



News Release

For Immediate Release

Industry responds to Environment Minister's approval of Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste Plan: ready to implement program

Objective to divert 23,000 tonnes in first year.

TORONTO (February 21, 2008) – Now that the Ontario Minister of the Environment has approved the Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Program Plan, the companies that make and market special products such as paint, oil filters, batteries, fertilizer and antifreeze are ready to get the ball rolling to launch the program on July 1, 2008, said Jim Quick, chair of Stewardship Ontario's MHSW program planning committee.

"This is an ambitious plan and we know we have our work cut out for us but we're ready for the challenge. In the next six months we will be working closely with municipalities to increase the number of collection events and depots so we can achieve our first year objective of recovering 23,000 tonnes of special waste materials," Quick said.

The program was developed and will be implemented by Stewardship Ontario on behalf of Waste Diversion Ontario.

Once implementation of the program picks up steam, Ontarians will have more opportunities to manage special waste products and packaging in a responsible manner. The plan calls for 255 new collection event days in Ontario, on top of the existing 169 days that municipalities already organize.

"Many municipalities have been operating MHSW days and depots for years but still people have been asking for more of them so they can reduce the amount of these materials that they set out as garbage. This plan delivers on that front and more," Quick said.

Under the MHSW program, industry will pay for about 80% of the program cost while municipalities will cover the balance. The cost to industry in year one is expected to be \$28 million.

"The industries affected by the MHSW program are taking stewardship responsibility for their products and packaging and through our 3Rs diversion activities, we'll be reducing the environmental footprint of these products. That's something we can all feel good about," he added.

The approved program plan calls for industry to:

- pick up and process the materials collected by municipalities to be reused, recycled or, if required, disposed of appropriately
- provide collection services for certain types of automotive products such as oil filters, oil containers and antifreeze
- invest in research and development and market development activities to increase Ontario's capacity to reuse and recycle MHSW; this will support economic development in Ontario based on environment stewardship and sustainable management of resources, and
- conduct communication and public education campaigns to encourage people to support 3Rs diversion of MHSW materials under the "BUD" program by buying only as much as is needed, using up left over product and disposing of residue materials responsibly

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The designated MHSW products and packaging are:

- paints and stains and their containers
- solvent such as thinners for paint, lacquer and contact cement, paint strippers and degreasers, and their containers
- used oil filters
- oil containers of 30 litres or less for a wide range of oil products such as engine and marine oils, and hydraulic, power steering and transmission fluids
- single use, dry cell batteries such as alkaline-manganese, zinc-carbon, lithium and button cell batteries (e.g. non-rechargeable batteries that are meant to be removed and replaced by the consumer)
- automotive antifreeze (engine coolant) and related containers
- pressurized containers such as propane tanks and cylinders
- fertilizers, for example, plant food or plant nutrients containing nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium (N-P-K), and
- fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and pesticides and their containers

The MHSW program calls for the plan to rollout over five years.

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MHSW Backgrounder: http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/pdf/media/MHSW_industry_backgrounder.pdf

MHSW Diversion Program Plan: http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/pdf/plan/MHSW_plan_nov_30.pdf

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