



# City of London Blue Box Transition

Our “Opt-in” Learnings and Next Steps

AMO Conference, August 22, 2023



# Outline

1. Leading up to July 1, 2023
2. During Transition – Since July 1, 2023
3. Getting Ready for Post-Transition and Related Programs and Projects
4. In Summary



# How Often do you Stop Delivering a Major Municipal Service?

**Not often . . . and especially one that:**

- costs thousands of dollars to millions of dollars per year
- reaches almost all residents
- is an easy environmental conversation to have and everyone has an opinion
- you have been doing since the late 1980s/early 1990s

Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks

Office of the Minister

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Ministère de l'Environnement,  
de la Protection de la nature et des  
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August 15, 2019

Mr. John Coyne  
Chair  
Stewardship Ontario  
1 St Clair Ave. West, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1K6

Dear Mr. Coyne:

August 15, 2019, signed by  
Minister Jeff Yurek, Minister of the  
Environment, Conservation and  
Parks



# A Big Thanks from London Staff

- AMO (especially Dave Gordon, Peter Hargreave)
- Regional Public Works Commissioner of Ontario (RPWCO)
- Municipal Waste Association (MWA)
- Municipal 3Rs Collaborative (M3RC)
- Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF)
- Waste 2 Resources Ontario (W2RO)
- London City Council(s)
- City of London staff
- Provincial Government
- Circular Materials Ontario (CMO)
- Miller Waste Systems
- Reverse Logistics Group (RLG)





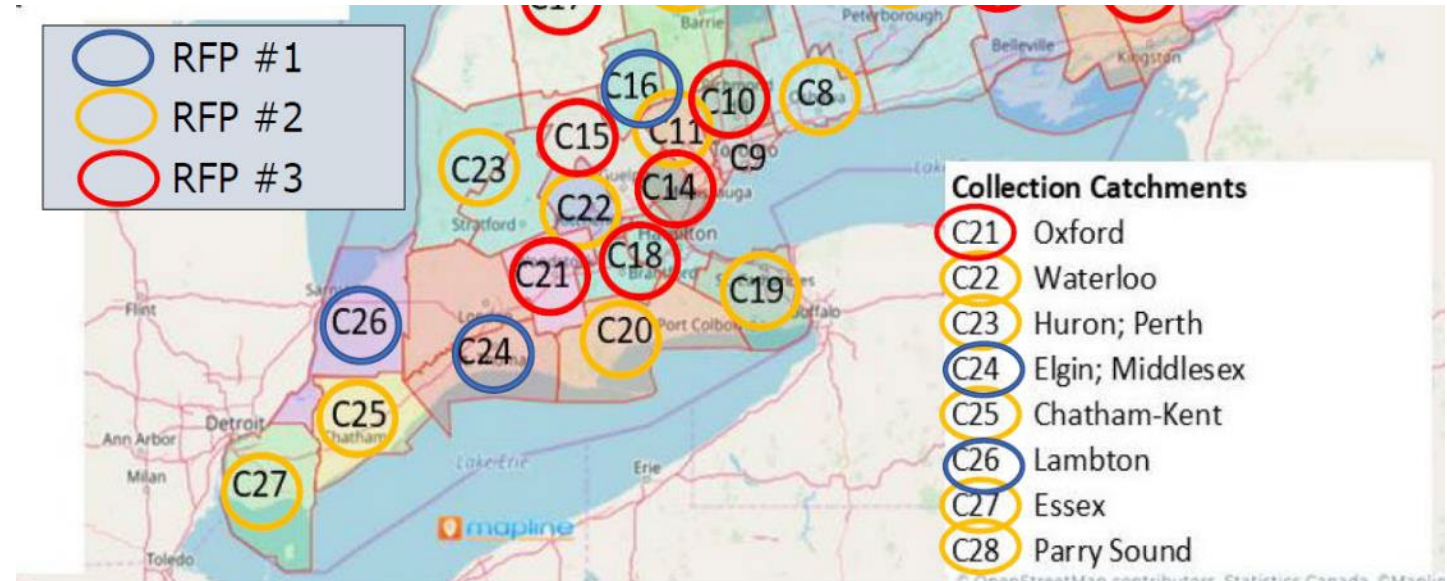
# Overview of London's Program

- 191,000 stops (curb and within multi-residential building sector (about 875 buildings))
- Opted in:
  - Master Services Agreement (MSA):
    - Collection contractor (subcontractor Miller Waste Systems)
    - Depot collection for Blue Box materials
    - Promotion and education
- July 1, 2023 – transition for 2.5 years



# Overview of London's Program (cont'd)

- Receiving Facility in Catchment Area 24
- Sold MRF equipment to Miller Waste Systems
- Leased MRF to Miller (10 years with 2, 5-year options)





# Tips for Opting In or Opting Out

1. Taxpayer interactions - need to know your recycling business and how connected it is within the community
2. Municipal interactions – recycling touches many areas:
  1. Environment & Infrastructure
  2. Planning & Economic Development
  3. Clerks
  4. Legal
  5. Service London (Customer Service)
  6. Asset Management
  7. Budget
  8. Business Administration
  9. Facilities
  10. Realty



# More Tips for Opting In or Opting Out

3. Make sure you understand all your recycling costs
4. Make sure your municipal timeframes are known and understood
5. Understand what you will be “losing” and how it may/will be provided in the future . . . if at all

**Are we “really out” starting January 1, 2026??**





# Dealing with the Producers

1. Positive
2. Very professional
3. Timely responses
4. Good exchange and understanding of issues
5. Differences of opinion exist – but managed





## 2. During Transition – Since July 1

1. 47 days old at time of slide deck submission (smooth and “seamless”)
2. 53 days old at AMO session (let’s hope it is still smooth and “seamless”!!)
3. Working on data reporting “kinks” with RLG – but working well together
4. We want businesses to be successful and more efficient in recycling





# London's Phases of Transition

Phase	Timeframe	Focus
1	July to Dec. 2023	<b>Focus:</b> on transition requirements for reporting and upcoming collection services changes
2	Jan. to June 2024	<b>Focus:</b> 1) Increase recycling collection frequency from 42 to 50 pickups per year and 2) the Missed 10% (by weight)
3	July to Dec. 2024	<b>Focus:</b> Sort it Right – Containers
4	Jan. to June 2025	<b>Focus:</b> Sort it Right – Paper Fibres
5	July to Dec. 2025	<b>Focus:</b> More Blue Box Materials - Getting Londoners ready for the new materials



# Transition Recycling Challenges

1. Non-eligible stops (that are on the current program)
2. City Facilities recycling
3. New Non-eligible stops (that want to join the program)
4. Future recycling processing needs in London
5. Litter – prevention and management



# What is London Following Closely

1. BB transitions in City of Ottawa and City of Toronto
2. The next round of transitions in southwestern Ontario
3. Ontario's "Discussion" on Deposit Return Systems





# Recycling - What we Need from Businesses . . .

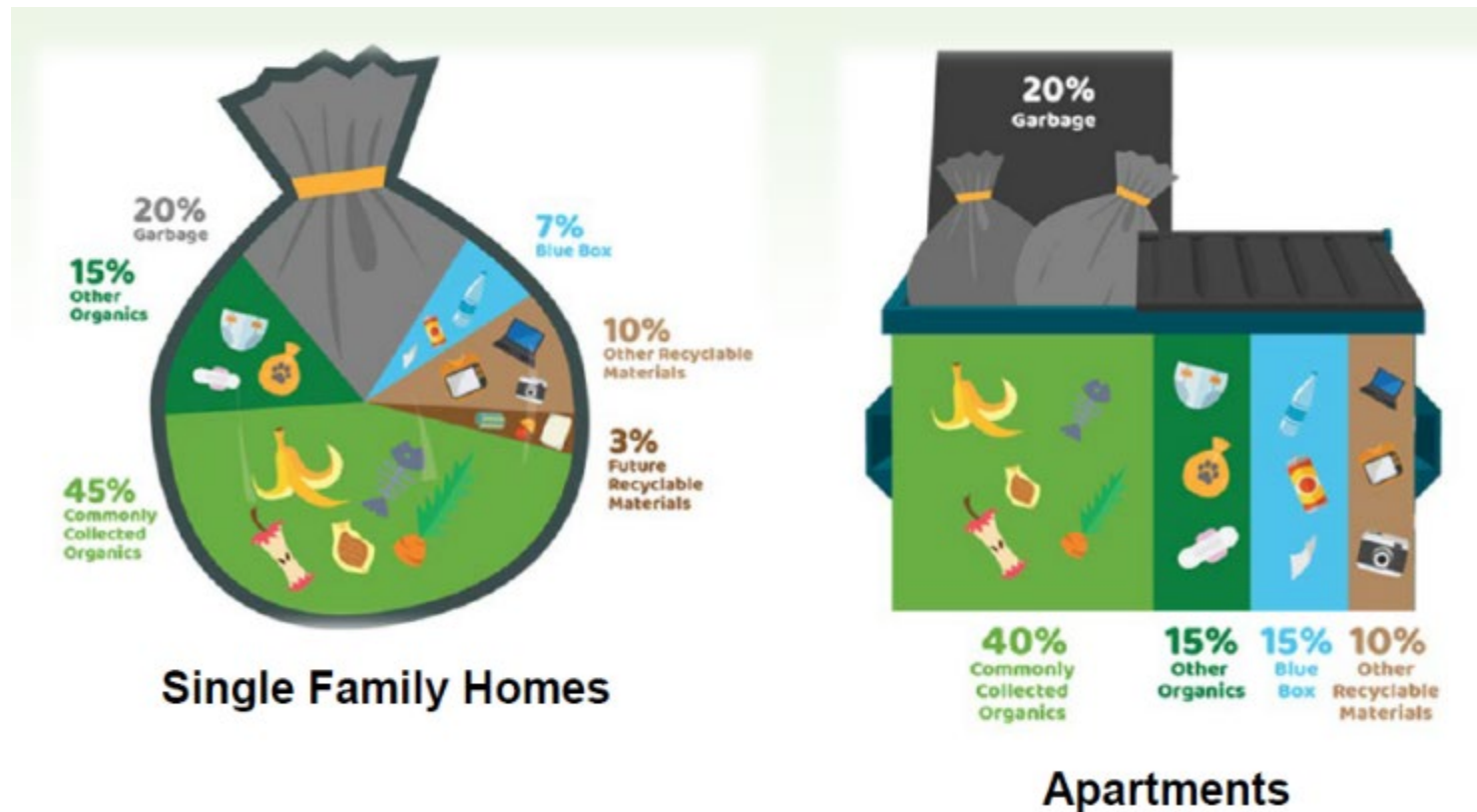
. . . . the things we do not have access to:

- Store level education for recycling, purchasing products contained in certain types of packaging, etc.
- Ensuring and publicizing improved environmental outcomes
- Supporting the Circular Economy with its purchasing power



# 3. Getting Ready for Post-Transition and Related Programs and Projects

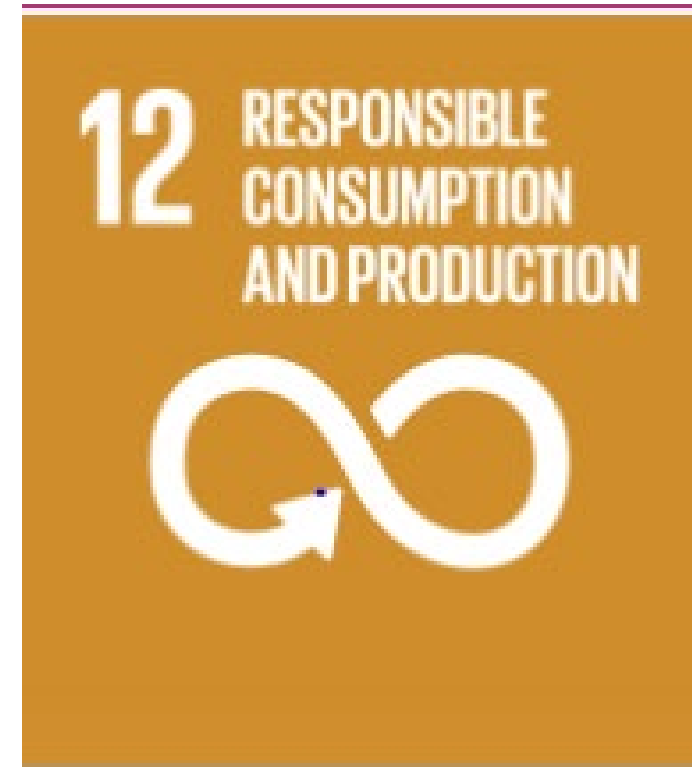
Current and upcoming Blue Box Materials will represent about 20% of Londoners outputs – **More focus on 80%**





# What's Next for London - Recycling

1. Circular Economy (economic opportunities) as part of London's Climate Emergency Action Plan and Council's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan
2. Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production (and connection with climate change)







# What's Next for London - Other

1. Implementing Green Bin - curbside
2. Collaborating on Green Bin (organics management) implementation in the multi-residential sector
3. Completing Environmental Assessment for landfill expansion (until 2048) and expanding it





# Food - What we Need from Businesses . . .

. . . . the things we do not have access to:

- Store level education for food, purchasing to avoid food waste, making food last, cooking, etc.
- Responsibility for food rescue
- Shared responsibility for food waste





# What we Need from the Province. . .

. . . . follow through on policies and programs to:

- Target Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) recyclables
- Advance IC&I activities and regulations for organics and process residuals

**To act on the fact  
that disposal  
capacity in  
Ontario is  
depleting quickly  
BY 2032**



# Things we really DO NOT Know!!

1. What could occur starting January 1, 2026?
2. What will be the future relationship between households and Producers?
3. How non-compliance issues will be really handled?
4. What will be the operational role of Resource Productivity and Recovery Association (RPRA) and the reality of being a province-wide organization (regulator)?
5. What will be the future role of municipalities



## 4. In Summary

1. Lots of homework needed
2. Excellent Ontario municipal examples to follow
3. Have backup plan(s)
4. Continue collaborations through AMO, M3RC and CIF
5. **It may not be as easy as you think to hand over the car keys!!**

