

TRANSITION TO RESOURCE RECOVERY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACT

ZERO WASTE ONTARIO CONFERENCE

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WHAT DOES WFOA MEAN FOR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT?

- Producers will be directly responsible for their end-of-life management, including all related costs
- Producers can discharge this responsibility by directly operating collection and recycling services for the used materials or by contracting with service providers, potentially including municipalities
- Now in force, the *Waste Diversion Transition Act (WDTA)* represents an interim step ensuring the smooth transition of existing Blue Box, WEEE, MHSW, and Used Tires programs to the new *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA)* avoiding disruptions to recycling services currently provided or financed by Producers

PRINCIPLES FOR REGULATIONS

- Producers should, at a minimum, be required to ensure the transition of the blue box program and the revised role of municipalities will not negatively impact Ontarians experience with and access to blue box services and other diversion programs.
- Targets must be set high enough to achieve the goals of a circular economy, including zero waste and zero GHG, and include mechanisms to ensure collected materials continue to be recovered once targets are met. A process for regular review of targets is required to foster continual improvement.



PRINCIPLES (CONT'D)

- Provincial targets for reduction, reuse and recovery should be material specific and adaptable rather than set as a broad “basket of goods” for designated materials.
- Designated materials should be recovered regardless of where they are generated. While different mechanisms may be required to recover designated materials from Commercial & Industrial waste, recovery targets must ensure that producers are required to take full responsibility for all designated materials managed as municipal waste.



PRINCIPLES (CONT'D)

- Where producers do not meet their commitments, municipalities should be fully compensated for any financial impacts associated with the failure to meet these commitments.
- Mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that Producers have viable opportunities to establish multiple approaches for meeting commitments and to ensure full and fair competition among these approaches.
- A firm deadline (with intermediate check-in deadlines) should be set for the transition of all existing programs to the RRCEA framework.



PRINCIPLES (CONT'D)

- Municipalities that continue to provide recovery services for the management of designated materials must be fully compensated by Producers for the net, actual costs for the provision of agreed management services for designated materials.
- Where municipalities no longer provide services on behalf of Producers or their designated recovery agents, a mechanism needs to be agreed to and implemented to compensate for the investments already made by municipalities and transition costs.



PRINCIPLES (CONT'D)

- The Producer's financial obligation for operating the existing Blue Box Program should be increased incrementally during the transition period.
- Processes and target dates should be identified for designating additional materials for Producer responsibility regulations.



CLOSING REMARKS

- The Waste-Free Ontario Act can re-establish Ontario as a leader in resource management and circular economy
- Municipal Governments are the backbone of the waste management system in the Province and want to ensure good environmental and economic outcomes in our communities
- Need to ensure we regularly re-visit and update the legislative framework to keep up with this rapidly evolving industry
- Municipal Governments look forward to working with the Province, Producers and other stakeholders to implement the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act