



Update on Durham Region's Transition to Extended Producer Responsibility and Organics Program Changes

April 29, 2024

Township of Brock Council

Purpose

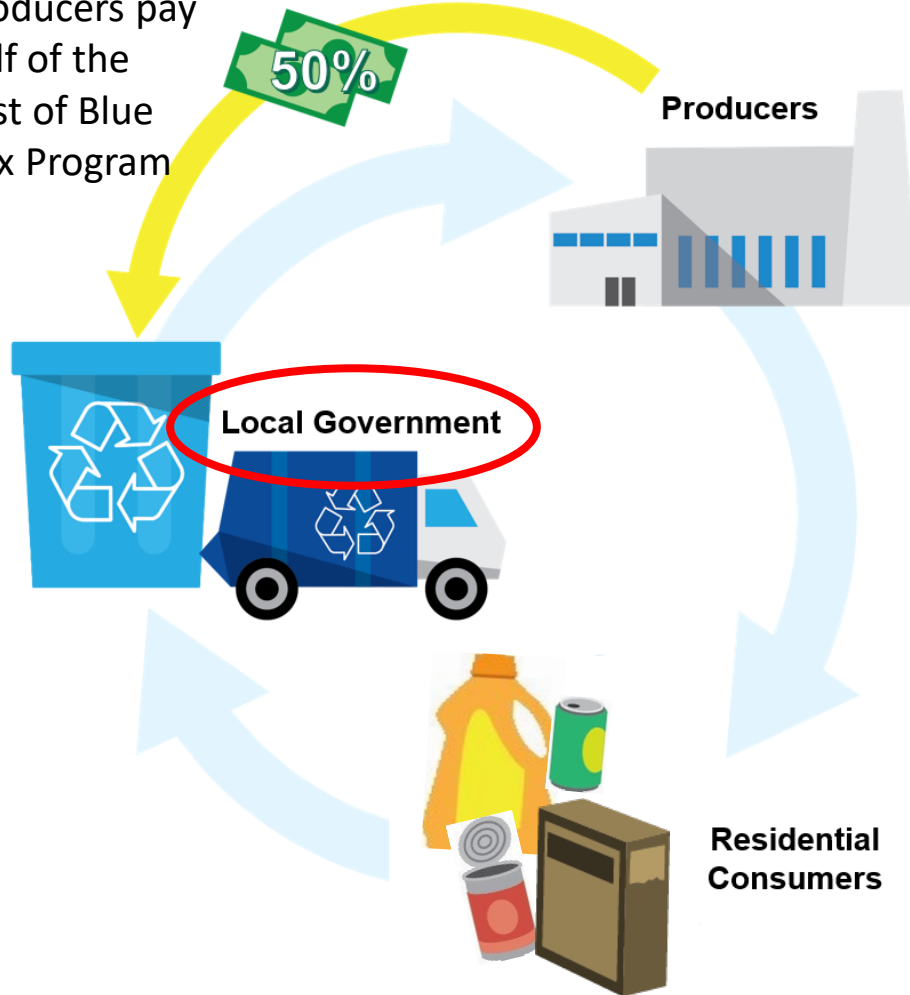
- **To provide local councilors with updates on two key 2024 Waste Management programs:**
 - Transitioning of responsibility for Blue Box recycling from municipalities to Producers
 - Planned launch of the Enhanced Green Bin program

Blue Box Regulation (Ontario Regulation 391/21)

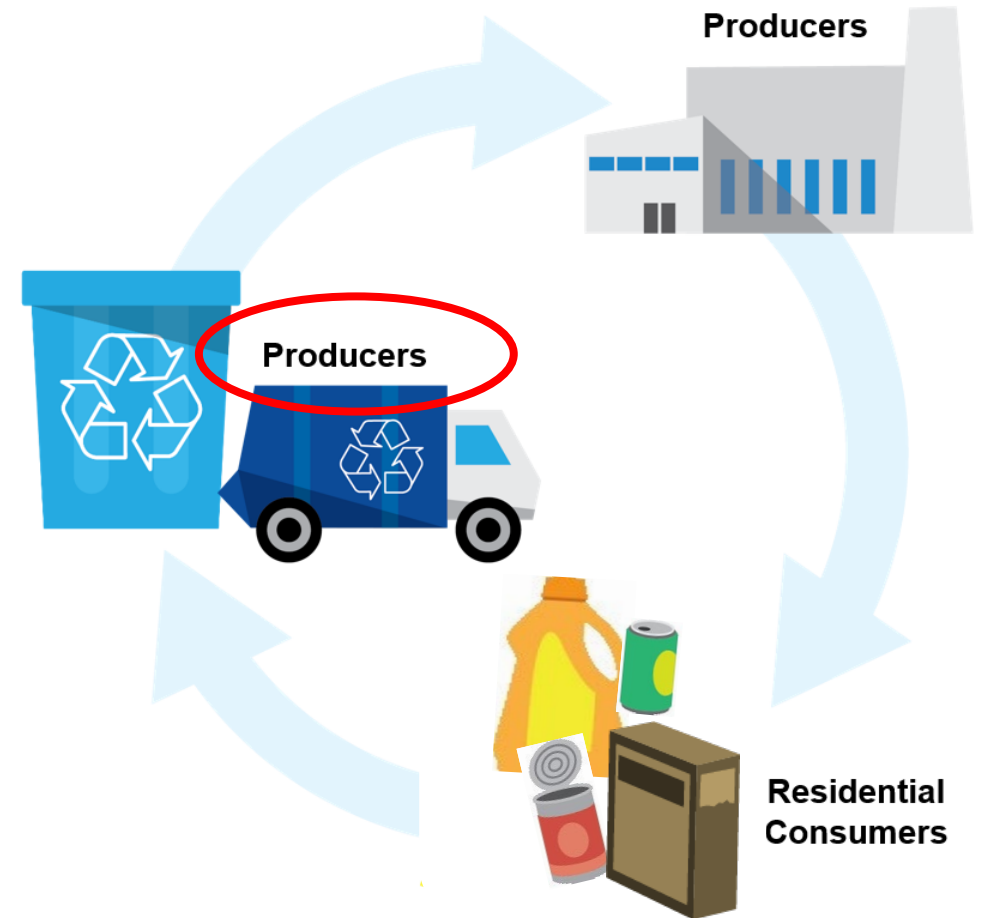
- **Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016**
 - Establishes Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for designated products in Ontario.
 - Establishes Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) – a third-party Registrar and oversight agency.
- **Regulation transfers responsibility for Blue Box recycling from municipalities to Producers**
 - Regulation requires producers to take over the Blue Box program – municipalities to not have the option to maintain control.
 - Municipalities are no longer financially or operationally responsible for the Blue Box collection, processing or marketing.
 - Producers must meet material collection targets.
 - Three-year phase-in for all Ontario municipalities (2023-2025)
 - All eight Durham Region local area municipalities will transition to the new regulation on July 1, 2024.
 - New Blue Box Program will be fully in effect province-wide January 1, 2026.

Current

Producers pay
half of the
cost of Blue
Box Program



After July 1, 2024



Durham Region is a producer in both scenarios due to the paper distributed to residents that could be placed in the Blue Box.

Roles and Responsibilities

Producers will:

- Collect, process and market Blue Box materials.
- Determine collection schedule, type (single vs. two-stream), and container types (carts vs. box) after January 1, 2026 (no changes until then).
- Provide Blue Box public education
- Report data required for RPRA to assess if program performance targets are being met.



Eligible Sources

Continued – Single-family homes, seasonal residences, multi-residential buildings.

Added in 2026 - Schools, non-profit retirement and long-term care homes, public spaces.

Removed – Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), industrial, commercial, institutional sources, waste management facilities.

July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025: Durham Region is paying for BIAs to receive Blue Box collection. Blue Box collection for small businesses ends December 31, 2025.

Note: ADDED eligible sources not currently serviced do not become eligible until January 1, 2026.

All Ontario communities outside of the [Far North](#), including First Nation communities.



single-family homes



seasonal dwellings



multi-unit residential buildings



public & private schools



specified retirement & long-term care homes

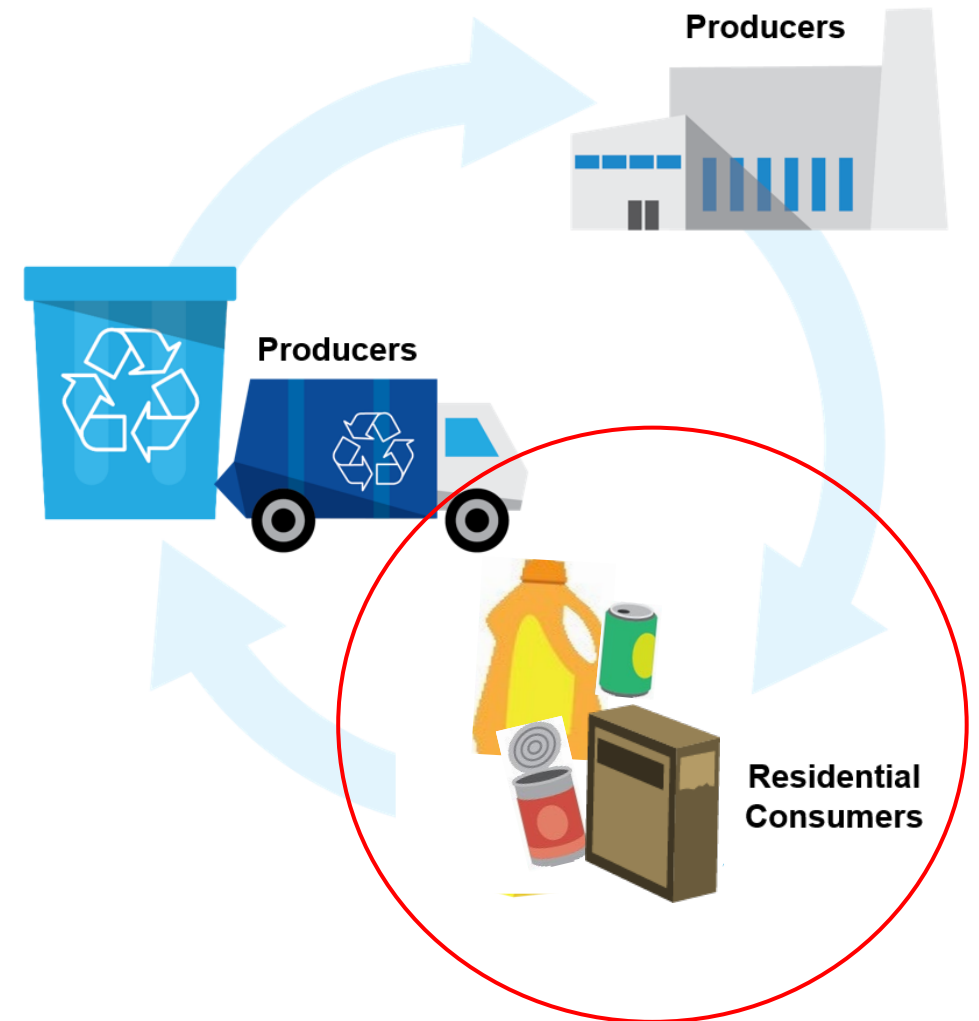


specified public spaces

[\(O. Reg 391/21 s. 1 & 4\)](#)

July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025

- No change for residents as collection days, accepted materials, and two-stream recycling remain the same.
- Miller Waste and GFL collect Blue Box materials (under contract with Circular Materials Ontario (CMO)). The Region's contract with these companies ends on June 30, 2024
- PROs will be allocated a portion of collected materials and will coordinate processing in facilities across Ontario



Transition Communication to Residents



Promotion &
Education

Key messages through to December 31, 2025:

- Starting July 1, 2024, the producers of the paper and packaging collected in the Blue Box are responsible for collecting, processing and marketing the material.
- Miller Waste and GFL will continue to provide curbside collection but will be working for a producer organization, not Durham Region.
- Producers and their contractors will be responsible for providing new and replacement Blue Boxes to residents and following up on any resident concerns with collection service.
- New contractor contact information for resident services has been confirmed and will be shared with residents in June 2024.
- The Region will continue to include Blue Box information in the Waste App and Waste Guide and be compensated by CMO for this work.
- Additional program changes may take place in 2026.



Enhanced Green Bin

- Launches July 1, 2024 for curbside service.
- Wet Anaerobic Digestion (AD) technology of Durham Region's new organic waste processing contract allows additional materials to be accepted in the Green Bin.
- The Enhanced Green Bin will now accept diapers, adult incontinence products, menstrual products, pet waste and pet litter, and other materials.

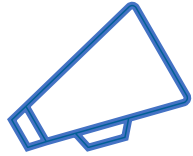


Promotion of Enhanced Green Bin to Residents

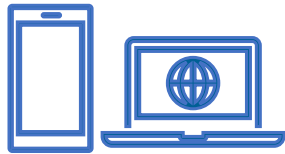
- Residents still required to use 100 per cent compostable Green Bin liner bags.
- No limit to the number of Green Bins that can be placed at the curb for collection.
- Additional Green Bins for extra capacity will be made available.
- The Enhanced Green Bin is a service improvement for residents to dispose of more (odourous) material on a weekly basis and reduce waste for disposal.



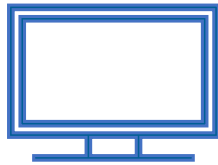
Blue Box Transition Communication Channels and Timelines



- Blue Box transition campaign will run May to mid-August.
- Durham.ca/BlueBox has been updated with transition messaging.



- Messaging on all digital, radio, television, Regional e-newsletter and social media channels.
- Notices will be placed on Blue Boxes with transition messaging and customer service contact details.

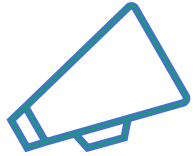


- Durham Region Waste App and Whitby Waste Buddy will distribute key messaging.



- Postcards will be handed out at all spring community events and Regional Waste Management Facilities (WMFs), advising residents of upcoming changes.
- Displays at other community events.

Enhanced Green Bin Communication Channels and Timelines



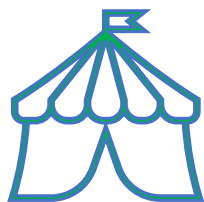
- Green Bin campaign will run June 2024 to the end of August 2024.



- Advertising channels include digital, radio, television, Regional e-newsletter, transit, social media advertising and mobile signs.



- Durham Region Waste App and Whitby Waste Buddy will include campaign messaging. Updated 'Know Before You Throw' material list.



- Durham.ca, Oshawa.ca and Whitby.ca updated to include new enhanced Green Bin program information.
- Postcard handed out at all spring community events and Regional WMFs advising residents of upcoming changes.
- Displays at other community events.



Questions?

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