



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Blue Box Transition Planning and Source Separated Organics

From: Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Date: April 3, 2025

Report Number: TES-2025-008

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

County staff have been working with GEI Consultants and local municipal staff through the County's Waste Management Sub-Committee to actively collaborate, identify and evaluate cost-effective options for the transition of the blue box program and source-separated organics. The County will incorporate municipal input relating to the blue box program and source-separated organics into the ongoing Long Range Waste Management Plan (LRWMP) and the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP), as applicable.

Background/Analysis:

During the Bruce County Council meeting held on February 20, 2025, Council received a communication from the Town of Saugeen Shores formally requesting that the Transportation and Environmental Services Department coordinate Blue Box Transition Planning and Source Separated Organics issues with the lower-tier municipalities, via the Waste Management Sub-Committee. Council passed a resolution directing County staff to review the request and report back to Council with a response at a future meeting.

County staff are pleased to report that the Waste Management Sub-Committee met on February 13th, 2025 and discussed the diversity in the levels of service offered by the partner municipalities that form the Sub-Committee. It is expected that the Sub-Committee will meet quarterly in 2025, to actively collaborate, identify and evaluate cost-effective options for the transition of the blue box program and source-separated organics.

The Waste Management Sub-Committee has an upcoming meeting in May where GEI Consultants will be in attendance to help lead discussions around waste diversion initiatives. GEI has been working with the County on the Long Range Waste Management Plan (LRWMP) and their involvement with the waste sub-committee will help align the LRWMP with priorities identified at the sub-committee meetings. As discussions evolve at the sub-committee level, the County will collate and incorporate feedback into the ongoing Long Range Waste Management Plan (LRWMP) and the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

(ESAP), where applicable. The timeline of the delivery of the final product is pending details of the implementation of blue box collection. If required, staff will bring an interim report specific to blue box transition and source separated organics in advance of the LRWMP.

Staff will continue to engage with the lower tier Municipal partners and will identify any request for services beyond the Department's existing service levels. A detailed breakdown of the costs and resources required for implementing new programming will be identified and brought to Council for future consideration.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, IT considerations at this time. It is expected that the process for the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan and Long-Range Waste Management Plan will identify potential changes to current levels of service. Any future changes to levels of service requiring financial and staffing considerations will be brought forward through the annual budget process.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Office of the CAO was consulted on this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

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

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Transportation and Environmental Services 2025 Department Business Plan.

Report Author:

Andrew Beumer, Environmental Services Manager

Departmental Approval:

Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Approved for Submission:

Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development