

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON DECEMBER 4, 2017</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR - ENVIRONMENT, FLEET &amp; SOLID WASTE</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>UPDATES - PROPOSED FOOD AND ORGANIC WASTE FRAMEWORK, BLUE BOX PROGRAM PLAN AMENDMENT AND WASTE FREE ONTARIO ACT</b>

### RECOMMENDATION

That on the recommendation of the Director, Environment, Fleet & Solid Waste, the updates on the proposed Food and Organic Waste Framework, Blue Box Program Plan Amendment and *Waste Free Ontario Act* **BE RECEIVED** for information.

### PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Relevant reports that can be found at [www.london.ca](http://www.london.ca) under City Hall (Meetings) include:

- Updates – Proposed Blue Box Program Plan Amendment and Waste Free Ontario Act (October 24, 2017 Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #12)
- Comments on Environmental Bill of Rights Registry – Discussion Paper: Addressing Food and Organic Waste in Ontario (July 17, 2017 meeting of the CWC, Item #12)
- Update and Next Steps – Resource Recovery Strategy and Residual Waste Disposal Strategy as part of the Environmental Assessment Process (February 7, 2017 meeting of the CWC, Item #10)
- Updates: Garbage and Recycling Collection and Next Steps (January 10, 2017 meeting of the CWC, Item #13)
- Comments on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry - Proposed Waste Free Ontario Act and Draft – Strategy for Waste Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy (February 2, 2016 meeting of the CWC, Item #14)

### COUNCIL'S 2015-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

Municipal Council has recognized the importance of solid waste management in its 2015-2019 - Strategic Plan for the City of London ([2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan](#)) as follows:

#### **Building a Sustainable City**

- Strong and healthy environment
- Robust infrastructure

#### **Growing our Economy**

- Local, regional, and global innovation
- Strategic, collaborative partnerships

#### **Leading in Public Service**

- Proactive financial management
- Innovative & supportive organizational practices
- Collaborative, engaged leadership
- Excellent service delivery

## BACKGROUND

### PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Civic Works Committee (CWC) and Council with January 9, 2018 and January 16, 2018 as the dates for dealing with these two matters; City staff reports and responses to the:

- Proposed Food and Organic Waste Framework (posted November 16, 2017 by the Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change – MOECC – on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry - EBR)
- Proposed Blue Box Program Plan Amendments (to be released December 22, 2017 by Stewardship Ontario representing industry stewards)

## DISCUSSION

### Proposed Food and Organic Waste Framework

On November 16, 2017, MOECC released the Proposed Food and Organic Waste Framework that includes two parts:

Part A: the Action Plan which outlines strategic commitments to be taken by the province to address food and organic waste; and,

Part B: the Proposed Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*, which provides direction to many, including municipalities, to further the provincial interest in waste reduction and resource recovery as it relates to food and organic waste.

A number of municipalities and other organizations (Municipal 3Rs Collaboration Working Group, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Waste Management Association, Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario), have started to review the Framework. Meetings and discussions are confirmed or planned for late November and December.

Comments are to be submitted to the EBR by January 15, 2018. To achieve this date, the following steps will be followed by City staff:

December 18, 2017	Staff report submitted to City Clerk's Office
January 8, 2018	Added report, if required, to be on CWC Agenda
January 9, 2018	CWC meeting
January 15, 2018	Comments submitted to EBR
January 16, 2018	London Municipal Council meeting – any new comments to be added along with Council Resolution

### Background

MOECC describes the Food and Organic Waste Framework as follows:

*“The proposed Framework sets a vision for “a circular economy that moves towards zero food and organic waste and zero greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector”. In developing the proposed Framework, the province considered a number of key guiding principles, including:*

- *Enhancing existing partnerships with stakeholders and building new relationships*
- *Building on progress made in Ontario and learning from other leading jurisdictions*
- *Collaborating across all levels of government to avoid duplication*

- *Supporting an outcome-based approach*
- *Using evidence to guide decision making*
- *Using regulatory and non-regulatory tools*
- *Creating conditions that support sustainable end-markets*
- *Increasing the use of innovative technologies*
- *Enabling efficient and effective recovery systems*
- *Recognizing the administrative impacts and costs to recover resources from organic materials*

*The proposed Framework strives towards the achievement of the following objectives:*

- *Reduce food and organic waste: Preventing food from becoming waste is a critical first step and has the greatest positive impact on the environment, the economy and society. Rescuing surplus food further reduces food waste and ensures that edible food does not end up as waste.*
- *Recover resources from food waste and organic waste: Increasing resource recovery, in particular, from multi-unit residential buildings and the IC&I sector will help the province reach its zero waste and zero greenhouse gas emission goals.*
- *Support resource recovery infrastructure: Turning food and organic waste into valuable products recognizes the economic benefits of a circular economy. It is important that Ontario has sufficient infrastructure capacity and innovative technologies to process food and organic waste into valuable resources, such as nutrients, and renewable natural gas.*
- *Promote beneficial uses of recovered resources: Supporting beneficial end-products and sustainable markets for organic materials is critical. This includes making beneficial uses of recovered resources to support healthy soils which promote crop growth and enhance carbon storage, as well as end-products like renewable natural gas, electricity and biofuels which replace carbon-intensive fossil fuels.*

*The proposed Framework includes actions and policies which support Ontarians as they prevent food and organic waste, rescue surplus food, recover resources from food and organic waste, and find sustainable end-uses for products made from organic materials” (MOECC, posted on EBR November 16, 2017).*

## **Blue Box Program Plan Amendment**

On August 14, 2017, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change requested development of an amended Blue Box Program Plan (BBPP) that would include the potential for municipalities to transition their recycling programs to producers sooner than outlined in the Strategy (up to 4 years sooner). The amended BBPP is a necessary step to lay the ground work and changes required while the full EPR program is being developed technically, financially and legislatively by the Province and industry.

The draft amended BBPP is being developed by Stewardship Ontario (SO). The draft amended BBPP must be approved by the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) and the final proposal submitted by RPRA to the Minister of the Environment & Climate Change by February 15, 2018.

As noted in October 2017, the City should benefit financially from full EPR since the current funding arrangement results in producers paying municipalities for less than 50 per cent of the costs of managing their Blue Box programs. This could amount to additional funding for London in the order of \$1.5 to \$3.5 million per year depending on a number of factors including what recyclable materials are ultimately designated (i.e., materials ‘eligible’ under the EPR program), how recycling assets such as materials recovery facilities are handled financially, etc.

Public consultation has been underway since October and will continue until mid-January 2018. A key document is scheduled to be released by SO for public comment on December 22, 2017. It is not known at this time how comments will be received on this document, however SO is planning to host a webinar the week of January 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 to review the document planned to be released on December 22, 2018.

City staff are directly involved in commenting on the development of this document through Municipal 3Rs Collaboration Working Group, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario. These activities will continue into 2018.

SO has a preliminary due date for comments of January 15, 2018. To achieve this date, the following steps will be followed by City staff:

December 18, 2017	Staff report, if possible, submitted to City Clerk's Office
December 22, 2017	Stewardship Ontario releases draft Amended BBPP for final comment
January 8, 2018	Added report to be on CWC Agenda
January 9, 2018	CWC meeting
January 15, 2018	Comments submitted to SO
January 16, 2018	London Municipal Council meeting – Council Resolution and new comments submitted to SO and RPRA, copies to Municipal organizations
After February 2018	Updates to CWC and Council as required

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