

BACKGROUND: Stewardship Ontario

Overview:

Stewardship Ontario is a not-for-profit organization funded and governed by industry that make and market the products and packaging materials managed under the two recycling programs:

- **Blue Box** – the curbside recycling program for printed paper and packaging; and
- **Orange Drop (MHSW)** – the recycling and safe disposal program for hazardous or special waste.

Stewardship Ontario's programs work to keep all types of materials out of landfill to ensure we recover the full value of these materials at the end of their useful life – turning 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. Stewards are fully responsible for the Orange Drop program, which in 2016 cost \$32.5 million to operate.

Waste-Free Ontario Act, 2016 (WFOA):

Stewardship Ontario is accountable to the [Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority \(RPRA\)](#), otherwise known as 'the Authority', and 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.

On November 30, 2016, the Ontario Government proclaimed the [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 \(RRCEA\)](#) and the [Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016 \(WDTA\)](#), enacted by the [Waste-Free Ontario Act, 2016 \(WFOA\)](#). Prior to the WFOA being proclaimed, Stewardship Ontario operated the Blue Box and Orange Drop Programs under the authority of the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002*.

The Stewardship Ontario program is governed by a Board of Directors and is run day-to-day by a dedicated team of staff.

The Blue Box Program:

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, but today, the Blue Box Program collects 12 materials and continues to exceed the government mandated recycling rate.

Blue Box Facts:

- More than 97.5 per cent of Ontarians participate in Blue Box recycling and have access to highly convenient curbside recycling.
- 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 2015 alone, over 852,000 tonnes of waste was diverted from landfill. That's the equivalent of nearly 10,000 Space Shuttles.
- 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.



The MHSW/Orange Drop Program:

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

- Pressurized containers (includes propane tanks and cylinders, oxygen and helium tanks)
- Single-use dry cell batteries.



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](#) features a postal code search facility to find the nearest drop-off location for Orange Drop materials. There are many drop-off locations throughout Ontario accepting hazardous or special waste:

- 30 return-to-retail locations (batteries)
- 89 municipal household hazardous waste depots for all five materials
- 313 annual collection events
- 102 provincial parks where non-refillable propane cylinders are collected from campers
- 5,340 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 one hundred per cent funded by the industry stewards that produce and sell those materials and products into the Ontario marketplace.

More Information:

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