

# Council Memo



---

To	<b>City Council</b>
Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Environment
Date	Wednesday, February 7, 2024
Subject	<b>Solid Waste Tour and Blue Box Transition Education and Training Session</b>

---

Ontario's [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act](#) (RRCEA) enacts the Province's approach to increase accountability and sustainability in the waste sector through the producer responsibility framework. Under producer responsibility, the companies that originate products and packaging destined to become waste are tasked with managing material through their full lifecycle, from retail through to waste collection and recycling into new products.

The Blue Box is the latest and largest waste stream to transition to producer responsibility under the RRCEA through the [Blue Box Regulation](#). Beginning on January 1, 2025, the Transition Period of the Blue Box Regulation will come into effect in Guelph and an industry-led nonprofit organization, [Circular Materials](#), will commence managing Blue Box materials for eligible sources, which include residential properties, schools, and nonprofit long term care and retirement facilities currently served by the City.

On January 1, 2026, the Full Implementation Period will begin, and Circular Materials will expand collection to eligible sources that are not currently serviced by the City. During the Full Implementation Period, Circular Materials will also begin to collect an expanded and harmonized list of materials across Ontario. A summary of eligible and ineligible sources and the two phases of the Blue Box Transition is provided as an appendix.

Previous staff report [2022-290](#), and the Blue Box Transition Status Update Information Report that will be published on Friday January 26, 2024, discuss the City's approach to managing the transition. Generally, the City has elected not to bid to become a contractor or subcontractor within the producer responsibility system. Rather, the approach is an orderly exit from the business while continuing to support and transition customer segments not served by the producer responsibility system. The City's Transition Plan includes the following elements:

- Staff transition
- Business continuity
- Asset transition
- Customer service transition

- Service transition
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Communication and community engagement

The Solid Waste Tour and Blue Box Transition Education and Training Session will provide Council with the background and knowledge to have informed discussions about the Blue Box program, and its impacts on ongoing programs and projects within Environmental Services, with our residents. The session will begin with a presentation on the policy and regulatory environment around circular economy and producer responsibility and discussion of the strategies employed by Guelph's Blue Box Transition Plan to manage the operational, reputational, and financial risks and impacts of the transition. Next, a site tour will familiarize Council with the facilities, equipment, and operations currently used by the City's Blue Box program and other operations to contextualize Solid Waste Resources' ongoing and future challenges and opportunities. A question and answer session to conclude will provide an opportunity for further discussion with Solid Waste Resources and Environmental Services management.

### **Attachments**

Attachment-1 Solid Waste Tour and Blue Box Transition Education and Training Session Presentation

Attachment-2 Solid Waste Tour and Blue Box Transition Education and Training Session Handout

### **This report was approved by:**

Nectar Tampacopoulos  
General Manager, Environmental Services  
Infrastructure, Development and Environment  
519-822-1260 extension 3599  
nectar.tampacopoulos@guelph.ca

### **This report was recommended by:**

Jayne Holmes, P.Eng., PMP  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Infrastructure, Development and Environment  
519-822-1260 extension 2248  
jayne.holmes@guelph.ca