



Agenda
Operations Committee

October 16, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

The public can attend meetings in person. Meetings will also be livestreamed on the City's Council and Committee webpage. If there are technical issues with the livestream that can't be fixed within 15 minutes, the meeting will continue, and a recording will be available later, on the webpage or by contacting the City Clerk. People who can't attend the meeting in person for Public Forum, should send their comments to the Recording Secretary one business day before the meeting. These comments will be shared with members and included in the updated agenda.

	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	
4.a Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on September 18, 2025	3
5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	
5.a Deputation from Joan Harris, Owen Sound resident Re: Transit Route to Harrison Park	
6. PUBLIC FORUM	
7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED	
There are no correspondence items being presented for consideration.	
8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF	
8.a Environment	
8.a.1 Report OP-25-037 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Collection of Non-Eligible Sources Post Blue Box Transition December 31, 2025	7
8.b Engineering	
None.	
8.c Public Works	
None.	

8.d Transit

None.

8.e Water and Wastewater

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There are no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There are no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

11.a City of Owen Sound - Committee Applications Now Open

25

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

14. ADJOURNMENT



Minutes

Operations Committee

September 18, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Scott Greig
Vice Chair Carol Merton
Member Donald Anderson
Member Arlene Blue Indoe
Member Robert Droine
Councillor Brock Hamley
Councillor Suneet Kukreja (via video)

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Mike Crone
Member Michele Hawkins

STAFF PRESENT: Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Bryce McDonald, Manager of Water and Wastewater
Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greig called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Chair Greig Re: Capital Construction Projects Update

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on June 26, 2025

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Public Works and Engineering noted that the Water Management By-law has now been adopted by Council, including the comments from Committee respecting leak forgiveness applications.

"THAT the Operations Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on June 26, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.a Deputation from David Adams Re: EV Chargers in the Downtown Core

There was no deputation or discussion on the matter as Mr. Adams did not attend the meeting.

5.b Presentation from the Manager of Water and Wastewater Re: Water Treatment Plant Filter Improvement Update

The Manager of Water and Wastewater provided a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Water Treatment Plant Filter Improvement project, highlighting construction milestones and progress.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. McDonald noted that the backwash at the Owen Sound Water Treatment Plant has relatively low levels of turbidity as there is typically good quality source water in comparison to other locations.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Environment

8.a.1 Report OP-25-035 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Automotive Materials Stewardship Inc Amending Agreement

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that this is a standard agreement and is comparable to those that Automotive Materials Stewardship (AMS) Inc. has with other municipalities.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen clarified that the Owen Sound participation rate is currently estimated to be around 40%. She added that each participating municipality pays to take part in the event.

OP-250918-002

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-035 respecting Automotive Materials Stewardship Inc Amending Agreement, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Amending Agreement with Automotive Materials Stewardship Inc. (AMS) for the collection of used oil filters, empty oil containers and used antifreeze as outlined in the report."

Carried.

8.b Engineering

None.

8.c Public Works

None.

8.d Transit

None.

8.e Water and Wastewater

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

11.a Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup - World Rivers Day September 28, 2025

11.b Grey County Joint Municipal Services Committee Report Re: Waste Management Community of Practice - Share Opportunities

OP-250918-003

Moved by Vice Chair Merton

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the September 18, 2025 Operations Committee agenda, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive Items 11.a and 11.b for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Capital Construction Projects Update

Chair Greig highlighted that Council has awarded tenders for several large construction projects including both 32nd St E and 16th Ave E, and added that the road resurfacing project is underway.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Greig adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Staff Report

Report To: Operations Committee
Report From: Heidi Jennen
Meeting Date: October 16, 2025
Report Code: OP-25-037
Subject: Collection of Non-Eligible Sources Post Blue Box Transition
December 31, 2025

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-037 respecting Collection of Non-Eligible Sources Post Blue Box Transition December 31, 2025, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- Responsibility for the residential Blue Box Program transfers fully from municipalities to producers (PROs) in 2026, but non-eligible sources will remain a municipal responsibility.
- The City's current Miller Waste contract for all non-eligible sources ends December 31, 2025. Maintaining these services could cost approximately \$120,000 annually, double the \$60,000 budgeted in 2025.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Green City.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the City's Climate Mitigation Plan objective to reduce waste produced at City facilities by reducing packaging, reusing items and diverting waste from landfills, including the diversion of organic waste.

Previous Report/Authority:

[OP-22-033 Blue Box Transition](#)

[OP-23-014 Blue Box Transition Update – Opting Out](#)

[OP-24-002 Recycling Convenience Depot Miller Transfer Station](#)

[OP-24-010 Recycling Convenience Depot at Miller Transfer Station – Follow-up Report](#)

Background:

On June 3, 2021, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks approved [Ontario Regulation 391/21](#) under the [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016](#). The regulation transfers responsibility for the residential Blue Box Program from municipalities to producers (PROs) of packaging, paper products, and packaging-like products. PROs will become fully operationally and financially responsible for eligible residential blue box collection beginning in 2026.

Eligible sources (covered by the PROs):

- Residential homes (permanent or seasonal)
- Residential units in mixed-use buildings
- Public spaces (community parks, sidewalks)
- Permanent or seasonal households in campgrounds and trailer parks

Due to legislative changes, eligible sources originally scheduled for collection in January 2026 will be delayed unless they are currently being collected:

- Multi-residential buildings (apartments/condominiums)
- Schools (public and private, elementary to secondary)
- For-profit long-term care and retirement homes
- Non-profit long-term care and retirement homes

Non-eligible sources (not covered by PROs):

- Industrial or commercial properties (excluding residential units)
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Municipal buildings or facilities
- Daycares
- Places of worship (excluding residences)
- Campgrounds and trailer parks for temporary stays
- Commercial farms (excluding residences)

The City opted out of residential recycling on July 1, 2023, and entered into an agreement with Miller Waste to continue collection of non-eligible sources until December 31, 2025. The City's 2026 draft budget includes \$60,000 for this service.

Analysis:

Municipalities across Ontario, including Owen Sound, expressed concern with the exclusion of non-eligible sources from the new producer-responsibility framework and wrote to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) requesting legislative changes to ensure producers continue recycling collection for these sources beyond December 31, 2025.

Municipalities argued that businesses and organizations benefit from recycling programs and that local governments should not be left with this ongoing responsibility once producers assume control of the residential system.

In response to these concerns, in June 2025 the MECP asked the PROs to explore whether they could offer small IC&I (Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional) collection at municipal cost, similar to Owen Sound's current contracted arrangement with Miller Waste.

On August 15, 2025, Circular Materials, on behalf of the PROs, hosted an Ontario Municipal Engagement session where they indicated there could be an opportunity to allow a limited amount of non-eligible sources — up to 2% of eligible sources — to be included in the program. While this would come at an added cost to municipalities, this option had the potential to generate cost savings by combining collection with residential loads, and Staff anticipated that expenses could be managed within the existing \$60,000 budget.

On September 15, 2025, PROs confirmed they could not extend service to IC&I generators due to operational, infrastructure, and financial challenges, including facility and truck capacity constraints as well as their regulatory obligations.

On October 1, 2025, the MECP informed Mayors across the Province that PROs will not collect IC&I sources. Municipalities can choose to take on the financial responsibility for non-eligible recycling starting January 1, 2026; otherwise, it will be up to the businesses or other non-eligible sources to manage their own recycling, either by contracting a private collector or using the Miller Waste transfer station while the recycling depot is available.

PROs have mentioned that they will allow small IC&I sources to access shared recycling depots but providing recycling depots is not currently feasible for Owen Sound. The City does not have existing depot facilities, and establishing new ones would require MECP and Circular Materials approval, including compliance with specific guidelines for site layout, material handling, and possibly tracking the proportion of eligible and non-eligible recyclables. It would also be inconvenient for businesses and is unlikely to be widely used. A similar proposal to help fund the recycling depot for non-eligibles at the Miller Waste transfer station was considered in 2024 but was not supported by City Council.

A decision is required to determine whether to maintain collection services for all non-eligible sources, limit service to priority areas such as the downtown core, or require all non-eligible generators to arrange private collection contracts.

Collection cost estimates were obtained for the 253 non-eligible locations currently serviced three days per week. Maintaining the current level of service with no interruptions to affected non-eligible locations would cost approximately \$120,000 annually.

For the River District, maintaining separate collection days for blue box and cardboard materials is estimated to cost about \$75,000 per year, whereas combining both materials into a single collection would reduce costs to roughly \$65,000 annually.

If collection of non-eligible recycling were discontinued and non-eligible sources were required to secure private collection, there would be no direct cost to the City; however, materials left at the curb would increase staff workload, disposal costs, and tipping fees.

Although the downtown includes both eligible and non-eligible sources, it is challenging for the contractor to accurately distinguish between them. Most non-eligible sources are identified with the recycling carts, but due to business turnover and occasional theft, it is difficult to determine exactly who is non-eligible in the downtown. It is estimated that approximately 70% of recyclables in the downtown are from non-eligible sources. Staff will need to develop a reliable method to identify and separate eligible from non-eligible materials moving forward.

Some potential options under consideration include using specific bag tags for non-eligible sources or having eligible sources use blue boxes only. There has also been discussion about moving to cart-based collection which would help identify the residential units in the downtown, but no concrete details have been provided. Given ongoing compliance challenges, communication difficulties, and high tenant turnover in the downtown, implementing any of these options could be complex and require careful planning.

Staff recognize that ongoing waste management challenges in the downtown core—including low compliance with garbage bag tag requirements and improper set-out on non-collection days—demonstrate that if garbage and recycling services are not provided, materials will often be left at the curb, requiring City staff to manage disposal. This adds to both workload and costs. To address these issues, Staff have been exploring cost-recovery options, such as a special levy for downtown property owners to cover both garbage and recycling services, with exemptions for those who can demonstrate they have private collection arrangements.

At the September 10, Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee, a recommendation was made that City Council include a By-law Enforcement Supervisor and a part-time By-law Enforcement Officer in the Mayor's 2026 budget. Having this additional staff provides an opportunity to work with them to develop the most effective approach for managing downtown waste, where current staffing is insufficient to address these issues effectively.

Staff are exploring potential solutions and plan to present a range of options to Council in the second quarter of 2026 for consideration and direction.

Financial Implications:

The City currently maintains a contract with Miller Waste for the collection of non-eligible recycling. Based on prior year expenditures, \$60,000 has been

included in the draft 2026 budget to cover these costs. This allocation has been in place since 2023, when the City first entered into the contract with Miller Waste. Based on the information available to staff at this time, the costs are expected to be as follows:

Option 1

Based on a quote for the 253 non-eligible locations currently serviced over three days per week, the costs are as follows:

- Weekly collection cost for all stops: \$1,922.40
- Cost per tonne: \$473.44
- Estimated weekly volume: <1 tonne/week
- Estimated annual cost: Approximately \$120,000

Option 2

Based on quotes for the River District curbside collection, the costs are as follows:

Option 2a) – Standard Curbside Blue Box Collection (this option maintains separate collection days for blue box and cardboard)

- Weekly collection cost (blue box): \$403.67
- Weekly collection cost (OCC/cardboard): \$566.24
- Cost per tonne (blue box): \$473.44
- Estimated weekly volume: <1 tonne/week
- Estimated annual cost: Approximately \$75,000

Option 2b) – Co-collection for River District only (this option reduces the need for 2 trucks which reduces the costs for collection)

- Weekly collection cost (blue box and cardboard combined): \$778.58
- Cost per tonne (blue box only): \$473.33
- Estimated weekly volume: <1 tonne/week
- Estimated annual cost: Approximately \$65,000

Option 3

End collection of non-eligible material and require all non-eligible generators to arrange private collection contracts.

- Estimated annual cost: Approximately \$0; however, if non-eligible recycling collection was cancelled specifically for the River District, and recycling collection was not provided, materials would often be left at the curb. This would require City staff to manage disposal, increasing both workload and costs, as well as incurring additional recycling tipping fees.

Communication Strategy:

If Council approves continuation of downtown recycling collection, staff will hand-deliver notices to downtown non-eligible sources, informing them that recycling will continue on a once-weekly schedule and providing guidance on proper set-out and compliance. Non-eligible sources outside the downtown will be notified by mail if municipal collection is not continued.

Consultation:

Manager of Corporate Services

Attachments:

1. Letter dated October 1, 2025 to the City of Owen Sound from Circular Materials Re: Update on Blue Box Collection from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) Locations
2. Email dated October 1, 2025 to Mayor Boddy from the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Regarding Non-eligible recycling post December 31, 2025.

Recommended by:

Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services

Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services at hjennen@owensound.ca or 519-376-1440 Ext. 3223.

October 1, 2025

Circulated via email: iboddy@owensound.ca

Ian Boddy
Mayor
City of Owen Sound

Re: Collection from IC&I Locations

Dear Mayor Boddy,

In response to the request made by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), the Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) representing producers obligated under the Ontario Blue Box Regulation consulted with municipalities and First Nations to support consideration of a collaborative and effective approach to IC&I. This included:

- August 15, 2025: consultation with municipalities on the draft approach;
- September 10, 2025: consultation with First Nations on the draft approach; and
- Between August 15 and September 10, 2025: the PROs considered feedback, assessed implications to the common collection system (CCS) and reached consensus on next steps.

As a result of these consultations, the PROs have agreed to allow the blending of eligible source and IC&I blue box material at depots with producers and municipalities assuming operational and financial responsibility for each party's respective proportionate share of the blended material. Due to several unresolvable challenges that emerged from the analysis and stakeholder engagement, the PROs have determined that it is not possible to provide curbside collection to IC&I locations in municipalities. An overview of these challenges is provided below.

Capacity: The CCS was procured for eligible sources included in Initial and Transition Reports. Further eligible communities with additional eligible sources were subsequently added by the MECP in December 2022 and February 2024. With these additions, the CCS has no remaining capacity for IC&I.

The CCS was procured to service eligible sources receiving collection prior to transition and single-family households eligible for curbside collection of blue box material in 2026, as reported in Initial and Transition Reports, plus allowances for natural growth based on historical year-over-year growth. CCS procurement and the resulting contracts did not include capacity for non-eligible source blue box material.

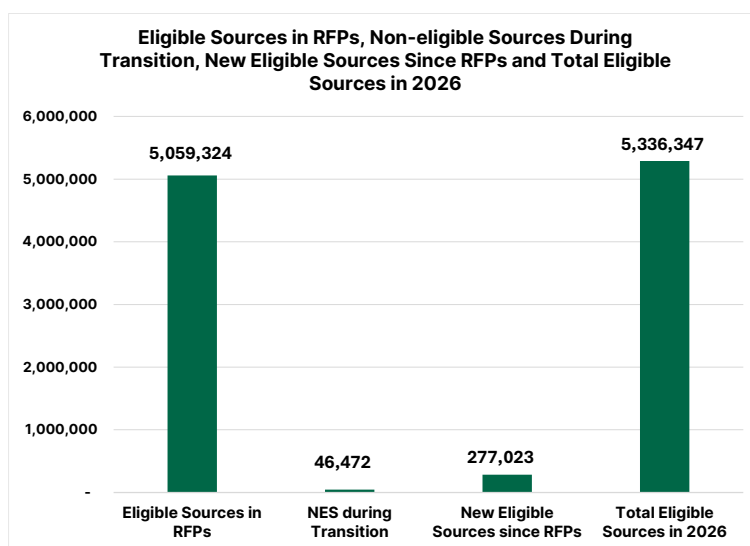
In response to requests from municipalities to provide sufficient time to prepare to service IC&I locations, CCS capacity procured for eligible sources was 'loaned' to non-eligible sources on a temporary basis during transition, on the understanding that the capacity

would become available again for eligible sources entering the system in 2026 and going forward.

Following the CCS procurement process, expansion of the MECP's Transition Schedule and the introduction of the MECP's Outside-of-Transition Schedule added more eligible sources to be serviced. The CCS capacity loaned to non-eligible sources during transition is required to service the new eligible sources in 2026 and natural growth going forward.

The graph presented in Figure 1 illustrates the number of non-eligible sources serviced during transition compared to the new eligible sources added since procurement, including the impact of these new eligible sources on the procured CCS capacity.

Figure1: CCS Capacity Utilization



The Total Eligible Sources in 2026 (in the right bar) is greater than the Eligible Sources in RFPs for which CCS services were procured (in the left bar) by the number of New Eligible Sources since RFPs. In addition to the eligible sources detailed in Table 1, the CCS is responsible for adding eligible sources arising from natural growth in 2027 and beyond. As illustrated, the CCS has no surplus capacity for non-eligible sources.

Any additional stops or increased quantity per stop would jeopardize service to eligible sources and may trigger the acquisition of additional collection vehicles. Procuring additional collection vehicles would require 18 to 24 months lead time based on current supply chain realities, leaving the CCS without sufficient collection vehicles to service the eligible sources on January 1, 2026. This would impact resident collection services, which compromises our commitment to provide a seamless transition to EPR for Ontarians.

Regulatory Obligation: Servicing IC&I creates risk for the CCS and producers in meeting regulatory obligations.

The final step in the transition to full extended producer responsibility is taking place in January 2026, requiring PROs to meet post-transition obligations set out in Ontario's Blue Box Regulation. This is a substantive change for the province of Ontario and requires considerable effort.

Implementing CCS IC&I blue box services within the six-month timeframe provided by the Minister on June 4, 2025 would create risk for disruption of services to eligible sources and compromises the ability of PROs to meet the regulatory obligations of their producers.

Regulatory Obligation: IC&I material in performance reporting is contrary to the Ontario Blue Box Regulation.

In developing the approach to IC&I services, PROs assumed that producers would not be required to deduct IC&I material from reporting in the six performance categories. RPRA has indicated that the Blue Box Regulation does not permit materials collected from the IC&I sector to be counted towards producers' performance requirements.

This poses a challenge as:

- Deducting IC&I from performance reporting significantly compromises the reconciliation of blue box material picked up by each PRO with blue box material supplied by each PRO's producers in each of the six performance reporting categories. This reconciliation process is already complex in meeting the regulatory reporting timelines. Further complications to this process cannot be borne.
- Deducting IC&I from performance reporting substantially increases sampling and auditing of collected materials which would further increase the preliminary cost recovery rates well above private sector service options.

Timing: The CCS and municipalities cannot complete the required tasks by January 1, 2026.

Municipalities report there is insufficient time for staff to complete their review and municipal councils to reach their decisions prior to the October 31, 2025 deadline for execution of IC&I service agreements. The October 31, 2025 deadline for execution of IC&I service agreements cannot be deferred given the January 1, 2026 timeline.

Eligibility: CCS cannot address the needs of IC&I locations serviced by municipalities.

CCS eligibility criteria for curb collection from IC&I are required to:

- Limit the amount of blue box material collected from IC&I locations as the CCS has no surplus capacity.
- Predict the quantity set out by an IC&I location to ensure accurate cost recovery rates to fully recover IC&I costs and to avoid charging producers for IC&I service (i.e., IC&I locations cannot set out more than the cost recovery rate covers); and
- Align curbside service with CCS curbside collection contracts.

The implications of the eligibility criteria for municipal buildings, BIAs and other IC&I locations are illustrated in the following table.

Table 1: CCS IC&I Eligibility Criteria Implications

	Would Not be Eligible	Would Be Eligible
Municipal buildings	• If collected more frequently than single-family curbside	• If collected at same frequency as single-family curbside
BIAs	• If setting out more than 1 cart	• If setting out 1 cart
Other IC&I	• If BBM placed beside container • If > 2% of single-family stops • Not on residential route	• If all BBM in container • If < 2% of single-family stops • On residential route

Feedback from municipalities on the August 15, 2025 proposal indicated many IC&I sources do not meet the CCS eligibility requirements in the right column of Table 1. Municipalities would need to seek alternative solutions for their IC&I locations that would not be eligible as set out in the middle column of Table 1.

Costs: CCS cost recovery rates for small IC&I are higher than private sector quotes to municipalities.

Preliminary estimated CCS cost recovery rates for small IC&I are substantially higher than private sector costs being quoted to municipalities, according to recent media coverage, for IC&I service.

These preliminary estimated CCS cost recovery rates are likely to increase as a result of change notices to, and cost estimates from, affected CCS contractors. As final cost recovery rates cannot be set until the change notice process is complete, any municipal council decisions would be based on preliminary cost recovery rates that are subject to adjustment. Such uncertainty further complicates council decision-making processes.

CCS cost recovery rates for larger IC&I cannot be calculated as the quantity per IC&I set out cannot be predicted.

Alternative Options: Municipalities have other options to service IC&I.

Some municipalities have already contracted, or implemented procurement processes, for IC&I services in 2026.

Municipalities can leverage ‘at the curb’ efficiencies in their garbage and organics collection systems without encountering the complexity of EPR requirements.

The northern and rural communities identified by the MECP are already providing garbage and blue box collection services for larger IC&I.

Establishing the CCS has resulted in a private company operating in each community on the MECP’s Transition Schedule and Outside-of-Transition Schedule. Municipalities that did not previously have a private sector option available in their community may now be able to explore IC&I services from these companies.

Summary

We thank you for your feedback during the consultation process. After consultation and analysis, system capacity limitations, current regulatory obligations, and time constraints for both the CCS and municipalities make it impractical for the CCS to provide curbside collection from IC&I locations.

While it is not feasible for the CCS to provide curbside collection from IC&I locations, PROs have agreed to allow blending of eligible source and IC&I blue box material at depots with physically sharing of responsibility by producers and municipalities. The CCS will pick up its proportionate share of blue box material from required depots and will be responsible for management of this material. The municipality will be responsible to haul, consolidate if required and process the remaining blue box material accepted at the depot. Municipalities should make the appropriate arrangements to do so prior to January 1, 2026.

Municipalities with IC&I locations provided with curbside collection of blue box material by the CCS during transition should have alternative arrangements in place prior to January 1, 2026, as these IC&I stops will no longer be serviced by the CCS as of this date.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to address any questions.

Sincerely,

Allen Langdon
Chief Executive Officer, Circular Materials

Gordon Day
Vice President, Ryse Solutions

John Hayes
President, Landbell Canada (formerly H2 Compliance)

Cc:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager, City of Owen Sound

From: "Minister, MECP (MECP)" <Minister.MECP@ontario.ca>

Date: October 1, 2025 at 12:22:56 PM EDT

Subject: Letter from the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks / lettre de l'honorable Todd McCarthy, ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Good morning,

As you know, Ontario is transitioning the blue box system from municipal control to a producer-run model where Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) will be running a province-wide blue box collection system. This will save municipalities over \$171 million annually and the transition will be complete in 2026.

I am writing today to confirm that, under the Blue Box Regulation, PROs are not, and have never been, responsible for collecting blue box waste from industrial, commercial, and institutional (IC&I) sources. In addition, PROs have indicated that, beginning in 2026, they will not voluntarily continue to offer this service to municipalities who are willing to pay for it as they have been doing for some small IC&I locations during the transition.

As PROs have been communicating since 2023, this means that municipalities will need to continue to work with their small IC&I establishments to identify the best path forward for collection in their communities. It is the ministry's understanding that many municipalities have already started this work to be ready for January 1, 2026.

This is not the outcome I had hoped for when I wrote PROs on June 4, 2025, to ask them to prepare an offer of service that would continue small IC&I collection at municipal cost. I had heard from municipalities and PROs that PROs could leverage the province-wide blue box collection system to offer a cost-effective option for municipalities to consider.

Unfortunately, on September 19, 2025, PROs indicated that they would not be able to fulfill my initial direction. They identified operational, infrastructure, and financial challenges to providing small IC&I collection that would make it impractical and unaffordable for most municipalities and potentially disruptive for the residential collection run by PROs.

While I remain disappointed that the design of the proposal does not support broader curbside collection, leaving a gap in service across municipalities, I

am pleased that PROs have agreed to work with communities that rely on depots for blue box collection to facilitate small IC&I collection. They are proposing to allow for comingling of residential and small IC&I blue box in shared depot containers. This means that municipalities will not have to plan and pay for separate depot containers for small IC&I blue box waste, which would add cost and burden. Under the PROs' proposed approach, PROs will be responsible for hauling and recycling the estimated share of collected recyclables from residential sources, and municipalities will be responsible for hauling and recycling the estimated share from small IC&I establishments.

I am very disappointed that PROs were not able to deliver an offer for small IC&I collection. However, I also recognize that the vast majority of businesses in Ontario arrange their own recycling collection through private contracts, or through an arrangement with their municipalities. While PROs will not be making municipalities an offer for small IC&I collection, these private sector solutions are still available to municipalities. If municipalities are not going to offer this service to businesses, proactive communication will be needed to inform individual businesses and business associations of the need to organize recycling independently.

My government is committed to the best possible blue box system for both producers and municipalities. To this end, we will be considering improvements to the system over the coming year. As this occurs, we will be looking into how any changes to the Blue Box Regulation could leverage the producer-run system and support our communities, small businesses, and institutions to cost-effectively maintain blue box services.

My ministry will be in touch with further information over the coming months as we move forward on this initiative. In the meantime, if you have questions about the PROs' offer to facilitate small IC&I collection in depot communities, please contact info@circularmaterials.ca.

Thank you for your continued support of the transition to producer responsibility. This transition will improve the amount of material recycled in Ontario and save money for municipalities.

Todd McCarthy

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Bonjour,

Comme vous le savez, l'Ontario effectue la transition du système des boîtes bleues, en passant d'un contrôle municipal à un modèle exécuté par les producteurs dans lequel les organismes assumant les responsabilités d'un producteur exploiteront un système de collecte des matériaux destinés aux boîtes bleues à l'échelle de la province. Ce transfert de responsabilités permettra aux municipalités d'économiser annuellement plus de 171 millions et cette transition sera achevée en 2026.

Je vous écris aujourd'hui afin de clarifier et de confirmer qu'en vertu du règlement sur la boîte bleue, les organismes assumant les responsabilités d'un producteur ne sont pas responsables, et ne l'ont jamais été, de la collecte de déchets destinés à la boîte bleue issus de sources industrielles, commerciales et institutionnelles (ICI). De plus, ces organismes ont indiqué qu'à partir de 2026, ils ne continueront plus volontairement à offrir ce service aux municipalités qui sont prêtes à payer pour ce service comme elles le font pour de petits établissements des secteurs ICI pendant la transition.

Comme les organismes assumant les responsabilités d'un producteur l'indiquent depuis 2023, cela signifie que les municipalités devront continuer à collaborer avec leurs petits établissements ICI pour déterminer la meilleure voie à suivre pour la collecte dans leurs collectivités. Le ministère croit savoir que de nombreuses municipalités ont déjà commencé ce travail pour être prêtes le 1^{er} janvier 2026.

Ce n'était pas le résultat que j'espérais lorsque j'ai écrit aux organismes assumant les responsabilités d'un producteur, le 4 juin 2025, pour leur demander de préparer une offre de services qui permettrait de poursuivre les petites collectes pour les secteurs ICI aux frais des municipalités. Les municipalités et ces organismes m'ont indiqué que les organismes assumant les responsabilités d'un producteur pourraient tirer parti du système de collecte des matériaux destinés aux boîtes bleues à l'échelle de la province pour offrir une option rentable aux municipalités.

Malheureusement, le 19 septembre 2025, ces organismes ont indiqué qu'ils ne seraient pas en mesure de répondre à mon orientation initiale. Ils ont ciblé des problèmes d'infrastructures, d'ordre financier et d'ordre opérationnel limitant leur capacité à fournir de petites collectes de matériaux ICI, les rendant impossibles à réaliser et inabordables pour la plupart des

municipalités. De plus, ces difficultés risquaient de créer d'éventuelles interruptions dans la collecte résidentielle exécutée par ces organismes.

Malgré ma déception sur la conception de la proposition qui ne prend pas en charge une collecte plus large sur le trottoir, laissant ainsi une lacune de service dans les municipalités; je suis ravi de constater l'engagement d'un travail collaboratif des organismes assumant les responsabilités d'un producteur avec les collectivités qui comptent sur les dépôts pour la collecte des boîtes bleues, afin de faciliter les petites collectes de déchets ICI. Ces organismes proposent de permettre le regroupement des boîtes bleues résidentielles et ICI dans des conteneurs de dépôts partagés. Cela permettra aux municipalités de ne pas avoir à planifier et à payer pour des conteneurs de dépôts séparés pour les petits déchets ICI destinés aux boîtes bleues et ainsi d'empêcher l'augmentation de leurs coûts et de leurs frais généraux. Selon l'approche proposée par ces organismes, ceux-ci seront responsables du transport et du recyclage pour la partie estimée des sources résidentielles collectées et les municipalités pour la partie estimée des sources ICI collectées de petits établissements.

Je suis très déçu que les organismes assumant les responsabilités d'un producteur n'aient pas été en mesure d'accomplir une offre de collecte des déchets ICI issus des petits établissements. Cependant, je reconnais également que la grande majorité des entreprises en Ontario organisent leur propre collecte de recyclage par le biais de contrats privés ou d'ententes avec leur municipalité. Bien que ces organismes n'offrent pas aux municipalités une petite collecte sélective de déchets ICI, les solutions du secteur privé sont toujours disponibles pour les municipalités. Si les municipalités n'offrent pas ce service aux entreprises, elles devront le communiquer de manière proactive afin que les entreprises individuelles et les associations commerciales puissent organiser le recyclage de manière indépendante.

Mon gouvernement s'est engagé à fournir le meilleur système de boîtes bleues possible aux producteurs et aux municipalités. À cette fin, nous envisagerons d'améliorer ce système au cours de la prochaine année. Au fur et à mesure du processus, nous examinerons quelles sont les modifications adéquates à apporter au règlement sur la boîte bleue pour tirer parti du système exploité par les producteurs et aider nos collectivités, nos petites entreprises et nos institutions à maintenir les services de collecte des boîtes bleues de manière rentable.

Mon ministère vous informera au cours des prochains mois, au fur et à mesure que nous progressons dans cette initiative. En attendant, si vous avez des questions sur l'offre des organismes assumant les responsabilités d'un producteur pour faciliter les petites collectes de matériaux recyclables issus de sources industrielles, commerciales et institutionnelles dans les dépôts des collectivités, veuillez communiquer à info@circularmaterials.ca.

Nous vous remercions de votre soutien continu de la transition vers la responsabilité des producteurs. Elle permettra d'augmenter la quantité de matériaux recyclés en Ontario et fera économiser de l'argent aux municipalités.

Todd McCarthy

Ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

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