

From: [AMO President](#)
Subject: Call for Action to Pass a Resolution about Transition of the Blue Box to Full Producer Responsibility
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 5:38:50 PM
Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Background on Transition to Full Producer Responsibility 2019-12-18.pdf](#)
[Attachment 2 - Example Resolution on Transition to Full Producer Responsibility 2019-12-18.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor/Head of Council:

RE: Call for Action to Pass a Resolution about Transition of the Blue Box to Full Producer Responsibility

I would ask your Council to pass a resolution outlining your municipal government's preferred date to transition your Blue Box program to full producer responsibility if provided the opportunity to self-determine (between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025). While the Province has not yet determined what mechanism will be used to choose when municipalities will transition, AMO believes your Councils are in the best position to decide when the best time to transition your Blue Box program is based on your specific circumstances (e.g. assets, contracts, integrated waste management system).

AMO is asking that a Council resolution be passed by June 30, 2020, be directed to AMO and the Ontario Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks, that specifies:

1. Your Council's preferred date to transition based on exiting service provision (between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025);
2. Rationale for transition date;
3. Whether your municipal government is interested in potentially continuing to provide services (e.g. contract management, collection, haulage processing services etc.) or not; and,
4. Key contacts if there are any follow-up questions.

NOTE: Your Council's stated preference may not be the final determination of your transition date, nor are you obligated in any way by the date that is specified. Please read the rationale for self-determination (**Attachment 1**), and the example resolution (**Attachment 2**) for more details.

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Dave Gordon, Senior Advisor, at 416 389 4160 or dgordon@amo.on.ca or Amber Crawford, Policy Advisor, at 416 971 9856 extension 353 or acrawford@amo.on.ca.

Sincerely,

Jamie McGarvey
AMO President
Mayor of Parry Sound

Attachment 1: Background on Transition to Full Producer Responsibility

Attachment 2: Example Resolution on Transition to Full Producer Responsibility

Attachment 1: Background on Transition to Full Producer Responsibility

Municipal governments have been advocating for over a decade for producers to have full fiscal and operational responsibility for end of life management of their packaging, printed paper and paper products. Producers are best positioned to reduce waste, increase the resources that are recovered and reincorporated into the economy and enable a consistent province-wide system that makes recycling easier and more accessible.

In August 2019, Minister Yurek announced that municipal Blue Box programs will be transitioned to full producer responsibility over a three-year period based on the recommendations from the Special Advisor's report titled, "Renewing the Blue Box: Final report on the blue box mediation process." Municipal governments played a key role in helping to develop the recommendations within this report. These recommendations broadly reflected the positions advocated by AMO and there was also a great deal of alignment with producers on how the Blue Box should be transitioned.

The municipal transition is proposed to occur between 2023 and the end of 2025, as shown in the table below:

| Date | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Sept. 2019 → Dec. 2020 | Blue Box wind-up plan developed for Stewardship Ontario |
| | Development of a Regulation under the <i>Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act</i> , 2016 |
| Jan. 2021 → Dec. 2022 | Producers prepare to assume control and operation of system and work with municipal governments and service providers |
| Jan. 1, 2023 → Dec. 31, 2025 | Transition of individual municipal Blue Box programs to full producer responsibility. Occurs in phases over three years with a rolling total of up to one-third of the Provincial program transitioning annually |

The Minister wants to ensure that the transitioned Blue Box system is affordable for producers, workable for the waste processing sector, and effective and accessible for residents. AMO and municipal representatives are involved in the consultation process to develop a new regulation for the Blue Box. The Province's intent is to finalize a Regulation by the end of 2020.

AMO staff held in-person workshops on the Blue Box transition across the Province through October and November 2019 to discuss this topic with municipal waste management staff. Over 165 staff and elected officials attended the sessions in Vaughan, London, Smiths Falls, North Bay and Dryden. The workshops provided an opportunity to engage directly with our sector to build understanding about this transition process and the level of engagement from attendees was excellent.

We also began the discussion about what municipal governments should take into consideration about how to prepare for this change and what factors might be considered as to when a Council might want to transition.

HOW YOUR RESOLUTION WILL HELP INFORM THE DISCUSSION:

The resolutions will be used to map out an ideal transition timeline, and determine whether there are years that are over or under subscribed, as it has been dictated that a rolling total of up to one-third of Blue Box programs can transition each year. This information will also allow AMO and the Province to better understand whether there are conflicts. If there are too many conflicts, the Province may still need to retain a third-party expert to develop a methodology as to how municipal Blue Box programs will transition.

However, rather than deferring to the Province to retain an expert immediately, we think this information would provide a good basis for a more informed decision to be made.

Attachment 2: Sample Resolution

Your Council's stated preference may not be the final determination of your transition date, nor are you obligated in any way by the date that is specified. The resolution will be used to map out an ideal transition timeline, and determine whether there are years that are over or under subscribed, as it has been dictated that a rolling total of up to one-third of Blue Box programs can transition each year. This information will also allow AMO and the Province to better understand whether there are conflicts. If there are too many conflicts, the Province may still need to retain a third-party expert to develop a methodology as to how municipal Blue Box programs will transition.

Resolution on Transition to Full Producer Responsibility

WHEREAS the amount of single-use plastics leaking into our lakes, rivers, waterways is a growing area of public concern;

WHEREAS reducing the waste we generate and reincorporating valuable resources from our waste stream into new goods can reduce GHGs significantly;

WHEREAS the transition to full producer responsibility for packaging, paper and paper products is a critical to reducing waste, improving recycling and driving better economic and environmental outcomes;

WHEREAS the move to a circular economy is a global movement, and that the transition of Blue Box programs would go a long way toward this outcome;

WHEREAS the **Municipality of X** is supportive of a timely, seamless and successful transition of Blue Box programs to full financial and operational responsibility by producers of packaging, paper and paper products;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has requested municipal governments with Blue Box programs to provide an indication of the best date to transition our Blue Box program to full producer responsibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the **Municipality of X** would like to transition their Blue Box program to full producer responsibility [month] [date], [year] (between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025).

AND THAT this decision is based on the following rationale:

1. **Insert rationale based on analysis of contracts, assets, integrated waste management system or other considerations (e.g., our collection contract for Blue Box material expires December 31, 2024 and our processing contract for Blue Box material also expires December 31, 2024.)**

AND THAT the **Municipality of X** would be interested in providing collection services to Producers should we be able to arrive at mutually agreeable commercial terms.

AND FURTHER THAT any questions regarding this resolution can be directed to Jane Doe, City Manager at xxx-xxx-xxxx or jane.doe@municipalityx.ca

AND FURTHER THAT the resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

EXAMPLE