initiatives	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

The transition to new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model began at a few larger municipalities in July 2023. Currently, there are no reported issues with the transitioned municipalities, with operations continuing uninterrupted.

The City of Kingston will transition to EPR on July 1, 2025. The period from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, is termed the transition period, and is just the starting point when Kingston transitions over to the end point when all municipalities have transitioned. The post transition period starts January 1, 2026.

Recycling Collection

The City will cease to provide recycling collection as of July 1, 2025. The City's fleet of six recycling trucks will become redundant at this point. The newer vehicles in the fleet will undergo a condition assessment with the intent to either sell or repurpose the vehicles.

The City contracts collection of recyclables in the east, west, and north sections of the City to E360 Solutions. This contract will need to be terminated effective July 1, 2025. Anticipating changes forthcoming based on the provincial move towards the producer responsibility model, staff had a termination clause built into the contract but there is an associated cost of \$275,285.

A collection contractor will be chosen by Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) to continue to operate the recycling program and this procurement is still underway. Once a proponent is selected, details will be provided to Kingston to allow staff to effectively inform residents regarding collection information and concerns.

Recycling Collection of Eligible/Non-Eligible Sources

The new Blue Box regulation (Ont. Reg. 391/21) promulgated under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016, identifies the entities that must be serviced by producers during the transition and post transition periods. These entities are referred to as eligible sources and are listed below. Under the regulation, CMO has no legal obligation to collect blue box material from non-eligible sources during or after transition. Staff will develop a communication plan for affected parties with information on the new producer program and how it may affect them.

Eligible Sources Include:

- residential homes (permanent or seasonal)
- residential units in mixed use buildings
- multi-residential buildings (apartments and condominiums)
- schools (public and private, elementary to secondary, but not post-secondary)

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- for-profit long-term care and retirement homes receiving community blue box collection (if service was received as of August 15, 2019)
- non-profit long-term care facilities and retirement homes
- public spaces (e.g., community parks, sidewalks)
- permanent or seasonal households within campgrounds and trailer parks

Non-Eligible Sources Include:

- industrial or commercial properties (not including residential units on the property)
- not-for-profit organizations
- municipal buildings or facilities
- daycares
- places of worship (not including a residential home on the property)
- campgrounds and trailer parks for temporary stay
- commercial farms (not including a residential home on the farm property)

Processing

The City currently contracts the processing of recycling materials at the Kingston Area Recycling Centre (KARC). The term of the processing contract ends June 30, 2023, and has extension options up to June 30, 2025, which is aligned with the transition dates of the new regulations.

Following an assessment and evaluation of the Kingston Area Recycling Centre, it was recommended to lease the facility and adjoining administration offices to a potential entity for use as a transfer or pre-conditioning facility. Council approved this recommendation at the February 7, 2023 Council meeting. The deadline for proponents to submit an RFP with CMO using Kingston’s Material Recovery Facility (MRF) was April 28, 2023.

No proponents agreed to terms with the City for the lease of the facility and was therefore not included in any RFP submissions for usage by a third party. The City will be reviewing options for the property.

Drop-Off Recycling Depot

The recycling depot located at 196 Lappan’s Lane (KARC), which currently accepts excess, oversized and business recycling, will cease operations at the end of day on June 29, 2025. Under the EPR model, producers are only required to operate a curbside collection program for residential properties. The depot at KARC will not be funded or operated by producers under the new program.

Businesses will be required to source their own recycling collection or use the services of a private waste company drop-off location to divert recyclable materials after the closure date. As

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part of ongoing diversion methods, the option to continue to operate a recycling depot at the City's expense will be reviewed and presented to Council in 2025 ahead of the potential closure.

Hazardous Waste

The City's Hazardous Waste Depot will continue to operate in 2024 and 2025 from April until November, Thursday 8am-5pm and Saturday 8am-4pm. Funding for the hazardous waste collection operation and disposal are still being reviewed based on changes to the household hazardous waste legislation.

Contacts:

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Adam Mueller, Supervisor, Solid Waste Disposal, 613-546-4291 extension 2702

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

None

Exhibits Attached:

None