

Transition of the Blue Box Program: Region Obligations & Collection Transition Strategy

Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee Meeting

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Background

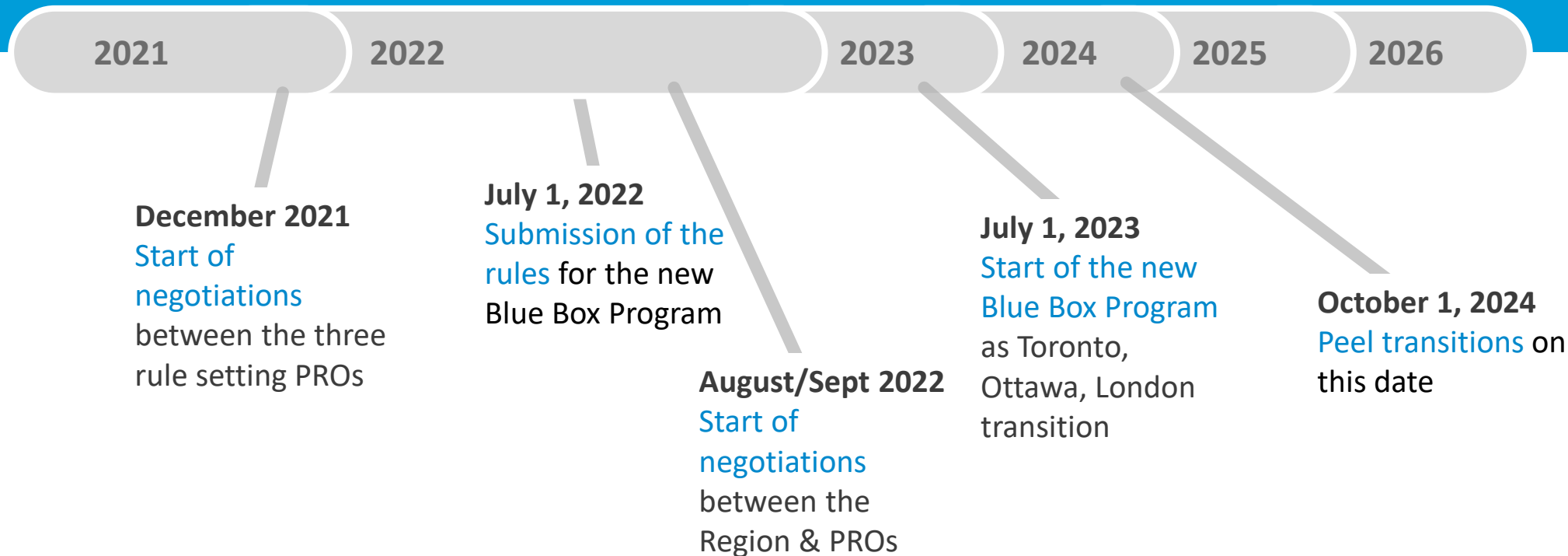
- The Blue Box Regulation was released on June 3, 2021
- Transition period is from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025
 - Peel transitions on October 1, 2024
- Producers have enlisted the services of Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) to meet their regulatory requirements to collect and manage blue box materials, provide P&E, etc.

Background cont...

- PROs are currently in the process of developing rules for the new producer led Blue Box Program
- Key elements of the Regulation include:
 - Progressive recovery targets that are higher than what is achieved under the current program
 - Expanded list of acceptable materials (addition of single-use items that are distributed or sold to consume food and beverage products, like stir sticks, straws, cutlery and plates)
 - Eligible sources list expanded to schools and municipally run or non-profit long-term care homes and retirement homes and to more parks, playgrounds, and transit stations

Development of the New Blue Box Program

- Three registered PROs working to establish the rules for the new Blue Box Program: Circular Materials, Resource Recovery Alliance & Ryse Solutions Ontario
- Negotiations between the Region and PROs cannot take place until rules are finalized and agreed to. Rules are due by July 1, 2022
- Anticipated that negotiations with PROs will take place in the later half of 2022



Waste Collection Transition Strategy Update

- All three PROs have expressed a desire to negotiate agreements with the Region to provide collection services on their behalf, especially during the transition phase
- The Region can exercise option years or otherwise extend its current waste collection contracts by one or two years (i.e. until October 2025 or October 2026) to have price certainty during transition
- Negotiations with PROs and execution of agreements will need to take place expeditiously once the rules have been set
- Delegated authority being sought to execute agreements in order to ensure a seamless transition

Eligible Sources

Eligible locations listed under O. Reg 391/21



single-family homes



seasonal dwellings



multi-unit residential
buildings



public & private
schools



specified retirement &
long-term care homes



specified public
spaces

Ineligible Sources

- O. Reg 391/21 does **not** require collection at:
- Municipal buildings or facilities (e.g., police stations, libraries, arenas, municipal works)
 - Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)
 - Places of worship
 - Commercial properties along residential routes
 - Not-for-profit organizations (e.g. food banks, Legion halls)

Will need to confirm with waste collection vendors the cost to continue to service ineligible sources after transition.

MRF Transition Strategy Update

- In the process of finalizing the Council approved procurement approach to obtain the best value for the Region's MRF assets
- The approach will see the sale of the sorting equipment, lease of the MRF building, and require the successful Vendor to process and market the Region's Blue Box recyclables until the October 1, 2024 transition date
- Issue procurement documents by the end of Q2 2022

Municipal Obligations Under Regulation

- Municipalities must submit information on their waste and recycling collection systems to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA)
 - Initial report submitted by September 30, 2021 (done)
 - Transition report must be submitted by August 31, 2022 (on track)
- Municipalities, including Peel, may be considered producers and be subject to producer obligations
 - AMO is continuing discussions with the Ministry to exempt municipalities from this requirement
 - Staff are prepared to register if required

Next Steps

- Once the rules are established, staff will endeavor to negotiate agreements with PROs to provide blue box collection services on their behalf
- Staff will exercise option years or otherwise negotiate provisional extensions with our current collection contractors to provide service certainty until October 2025 or October 2026
- Staff will issue the procurement documents by the end of Q2 2022 for the sale of the Region's MRF sorting equipment, the lease of the MRF building and provision of sorting services until the Region's transition date of October 1, 2024
- If required, staff will register the Region as a producer

Thank you

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