



Stewardship Ontario \$2 million grant will improve Blue Box glass recycling in Ontario

TORONTO (March 14, 2005) – Stewardship Ontario is making available a \$2 million grant for one or more companies to develop new facilities in Ontario to process and market glass bottles and jars collected in several Greater Toronto Area (GTA) municipal Blue Box recycling programs.

The investment is one of several that Stewardship Ontario is making to increase the amount of mixed (coloured and clear) broken glass from Blue Box recycling programs that can be successfully marketed, leading to lower recycling system costs.

“In 2003, the last year for which data is available, about 115,000 tonnes of glass were collected in Ontario’s Blue Box recycling systems but markets for mixed, broken glass have been scarce,” said Damian Bassett, CEO of Stewardship Ontario.

“Last year, Stewardship Ontario created two funding programs dedicated to improving markets for this material. We are inviting companies from across Ontario and worldwide to submit proposals to develop new glass recycling capacity that can convert mixed broken glass into a value-added product,” he said. When this facility or facilities are operational, the new capacity may provide a market for as much as 60,000 tonnes of recyclable glass per year.

Bassett said that over the past few years, changes in how glass is collected and processed have contributed to reductions in the amount of marketable glass recovered at recycling processing centres, with the result that market revenues declined.

This Request for Proposals has been developed in conjunction with the Cities of Toronto, Hamilton and Guelph, and the Regions of Durham, Peel and York. The facility or facilities are expected to be in operation by the beginning of July 2006. The deadline for responding to the RFP (which is posted on Stewardship Ontario’s website) is April 29, 2005.

“As a participant in this project, Peel Region is excited about working with Stewardship Ontario and other GTA communities to develop a long term market for the glass containers we recover in our residential recycling programs,” said Andrew Pollock, Peel’s Director of Waste Management. “This is a great opportunity to establish a local higher value outlet for this material.”

Stewardship Ontario is an industry funding organization created to collect money from industry to help pay for the Ontario municipal Blue Box recycling program. Brand owners and first importers who use packaging or printed papers that are handled through Ontario's municipal waste management programs are required under the *Waste Diversion Act* to contribute to a fund that pays 50 percent of the net cost of Ontario's municipal Blue Box recycling systems. Stewardship Ontario is authorized under the *Act* to collect the funds from industry and distribute them to municipalities.

Ensuring viable end markets for recycled materials is vital to the Blue Box program. Responding to this need, Stewardship Ontario initiated its Glass Action Plan in April 2004. It comprises two funds: a \$500,000 Glass Diversion Fund which supports measures to improve the marketability and expand end markets for mixed glass from Ontario's Blue Box programs under which a total of \$285,000 has already been approved for four new glass recycling projects.

This grant is offered under the Glass Market Development Investment Fund, comprising up to \$2 million for investments in Ontario's glass processing infrastructure. Together, these two funds will ultimately lead to more stable markets and help control Blue Box program costs.

**The Request for Proposals is available at
www.stewardshipontario.ca/funding/glassmarket.htm**

Proposals are to be sent to Stewardship Ontario by no later than 4:00 p.m. local time (Toronto) on April 29, 2005.

Backgrounder attached

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Backgrounder on Waste Diversion Ontario and Stewardship Ontario

Waste Diversion Ontario (www.wdo.ca)

Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) is a 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 that currently include Blue Box Waste, for which a program is approved, Used Tires, for which a program is posted on the Environmental Registry for comment, and Used Oil Material and Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment, for which programs are being developed. Waste diversion programs are developed after materials are designated by the Minister of the Environment. The Minister recently asked WDO to work with representatives of the affected electrical and electronics industries to develop a diversion program that would include more than 50 products, ranging from appliances to computers to cellphones and TVs. Materials such as Household Special Waste, Organic Materials, Pharmaceuticals and Fluorescent Tubes may be designated by the Minister in future.

The WDO has been authorized by the Act to work co-operatively with those industries that produce and distribute these products to establish programs to divert waste materials.

Stewardship Ontario (www.stewardshipontario.ca)

The WDO 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 categories are included in the Blue Box Program Plan and in the fees calculation. Companies designated as stewards for Blue Box Wastes can discharge their legal obligations under the Act through membership in Stewardship Ontario and paying the applicable steward fees. Currently, more than 1,760 companies (see www.stewardshipontario.ca/xls/Prereg_list.xls) have registered with Stewardship Ontario as stewards. Fees vary based on the types, amounts and recyclability of packaging materials and printed papers used, i.e. packaging that is not recyclable or that has weaker markets has been designated a higher fee than packaging that has stronger markets.

Glass Market Development Action Plan

The Blue Box Program Plan recommended development of a Market Development Action Plan on Glass (which was launched in April, 2004). A total of \$2.5 million dollars of funding is available through two funds in this program that offer targeted funding for specific measures aimed toward improving the marketability and end market applications of Ontario's mixed residential glass. The LCBO submits fees to Stewardship Ontario for beverage alcohol containers, including containers sold through wine stores owned and operated by Ontario wineries. The LCBO's \$5 million annual contribution to the Blue Box system has exceeded its "obligation" under the Waste Diversion Act, based on the cost of managing the material for which it is responsible. This excess contribution, totaling \$2.32 million thus far, makes up the bulk of the Glass Diversion Fund. The remaining \$140,000 is contributed by other stewards that use glass packaging. Since the Blue Box funding program began in 1998, the LCBO has contributed \$30 million to municipalities to cover beverage alcohol container recycling costs and will contribute an additional \$5 million for this purpose next year.

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)

Blue Box Program Plan

A copy of the Blue Box Program Plan can be found at:
<http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/plans/bbpb2003.htm>

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