



Stewardship Ontario

BACKGROUNDER

Stewardship Ontario

Who We Are :

Stewardship Ontario is a not-for-profit organization funded and governed by the industries (our stewards) that make and market the products and packaging materials managed under our recycling programs:

- Blue Box – the curbside recycling program for printed paper and packaging
- Orange Drop – the recycling and safe disposal program for hazardous or special waste

We touch the lives of Ontarians every day – whether they are putting something in their Blue Box or returning spent batteries to a depot or retail partner. We work to keep all types of materials out of landfill and make sure we recover the full value of these materials at the end of their useful life. We strive to find new ways to turn today’s waste into tomorrow’s consumer products.

How does it work?

Stewardship Ontario collects fees from ‘stewards’ – the first importers, manufacturers or brand owners of the packaging and products that end up in curbside Blue Boxes or that are classified as household hazardous or special waste. These fees help to pay for the costs of collecting, transporting, recycling and safely disposing of waste across the province.

Stewards share responsibility for the Blue Box Program with municipalities, contributing approximately \$100 million per year (half the cost¹). Stewards are fully responsible for the Orange Drop program, which in 2012 cost \$44.5 million to operate.

Waste Diversion Act, 2002

Stewardship Ontario operates the Blue Box and Orange Drop Programs under the authority of the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002 (WDA)*. The organization receives no funding from government or taxpayers. Stewardship Ontario is designated in legislation as an “Industry Funding Organization” in order to make it clear that it is the responsibility of industry to fund stewardship programs for various wastes.

¹ s.25(5) of the Waste Diversion Act (WDA) states: A waste diversion program developed under this Act for blue box waste must provide for payments to municipalities to be determined in a manner that results in the total amount paid to all municipalities under the program being equal to 50 per cent of the total net costs incurred by those municipalities as a result of the program.

Stewardship Ontario is accountable to Waste Diversion Ontario, our regulator, and we must meet a series of targets ranging from waste diversion to financial performance. An annual report provides detailed performance results along with an audited financial statement for public review.

The Stewardship Ontario programme is governed by a board of directors and is run day to day by a dedicated team of staff.

Programs

The Blue Box

Stewardship Ontario has managed the Blue Box Program since 2004. Blue Boxes made their official debut in Kitchener in 1981. The early Blue Boxes originally accepted five types of materials: aluminum containers, glass containers, newsprint, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles and steel containers. Today, the Blue Box Program keeps nearly 68 per cent of residential printed paper and packaging out of landfill.

Facts:

- More than 95 per cent of Ontarians participate in Blue Box recycling and have access to highly convenient curbside recycling
- The Blue Box collects among the broadest range of materials anywhere in the world and Ontario's printed paper and packaging diversion rate is one of the highest in North America
- The Blue Box Program helps divert a significant amount of waste from our landfills and is one of Ontario's most important recycling programs. In 2012 alone, nearly 900,000 tonnes of waste was diverted from landfill. That's the equivalent of nearly 82,000 school buses

The administration and funding of the Blue Box Program is shared between the municipalities and the companies that produce printed paper and packaging - the products that end up in curbside recycling boxes.

Orange Drop

Stewardship Ontario began operating the Orange Drop Program in July 2008, providing safe end-of-life support for:

- Single-use batteries
- Pressurized cylinders that held propane, oxygen, helium and other gasses
- Vehicle engine antifreeze/coolant
- Empty lubricating oil containers
- Oil filters

The Orange Drop Program helps recycle the municipal household hazardous or special waste materials that need extra care at the end of their useful lives. The Orange Drop website – www.MakeTheDrop.ca – features a postal code search facility to find the nearest drop-off location for Orange Drop materials.

Where to drop off your hazardous materials:

There are many drop-off locations throughout Ontario accepting hazardous or special waste:

- 87 municipal HHW depots for all five materials
- 30 return-to-retail locations (batteries)
- 850+ automotive DIY drop-off sites (antifreeze, oil containers, oil filters)
- 10,000+ automotive service centre locations (antifreeze, oil containers, oil filters) for commercial users
- 300+ annual collection events
- 85 Provincial Parks where non-refillable propane cylinders are collected from campers
- 4,000+ battery collection sites

The administration and funding of the Orange Drop Program – the collecting, transporting, processing and responsible handling (recycling and safe disposal) of hazardous and special waste – is 100 per cent funded by the industry stewards that produce and sell those materials and products into the Ontario marketplace.

For more information:

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