



## Backgrounder

### **Waste Diversion Ontario ([www.wdo.ca](http://www.wdo.ca))**

Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) is a non-profit, non-government corporation created under the *Waste Diversion Act* on June 27, 2002. WDO was established to develop, implement and operate waste diversion programs for a wide range of materials. The Minister of the Environment has designated and approved a diversion program for Blue Box Waste. That program plan has been operating since 2004. The Minister also has designated Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) and Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE). She currently is reviewing the diversion program plan for MHSW, which the WDO submitted for her approval in May 2007. The program plan for WEEE is under development. Used Oil Material and Used Tires are also designated; however, the Minister has indicated that the Used Oil Material designation has been set aside and development of a diversion program for Used Tires has been deferred.

### **Stewardship Ontario ([www.stewardshipontario.ca](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca))**

The Minister of the Environment designated Stewardship Ontario as the industry funding organization for Blue Box Wastes (glass, metal, paper, plastic and textiles collected in municipal recycling programs). All packaging and printed paper that fall within these definitions are included in the Blue Box Program Plan and in the fees allocated to industry to fulfill the requirement that they share in paying 50% of the funding of Ontario's municipal Blue Box waste diversion programs. Companies designated as stewards for Blue Box Waste can discharge their legal obligations under the *Waste Diversion Act* by registering and filing Steward's Reports with Stewardship Ontario and paying the applicable steward fees. More than 1,800 companies ([www.stewardshipontario.ca/info/lists.htm](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/info/lists.htm)) have registered with Stewardship Ontario as stewards for the 2007 program year. Fee rates are based on the types, amounts and recyclability of packaging and printed materials introduced into the Ontario marketplace and managed through the municipal waste stream, i.e. packaging that is harder to recycle or more difficult to market has been designated a higher fee than packaging that is more easily recycled and enjoys stronger markets.

### **Non-obligated Companies**

Many companies that introduce packaging and printed papers into the Ontario marketplace fall under the "de minimis" rule in the Blue Box Program Plan. If their sales are under \$2 million annually they are exempt from registering or paying fees. If their sales are over \$2 million but they produce less than 15 tonnes of "Blue Box Wastes" annually, they are exempt from paying fees but must register with Stewardship Ontario ([www.stewardshipontario.ca](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca)).

### **Blue Box Program Plan**

A copy of the Blue Box Program Plan is available at: [www.stewardshipontario.ca/plans/bbpb2003.htm](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/plans/bbpb2003.htm).

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In Ontario, stewards of “Blue Box” materials pay a fee on the amount of packaging and printed papers their businesses contribute to the municipal waste management system. This provides 50% of the net funding for the municipal residential blue box recycling system.

Ten per cent of this is directed to the Effectiveness and Efficiency (E&E) Fund – a program that provides financial support for municipalities to implement projects that will result in reduced recycling costs, improve program recovery and contribute to best practices. Since the fund launched in 2004, \$14.4M has been made available to municipal recycling programs and another \$5.5M will be made available through 2007.

For more information and to apply:  
[www.stewardshipontario.ca/eefund](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/eefund)

### Eligible Projects

The E&E Fund solicits applications for projects that help identify and/or achieve best practices in the six established fund priority areas:

- multi-family recycling;
- material recycling facility (MRF) optimization and rationalization;
- financing/program compliance (e.g. user pay);
- waste audit and benchmarking studies;
- communication and education to increase the recovery of targeted materials; and
- cost containment.

### Applications

Submissions are completed online at [www.stewardshipontario.ca](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca) on a continuous basis and require two steps: *Intent to Apply* and a *Detailed Application*.

If the *Intent to Apply* meets program goals the proponent will be invited to submit a *Detailed Application*.

Submissions are evaluated by at least two peer reviewers – recycling experts selected from the public and private sectors from across the province. Based on their analysis, projects are recommended for approval or returned with detailed comments. Once approved by its Board of Directors, Stewardship Ontario notifies proponents of the decision.

### Shared Results

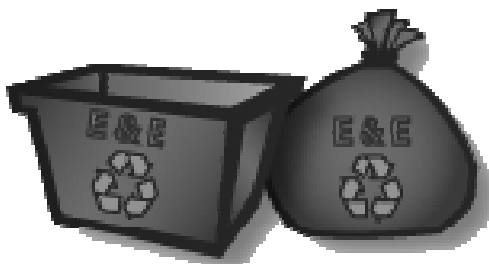
All Ontario municipal blue box recycling programs can benefit from the E&E Fund, regardless of whether they participate. Watch for project reports and highlights as they are posted at [www.stewardshipontario.ca](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca) and at the [Recyclers’ Knowledge Network](#) – the online gateway for best available information for recyclers that was established through the E&E Fund in 2004.

### Application Evaluation Criteria

Will the project:

- 1) *divert materials cost-effectively* (e.g. lower collection or processing costs?)
- 2) *increase the amount of residential blue box waste that is recycled* in Ontario?
- 3) encourage *replication of results*?

Consideration is given to whether a proposed project will be *well managed* (i.e. planned, properly sized, overseen and evaluated). Applications must be submitted *only* by an Ontario municipality (with or without a project team) and should demonstrate that matching funding (cash and/or eligible in-kind investment) is in place.



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