

# A Waste Reduction Framework For Ontario



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# Purpose

- Background
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# Background

- Ontario has proposed a waste reduction framework that, if approved, would increase waste diversion and protect consumers.
- The proposed waste reduction framework would establish an individual producer responsibility regime where individual producers would be responsible for achieving environmental outcomes set by government on a product by product basis.
- Specifically, the purpose of the proposed waste reduction framework is to:
  - Increase the recycling of waste
  - Stimulate the reduction of waste
  - Make individual producers responsible for the end-of-life management of designated products and packaging
  - Provide consumers with convenient and accessible diversion services
  - Reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill
  - Shift the costs of diversion away from the municipal tax base and municipal taxpayers to the producers of the products from which waste is derived
  - Protect consumers from surprise “eco fees” at the cash register
  - Provide strong oversight and compliance to ensure outcomes are met

# Overview of Proposed Approach

The waste reduction framework would have the following components:

1. A **Waste Reduction Act** to replace the Waste Diversion Act, which would make individual producers accountable for ensuring the proper end-of-life management of their products, protect consumers and clarify roles and responsibilities.
2. A **Waste Reduction Strategy** that will provide a blueprint for increasing diversion and the economic and environmental benefits of diverting material from landfill:
  - Identifies vision, results, tools and actions for implementation of the Act, if passed, including timelines for transition of existing waste diversion programs, designation of new wastes and use of supporting measures.

# Proposed Waste Reduction Act

- If passed, the proposed Waste Reduction Act would:
  - Enable the government to set a range of outcomes through regulations, such as:
    - Waste reduction standards, including minimum collection and recycling targets
    - Service standards for consumer accessibility and convenience
    - Promotion and education requirements.
  - Make individual producers responsible for meeting the outcomes.
  - Provide producers options on how to meet outcomes – on their own, or working with others
  - Include a provision to require all-in pricing – restricts how recycling fees appear on sales receipts
  - Remove industry funding cap for municipal blue box costs to allow for greater than 50% producer funding
  - Require producers to collect designated wastes from municipalities where municipalities choose to collect these designated wastes and pay reasonable municipal costs. If no agreement on costs, the proposed Waste Reduction Authority would establish a compensation formula
  - Transform Waste Diversion Ontario into the Waste Reduction Authority
  - Include a provision to direct the wind-up & transition of existing waste diversion programs to the new framework
  - Enable Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Minister to provide further direction through regulations, including defining who is an obligated producer

# Proposed Waste Reduction Strategy

- The draft Waste Reduction Strategy provides a blueprint for the implementation of the proposed Act, including timelines for transition of existing programs, designation of new products and use of supporting measures.
- The Strategy is a public communications tool establishing a vision and path forward for Ontario.
  - Establishes a vision of zero waste and recognizing the inherent value of materials
  - Promotes economic and environmental innovation to increase access to convenient diversion approaches
  - Identifies challenges, outlines desired results, concrete tools and actions to move toward the vision
- Wind-up and transition of current waste diversion programs
  - Outlines intent and timeline to wind-up existing programs and transition to new framework
  - How stakeholders will be engaged in an extensive consultation process prior to any transition taking place
  - Recognition that the Blue Box program must be given special consideration

# Proposed Waste Reduction Strategy cont.

- Designating new additional wastes
  - Identify wastes that may be designated and associated timelines (first priority printed paper and packaging supplied into the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors)
  - Include process to set outcomes on a product by product basis, including consultation with stakeholders
- Supporting measures could be enacted to increase waste diversion and reduce waste sent to landfill
  - Ban designated wastes from disposal
  - Develop a strategy to increase the diversion of organic wastes.
  - Consult on developing and implementing new standards to govern recycling of end-of-life vehicles

# Proposed Waste Reduction Strategy cont.

The Strategy describes tools and actions to help achieve results and move towards a waste reduction vision:

	RESULTS	TOOLS AND ACTIONS
PROPOSED WASTE REDUCTION ACT	1. Drive economic and environmental innovation by holding individual producers responsible for waste reduction outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set clear and achievable waste reduction outcomes</li> <li>• Make producers responsible for achieving the outcomes</li> <li>• Let producers decide how to meet the outcomes</li> <li>• Require producers to demonstrate that they have met waste reduction outcomes</li> </ul>
	2. Transform Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) into a strong oversight and compliance authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transform WDO into a new Waste Reduction Authority</li> <li>• Provide a suite of tools to ensure producer compliance</li> <li>• Ensure proper oversight of the Authority</li> </ul>
	3. Use all-in pricing to ensure consumer protection and incent improved product design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require diversion costs to be part of the product price, <u>like any other costs</u></li> <li>• Ensure clear and accurate product pricing for consumers</li> </ul>
	4. Increase support for municipal recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify the municipal role in collecting designated wastes and ensure their reasonable costs are reimbursed</li> <li>• Ensure effective dispute resolution processes with producers</li> </ul>
IMPLEMENTATION	5. Increase the diversion of a wider range of wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate paper and packaging supplied into the IC&amp;I sectors</li> <li>• Develop new recycling standards for ELVs</li> <li>• Designate additional wastes over time</li> <li>• Develop a strategy to increase organics diversion</li> <li>• Use disposal bans to increase diversion</li> </ul>
	6. Transition existing programs in a timely and smooth manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult on gradual increases to Blue Box producer funding</li> <li>• Provide tools to facilitate program transition</li> <li>• Waste Reduction Authority will undertake and oversee transition planning</li> </ul>



# Next steps

- On September 24, 2013 Bill 91 was tabled for Second Reading. Information on the legislative process is available by visiting the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website at: <http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/home.do> for further details.
- The province is looking to work together with its partners to increase diversion and will continue its conversation with the public and key stakeholders through 2013.
- If the Bill is passed, there will be extensive engagement on implementation of the Act, including designation of wastes, establishing waste reduction standards and the transition of the existing programs.

# Appendix: Consultation/Engagement

- On June 6, 2013, the government introduced the proposed Waste Reduction Act (Bill 91) and released the draft Waste reduction Strategy for public comments.
- On September 24, 2013, the proposed Waste Reduction Act (Bill 91) was brought forward for second reading in the legislature and debate. ~~Timing for completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading is not known.~~
- The Ministry has been conducting extensive consultations on the proposed Waste reduction Act and the draft Waste reduction Strategy since its introduction on June 6:
  - 91 days EBR posting (ended on September 4, 2013)
    - 186 submissions received
  - 7 regional and sector specific sessions:
    - Toronto (4 sessions), London, Thunder Bay and Ottawa
  - 2 sector-specific sessions
    - Agriculture and food (participants include OFA, Clean Farms, Ontario Agri-Business Association, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario)
    - Municipal Waste Association
  - 3 webinars (120+ participants) for those that could not attend regional sessions in-person
    - One specific session for Northern Ontario
  - 40+ one-on-one meetings with organizations
  - Notification to First nation communities that have voluntarily participated in Stewardship Ontario's Blue Box program
  - Minister's one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders to build consensus