



## **Stewardship Ontario funding new glass recycling capacity in Ontario**

**TORONTO** (February 16, 2005) —Viable markets for mixed coloured glass bottles and jars collected in municipal blue box programs have been scarce over the past five years, but that could change soon with new glass recycling activities underway in Ontario, announced Damian Bassett, CEO of Stewardship Ontario.

Under a Glass Diversion Fund program, Stewardship Ontario has approved a grant of up to \$285,000 for four regional residential glass recycling initiatives.

One of the first initiatives will provide \$10,000 to Spherical Industrial Solutions Corporation (Siscor) to identify sources of recycled glass and support business planning for a new glass recycling plant to be located in the Greater Toronto Area. Siscor is looking at a processing plant with a capability of processing up to 50,000 tonnes per year of mixed glass from Ontario blue box programs.

Ontario municipalities recycled about 115,000 tonnes of glass through their blue box programs in 2003. Bassett said that Stewardship Ontario created a Glass Diversion Fund specifically to support local businesses in developing uses for recycled glass that create new markets and can increase the revenues municipalities receive for the glass they collect.

Ensuring viable end markets for recycled materials is vital to the blue box program, he said. "Stewardship Ontario is making \$2 million available to stimulate market development which, over the long term, will lead to more stable markets and help contain blue box program costs."

The funding will allow Siscor to determine the quantity and quality of recycled glass that would be available and evaluate potential glass cleaning technologies. The grant also will fund assistance for completing the plant's Certificate of Approval and siting the new facility within Ontario.

"The technology licensed by Siscor has been used in Europe for more than 15 years and we are pleased that they are looking at Ontario for their first North American location," Bassett said.

Siscor uses a proprietary technology to convert recycled glass into porous glass spheres called Poraver™. Poraver™ porous glass spheres can be used as an aggregate in a wide variety of construction materials including concrete, as a lightweight packing material for both thermal and acoustic insulation and in a variety of plastic and resin compounds.

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“We have a proven technology that converts mixed glass into high value product,” said George Morandin, Siscor’s CEO. “It turns recycled glass into a range of consistently sized spheres that are lightweight, but strong and versatile so they can be used for many industrial applications. Poraver™ spheres are used by some of the largest manufacturers in the world in applications that include masonry adhesives, pre-cast concrete, ceiling tiles and even waste water systems, and new uses are continually in development.”

Stewardship Ontario is an industry funding organization created to collect money from industry to help pay for the Ontario municipal “Blue Box” recycling system. Brand owners and first importers who use packaging or printed papers that are handled through Ontario municipal waste management programs are required under the *Waste Diversion Act*, 2002 to fund 50% of the net cost of Ontario’s municipal Blue Box recycling system. Stewardship Ontario is authorized under the Act to collect the funds from industry and distribute them to municipalities.

Stewardship Ontario launched its Glass Action Plan in April 2004 as part of its market development strategy. It comprises two funds: \$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. The second is the up to \$2 million Glass Market Development Investment Fund which offers investment in Ontario’s glass processing infrastructure.

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Backgrounder attached

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## **Backgrounder on Waste Diversion Ontario and Stewardship Ontario**

### **Waste Diversion Ontario ([www.wdo.ca](http://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](http://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 1,700 companies (see [www.stewardshipontario.ca/xls/Prereg\\_list.xls](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/xls/Prereg_list.xls)) have registered with Stewardship Ontario as stewards and have paid their fees. 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, totalling \$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.

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**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 can be found at:

[www.stewardshipontario.ca/pdf/PlanFeb28/BBPP\\_Feb28\\_Plan\\_Appendices.pdf](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/pdf/PlanFeb28/BBPP_Feb28_Plan_Appendices.pdf).

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