

CHANGES TO ONTARIO'S BLUE BOX REGULATION



CITY OF BARRIE TRANSITION UPDATE

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Full Producer Responsibility

On June 3rd, 2021, the Government of Ontario filed Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box, made under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016.

Producers have until July 2022 to fully define their programs and processes.

Municipal Blue Box programs will need to transition to **Full Producer Responsibility** in accordance with the Waste-Free Ontario Act, 2016.

The City of Barrie previously chose May 1st, 2024 as a transition date. This date was chosen to align with the current waste collection contract extension end date.

There is a lot of work to be done:

- Confirm a new collection contract in Barrie;
- Standardized list of blue box material across the Province;
- Education and awareness;
- Resolve services for ineligible producer responsibility sectors;
- Resolve impact on waste management budget;
- Transition plan; and
- More to come.

Understanding the Terminology



Blue Box Regulation (Ont. Reg 391/21) – June 2021

- Transition the responsibility of the Blue Box (BB) Program from Municipalities to Producers.
- Producers will be fully accountable and financially responsible for the Blue Box Program for designated eligible sources.
- Municipalities will no longer be obligated to deliver Blue Box related services for these same eligible sources.
- Sets out mandatory and enforceable requirements for Blue Box Collection Systems.
- Gives Producers a choice on services to recovery the resource within their waste.
- Takes an outcomes-based approach with prescribed service levels and diversion targets.

NOTE – City of Barrie’s Blue Box Program includes both blue and grey box material collection.

Designated materials

- Blue box packaging, paper products and packaging-like products.

Understanding the Terminology



Producers:

- An obligated Producer is determined based on which blue box they supply to Ontario consumers;
- Brand holders;
- First importers of a product into Ontario;
- Retailers who supply the blue box packaging, paper, or packaging like products to the consumer; and
- This includes promotion and education, reporting, and auditing.

PRO – Producer Responsibility Organizations:

- Manage the collection and processing on behalf of the producers;
- Create and manage the common collection system on behalf of the producers; and
- There is more than one PRO.

RPRA – Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority:

- The government's oversight authority;
- Responsible for supporting the transition to a circular economy; and
- Carry out compliance and enforcement of mandated diversion programs which includes the Blue Box Regulation.

The Regulation: Influences a Circular Economy

One of the provincial regulatory instruments to influence a ***Circular Economy***

Prescribes a Producer Responsibility Model:

- ***Producers*** are responsible for the waste from their products and packaging to end of life.

Requires a blue box ***Common Collection System*** for Ontario:

- To be created by Producers and/or their PROs; and
- To be operated, managed and funded by Producers and/or their PROs.

This transfer of responsibility will be a ***3-year process***:

- July 1st, 2023 - December 31st, 2025; and
- Roughly one third of Ontario municipalities transitioning each year.

*As requested through Council Resolution 20-G-012 (January 27th, 2020)
re: “**TRANSITION TO FULL PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**”,
the date for Barrie to transition the Blue Box program to full Producer
responsibility is May 1st, 2024.*

Key Changes: Producers

Producers will be responsible:

- Creating a standardized list of blue box materials province wide;
- For all costs associated with the collection and processing of blue box material, as well as management/operation of the Program;
- For communicating changes to the Blue Box Program to designated eligible sources;
- To be the first point of contact for residents with respect to the collection of their recyclable material;
- For supplying and replacing containers used for the collection of recyclable material; and
- For offering recycling systems in parks, schools, single family residential, multi-residential buildings, not-for-profit long term care facilities, retirement homes, and transit stations and stops.

Ineligible sources will include:

- BIA Commercial Sector;
- ICI sector; and
- Special Events.

The Changes: Municipalities

With a Producer run Blue Box Program, municipalities will no longer:

- Bear the costs for the collection and processing from eligible sources;
- Be responsible for customer services for same; and
- Supply and replace containers for same.

Municipalities will continue to be responsible for the collection of garbage, organics and yard waste and the non-eligible sources for recycling.



What does this Mean to the City of Barrie?

City transitions May 1st, 2024; aligned with expiry of current collection contract.

The existing 50% funding will cease – 2020 funding was approximately 1.4M.

2024:

- New collection contract begins for collection of garbage, organics, yard waste, battery collection and recycling from non-eligible services, provided by the City of Barrie.
- Blue Box Program for eligible sources will be provided by the Producers based on the existing City Program.

Beyond 2024, Producers will not be obligated to collect recyclables from:

- The ICI Sector;
- The BIA commercial businesses; and
- Special events.

2026 and beyond:

- Producer must expand to all eligible sources that they were not already providing;
- If the City of Barrie chooses to align with producer provided services, the City would incur additional costs for the provision of other waste services;
- Schools; and
- Not for profit long-term care facilities.



Challenges to Navigate

Transitioning Preparations:

- Details of producer common collection system only available July 2022;
- Review existing City of Barrie provided programs and future under the Circular Economy framework;
- RFP for the new collection contract - must consider producer program with uncertainties;
- Update of the Sustainable Waste Management Strategy (SWMS); and
- By-Law Updates and Design Guidelines.

Changes to Eligible Sources:

- Continuing to provide recycling services to non-eligible sources would require contractual agreements with waste collection service providers fully funded by the City;
- The City of Barrie will continue the collection of other waste streams: garbage, organics, yard waste and other special collections for all currently serviced sectors; and
- Review programs for future service provision in currently unserved sectors.

Procurement Timelines:

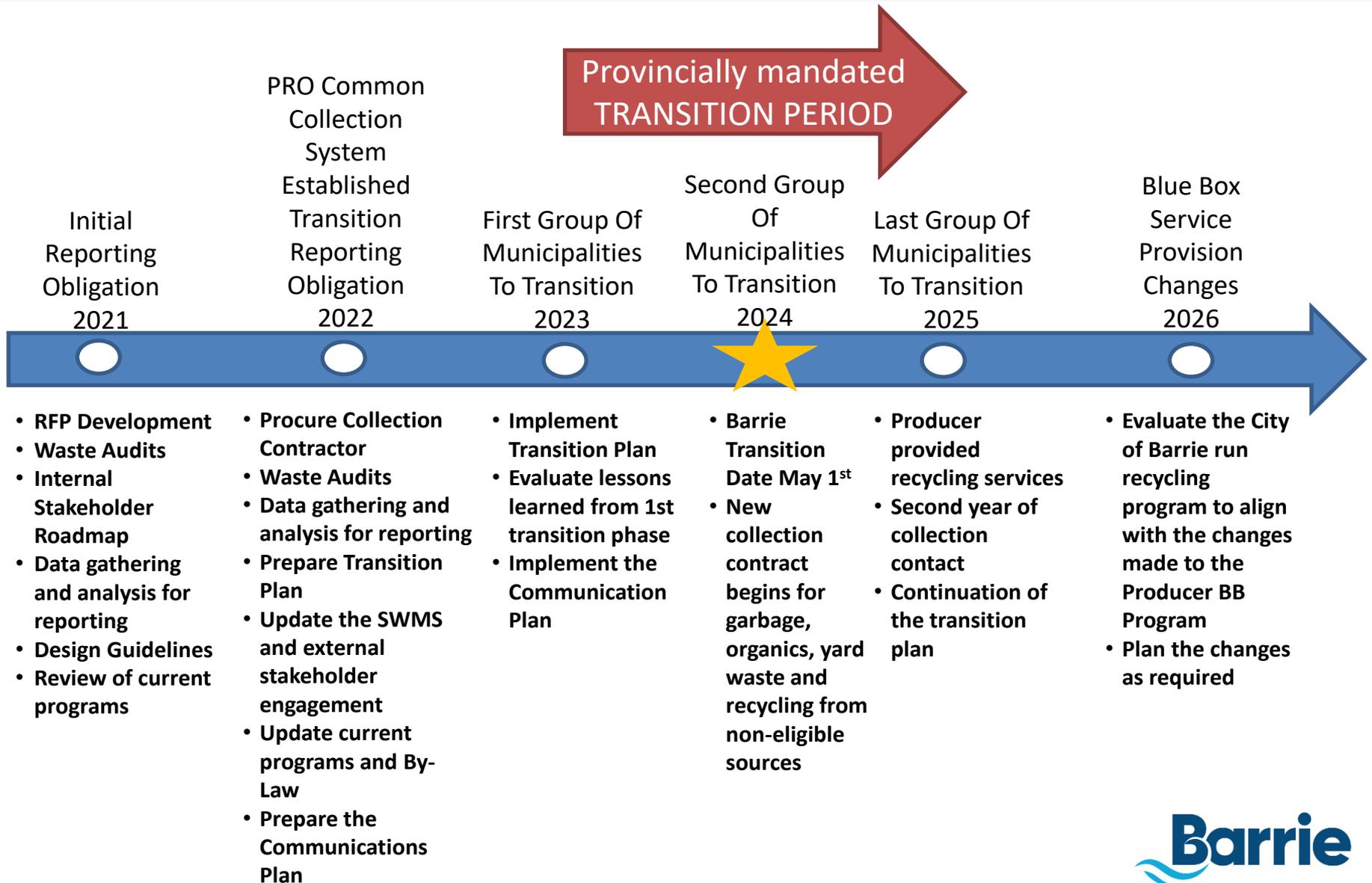
- Needing to procure a new collection contractor for May 1st, 2024, with BB program uncertainties; and
- Currently 18 month minimum required for procurement of collection vehicles.

Communications and Customer Services:

- Customer confusion with split customer services between the PRO and the City; and
- Difficulty in communicating the BB Program transition to residents and external stakeholders.



Timeline



Next Steps

- Develop the Transition Plan;
- Update the Sustainable Waste Management Strategy;
- Begin the development of a Communications Strategy; and
- Review and plan changes to:
 - ✓ Current programs and associated service provision; and
 - ✓ Waste Management By-Law.



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