

**REPORT 12
25 NOVEMBER 2020**

**EXTRACT OF DRAFT STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION,
WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
MINUTES 12
17 NOVEMBER 2020**

**EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU
PROCÈS-VERBAL 12 DU COMITÉ
PERMANENT DE LA PROTECTION
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE L'EAU
ET DE LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS
LE 17 NOVEMBRE 2020**

COMMENTS ON DRAFT BLUE BOX REGULATIONS

ACS2020-OCC-ENV-0010

CITY WIDE

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

- 1. Delegate authority to the General Manager of Public Works and Environmental Services to work with the Solid Waste Master Plan Council Sponsors Group to prepare and finalize comments on the draft blue box regulations on behalf of the City of Ottawa; and**
- 2. Direct City staff to provide Council with a copy of the comments submitted to the Province and provide an update to Committee and Council to highlight any notable changes between the draft regulations and final regulations, once they are registered in late 2020 or early 2021.**

The Committee was asked to approve a waiving of the Rules of Procedure to introduce an additional agenda item; a Motion drafted by Public Works and Environmental Services staff, which would, due to tight legislative timelines, allow staff to submit the City's comments on new draft Blue Box regulations to the Province in a timely manner.

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MOTION N° EPWWM 2020 12/03

Moved by Councillor S. Moffatt:

That the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management suspend the Rules of Procedure, pursuant to Sub-Section 89(3) of the Procedure By-law, being By-law No. 2019-8, to permit the introduction of the following motion, given the requirement to submit comments to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) by December 3, 2020, which would require this matter to be considered by Council at its next meeting on November 25, 2020.

CARRIED

Vice-Chair Menard then introduced the following Motion:

MOTION N° EPWWM 2020 12/04

Moved by Councillor S. Menard

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa is required under [O. Reg. 101/94](#) (Recycling and Composting of Municipal Waste) to establish, operate and maintain a blue box waste management system, with the materials to be managed identified in Schedule 1 (Blue Box Waste) of the Regulation; and

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa currently provides residents with these recycling services through its dual-stream blue box (glass, metals, plastics) and black box (cardboard and fibres) programs; and

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WHEREAS, despite offering two streams for collection, the term “Blue Box” is herein intended to reflect the materials outlined in the Regulation which are collected through both streams; and

WHEREAS the Blue Box Program is currently overseen by Stewardship Ontario, a not-for-profit industry-funded organization, which collects fees from brand owners, first importers or franchisors to help municipalities offset some of the costs of delivering recycling services; and

WHEREAS in 2016 the Province of Ontario introduced the *Waste Free Ontario Act, 2016* which provides the regulatory direction for the restructuring of the Province’s diversion policies from a product stewardship model to an individual producer responsibility (IPR) model in support of the Province’s shift towards developing a circular economy;

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2019, the Government of Ontario assigned a Special Advisor on Recycling and Plastic Waste to develop a report guided by a number of policy objectives, including, “to improve Ontario’s Blue Box program by requiring producers to pay for the recycling of the products they produce, through achieving producer responsibility”, with the report being issued on July 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendations of the report, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change issued a direction to Stewardship Ontario to develop a funding plan for that would allow for the transition of the Blue Box Program to full producer responsibility under the oversight of the newly formed Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, after extensive consultation with stakeholders, the Ministry issued the draft regulations to make producers responsible for operating blue box programs on October 19, 2020, with the comment period ending on December 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS City staff have reviewed the draft regulations, and are preparing briefings with Members of Council over the coming weeks – including anticipated impacts to Ottawa residents and to the City's operations, and what is known and unknown at this point – with the aim of answering any questions Council may have, as well as consolidating a list of comments and/or outstanding questions from both Council and City staff as subject-matter experts; and

WHEREAS the time between the release of the draft regulations and the due date for comments will not allow City staff adequate time to prepare and submit draft comments for Committee and Council approval before submitting to the Province by their deadline;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council delegate authority to the General Manager of Public Works and Environmental Services to work with the Solid Waste Master Plan Council Sponsors Group to prepare and finalize comments on the draft blue box regulations on behalf of the City of Ottawa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT City staff be directed to provide Council with a copy of the comments submitted to the Province and provide an update to Committee and Council to highlight any notable changes between the draft regulations and final regulations, once they are registered in late 2020 or early 2021.

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Ms Nichole Hoover-Bienasz, Program Manager, Long-Term Planning, Solid Waste Services, Public Works and Environmental Services Department, explained the timeline framework to provide comment on the draft Blue Box regulations, noting that multiple high-level briefing sessions had been set up for members of Council over the coming week. The briefing sessions are to cover expected impacts to residents and to City operations, and will help provide an overview of key considerations and decisions that Council will be asked to make over the coming months. Feedback from the briefing sessions will form part of the City's comments to the Province.

There being no discussion, Motion N^o EPWWM 2020 12/04 was put before the Committee and was 'CARRIED', as presented.

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CARRIED