



# Staff Report to Council - for Information

**Title:** Bruce County Waste Management Plan Information Update

**From:** Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

**Date:** July 4, 2024

Report Number: TES-2024-014

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## Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

## Report Summary:

At the January 11, 2024, County Council meeting, Council asked Staff about the long-term feasibility of the Household Hazardous Waste Program (HHWP). Staff responded by indicating that the County is currently undertaking the Bruce County Waste Management Plan (WMP), which would address the long-term plans for HHWP. The expectation was to have a draft WMP in front of Council by the end of spring in 2024. This Information Report is an update for Council on the status of the WMP and explains that the completion of the WMP is on hold until the award of the Blue Box Tender under the province's Individual Producer Responsibility (IPR) program has been determined. The Consultant, GEI (formerly GM Blue Plan), expects the Tender to be awarded in mid to late July 2024. It is expected that the draft WMP report will be presented for Council's information in the fall of 2024.

## Background:

At the January 11, 2024, County Council meeting, Council passed By-laws 2024-006, 2024-007 and 2024-008. Those By-laws authorize the execution of agreements with three contractors supplying collection and recycling services for Household Hazardous Waste within the County. The County's Household Hazardous Waste Program (HHWP), includes 13 annual events, held across the eight local partner municipalities.

At that meeting, members of Council asked Staff about the long-term feasibility of the HHWP. Staff responded by indicating that the County is currently undertaking the Bruce County Waste Management Plan (WMP), which would address the long-term plans for HHWP. Staff explained that the intent was to have a draft WMP document in front of Council by the end of spring in 2024. This Information Report is an update for Council on the status of the WMP and explains what information is required prior to the Consultant, GEI (formerly GM Blue Plan), can finalize the draft WMP report.

## Waste in Bruce County

The management responsibilities of waste generated in Bruce County are shared between the local municipalities and the County. Solid waste operations are individually implemented by the eight local municipalities (Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, South Bruce Peninsula, Northern Bruce Peninsula, Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, South Bruce and Huron-Kinloss).

The local municipalities own and operate their independent waste management facilities and are responsible for garbage and recycling collection services. Curbside and depot recycling services are predominately provided by Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling (BASWR), a not-for-profit organization comprised of partner municipalities (with the exception of South Bruce Peninsula). BASWR is run by a board of directors with representation from each partner Municipality. The County manages the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program (HHWP) and assists in education and monitoring of waste diversion and disposal programs.

The new Bruce County Waste Management Plan will specifically review diversion programs and opportunities for County-wide programs to support efficiencies, but not the operation of the individual landfill sites.

## Blue Box Program

Starting on January 1, 2026, the blue box programs in Ontario will be collected under contract. BASWR has submitted their bid as a subcontractor to the program. If successful in their bid, it would allow them to continue to provide service to its member municipalities in Bruce County. The results of this Tender were not yet available at the time of publication of this Information Report.

Once the Tender is awarded, municipalities will be tasked with the decision on how to deliver their blue box programming based on their individual framework.

## Bruce County Waste Management Plan Status

Currently, the completion of the WMP is on hold until the award of the Blue Box Tender, under the provincial Individual Producer Responsibility (IPR) program has been determined. The tender is out for review by Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) and GEI expects the contract to be awarded in mid to late July 2024.

Based on these timelines, GEI expects the draft WMP report in front of Council in the fall of 2024. Other components of the draft WMP will include up-to-date information on household and municipal hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste; assess the feasibility of organics collection; and the potential for shared education and outreach programs.

## **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no Financial, Staffing, Legal or IT considerations at this time.

**Interdepartmental Consultation:**

None.

**Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:**

Environment and Climate Change - Build capacity to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change

**Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:**

Deliver on the values of “service excellence”.

**Report Author:**

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**Departmental Approval:**

Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

**Approved for Submission:**

Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development