



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

February 7, 2024

Works Committee

# Purpose

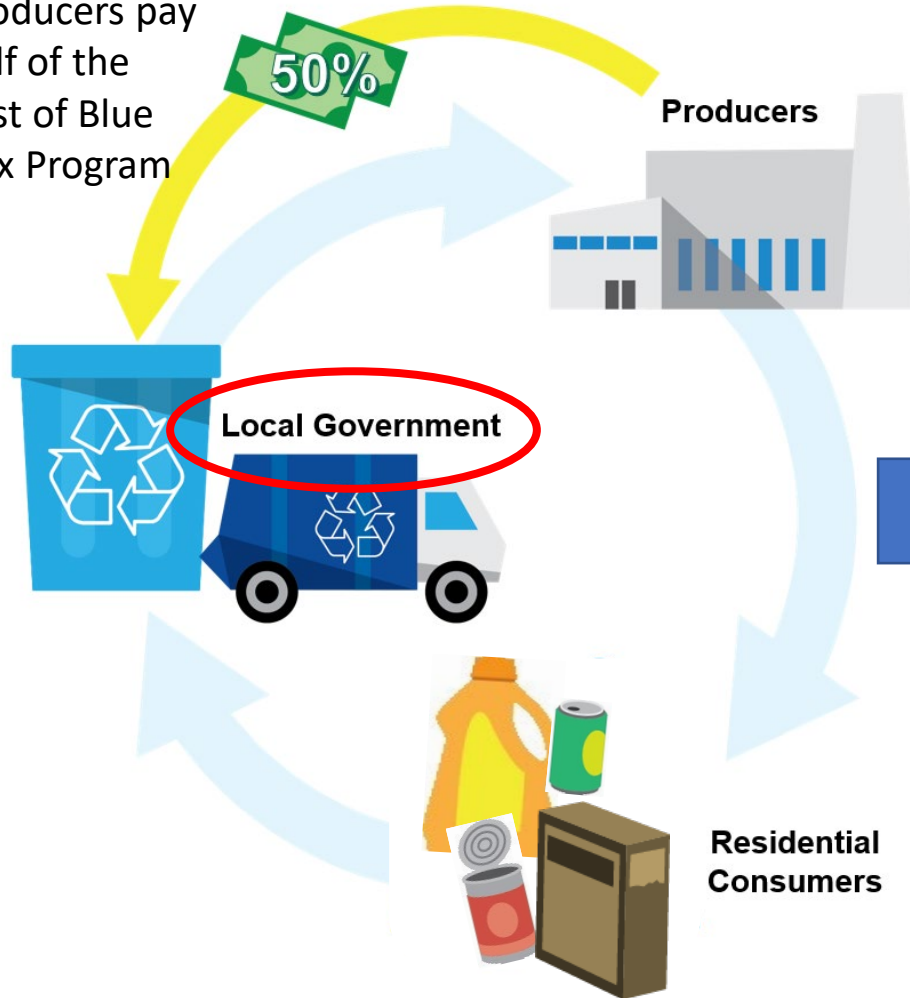
- **To provide Works Committee with updates on two key 2024 Waste Management programs:**
  - Transitioning of responsibility for Blue Box recycling from municipalities to Producers
  - Planned launch of the Enhanced Green Bin program

# Blue Box Regulation (Ontario Regulation 391/21)

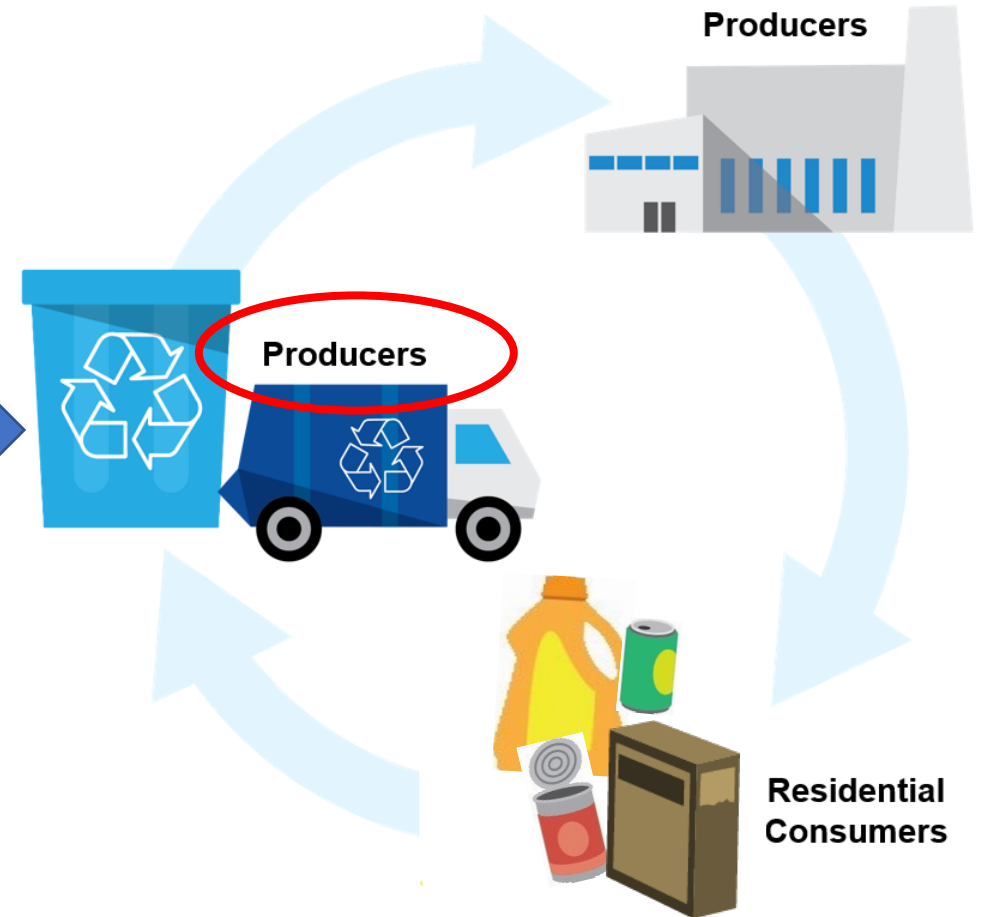
- **Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016**
  - Establishes Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for designated products in Ontario.
  - Establishes Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPPRA) – a third-party Registrar and oversight agency.
- **Regulation transfers responsibility for Blue Box recycling from municipalities to Producers**
  - 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. Approach post January 2026 to be determined.**

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

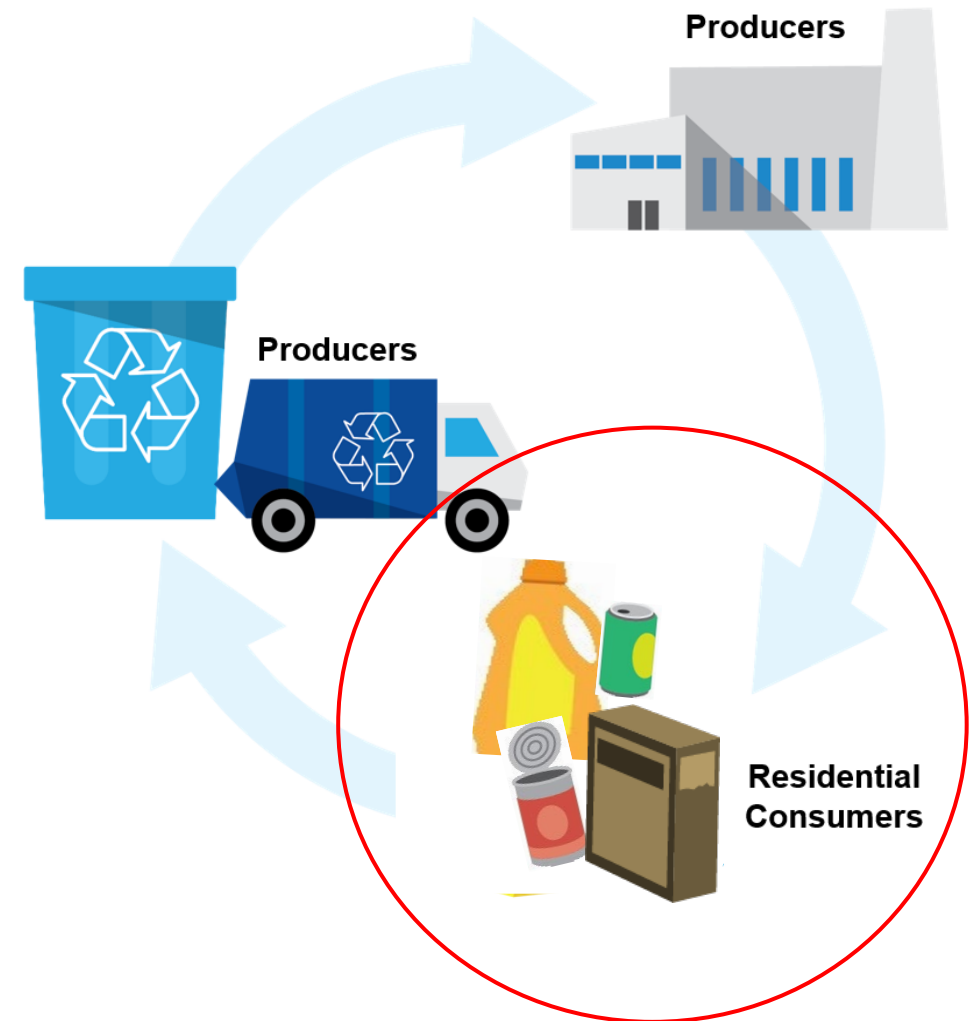


specified public spaces

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

# July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025

- No change for residents.
- Miller Waste and GFL collect Blue Box materials (under contract with Circular Materials Ontario (CMO)).
- Collection days, accepted materials, two-stream recycling remain the same.
- Collected materials will be divided into allocations processed by facilities retained by various PROs.



# Transition Communication to Residents



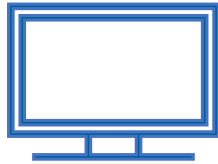
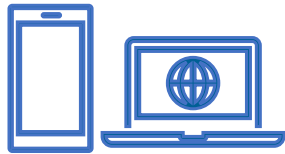
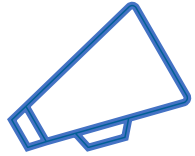
Promotion &  
Education

## 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.
- Blue Box contact information currently unknown.
- Additional program changes may take place in 2026.



# Blue Box Transition Communication Channels and Timelines

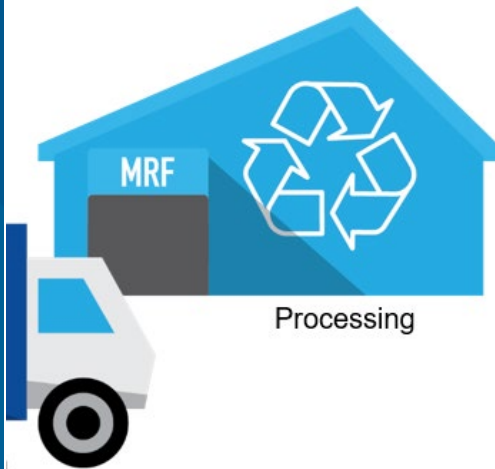


- Blue Box transition campaign will run May to mid-August.
- Durham.ca/BlueBox has been updated with transition messaging.
- Messaging on all digital, radio, television, Regional e-newsletter and social media channels.
- Stickers will be placed on Blue Boxes with transition messaging and customer service 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.
- Display at National Public Works Week and other community events.

# Contractual Changes

- To implement transition at an operational level, several Regional contracts must be changed.
- In some cases, new agreements are needed to enable Durham Region to continue to offer services.
- Committee and Council will see related reports and agreements over the coming months in accordance with procurement by-laws.

# Durham Region Material Recovery Facility



- HGC Management will operate and maintain the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for Durham Region until June 30, 2024.
- HGC Management will lease MRF from Durham Region for use under the new Blue Box program July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2030;
  - As a transfer station (receiving facility) for Durham Region's Blue Box materials.
  - To potentially process Blue Box materials under contract to PROs.
- Durham Region will no longer be responsible for managing the garbage screened out of the waste at the MRF, resulting in release of approximately 3,000 tonnes per year of Durham York Energy Centre capacity.

# Contractual Changes

- PRO registration to meet legislative requirements.
- Agreement to provide Promotion and Education (P&E) to single-family homes through the existing app, alongside communications for other programs.
  - P&E to multi-residential moving to CMO.
- Potential call centre functions (via 311).
- WMF servicing agreement.
- New methodology for provision of diversion kits to residents in Whitby and Oshawa (Durham Region will no longer have any collection operations).
- Changes to battery collection methodology (particularly in Whitby and Oshawa)
- BIA servicing pre and post transition period.



# Enhanced Green Bin

- Launches July 1, 2024.
- 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, personal sanitary products, pet waste and pet litter, and other materials.

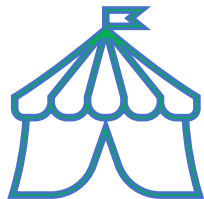
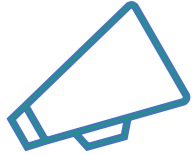


# Promotion of Enhanced Green Bin to Residents

- Residents still required to use 100 per cent compostable Green Bin liner bags and compostable pet waste 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.



# 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.
- Display at National Public Works Week and other community events.



# Questions?

Andrew Evans, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.

Director, Waste Management Services

[andrew.evans@durham.ca](mailto:andrew.evans@durham.ca)

Peter Veiga, B.Sc.

Manager, Waste Management Operations

[peter.veiga@durham.ca](mailto:peter.veiga@durham.ca)

[durham.ca](http://durham.ca)

[@RegionofDurham](https://www.instagram.com/RegionofDurham)

