



## **Backgrounder**

### **Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Program Plan**

#### **Situation:**

- At the direction of Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO), Stewardship Ontario developed the Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Diversion Program Plan and submitted it to the WDO Board of Directors for approval. WDO submitted the plan to the Minister of the Environment in late May 2007. The plan sets out how the brand owners and first importers of the designated materials will work through Stewardship Ontario with municipalities and other interested collection agents to increase diversion from landfill of the common household consumer products designated as special waste materials.

#### **Designated Materials:**

- The Minister of the Environment specified that the program be implemented in phases. Phase one encompasses the following consumer products and packaging:
  - 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

#### **Developing the MHSW Program Plan:**

- December 12, 2006 – The Minister directed WDO to develop a diversion program for municipal hazardous or special waste materials. The Minister also directed that Stewardship Ontario, the industry funding organization already established for Blue Box Waste, should work co-operatively with WDO and industry to develop the program. The Minister specified that the program include phase one materials and that additional phases would be introduced at a later date.

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- January to May, 2007 – Working closely with the brand owners and first importers of the phase one products designated under this new program, Stewardship Ontario developed the plan to implement a diversion program for municipal hazardous or special waste in Ontario. The plan defines the products included in the designation for the purpose of levying fees on the affected companies, called “stewards.” A Stewards Program Committee comprising representatives from the companies that are brand owners or first importers of the products included in phase one guided the development of the MHSW Program Plan.
- May 2007 – Stewardship Ontario submitted the MHSW Program Plan to Waste Diversion Ontario Board of Directors. After approving it, WDO submitted it to the Minister of the Environment.
- July 2007 – The MHSW Program Plan was posted on the Environmental Registry for public comment.
- November 2007 – Stewardship Ontario revised the plan.
- January 31, 2008 – MHSW Program Addendum submitted to Minister.
- February 19, 2008 – The Minister approved the plan.
- July 1, 2008 – The date on which the MHSW Program will commence and the stewards assume responsibility for phase one materials.

#### **Objectives of the MHSW Program Plan**

- To develop programs that increase the amount of material designated under phase one that are reused and recycled and to reduce the amount of material disposed of in landfill sites.
- To increase convenient public accessibility to diversion programs; for example, by more than doubling the number of municipal collection events between year one and year five from 169 to 424, leading to improved collection and diversion.

#### **Program Targets**

- In 2005, 89 municipalities operated 98 depots and 169 collection events serving 11.4 million Ontario residents (nearly 4.6 million households). MHSW programs managed 15,800 tonnes of materials (of all types of phase one and non-phase one materials).
- The MHSW plan proposes to add 255 new collection events in year one of the program for a total of 424 municipal collection events throughout Ontario.
- Projecting a baseline diversion rate in 2007 of 28% of phase one materials, the plan targets a diversion rate of 56% by the end of 2012 (five years).

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### **Governance**

- Upon approval of the MHSW plan, the Stewardship Ontario Board of Directors will be restructured to include stewards of both MHSW as well as Blue Box Wastes.

### **Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Waste**

Although the program is intended to divert household special wastes generated by residents, it will include small quantities of waste from the industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) sector, as well. Companies that can participate are those not required to register under the Environmental Protection Act for hazardous waste. Quantities will be limited to 100 kg per month at facilities permitted to accept waste materials from IC&I businesses.

### **Municipal Participation and Savings**

Municipalities will continue to operate collection events and depots to capture special waste materials for recycling or disposal. Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) estimates that municipalities currently pay about \$9.3 million to manage MHSW waste covered under the first phase of the program. While WDO expects that in the first year of the MHSW program, the cost to manage these wastes will increase to \$11.5 million. However, municipalities' share of these costs will be reduced from their current \$9.3 million to \$2.4 million, a saving of nearly \$7 million, because they will no longer pay the cost of transporting and processing the materials. Industry will become responsible for these costs. Municipalities that currently operation MHSW programs (approximately 95) have indicated that where savings are realized, they will consider expanding collection opportunities.

### **Next Steps**

- The next step calls for Stewardship Ontario to prepare for the launch of the program on July 1, 2008 including such activities as:
  - Notifying and registering the companies that are stewards of the phase one products and developing the systems that permit them to pay the fees levied on the amount and type of material they market
  - Working with municipalities to expand and develop greater public accessibility to collection depots and events
  - Preparing communication materials to educate and encourage Ontarians to think about how they can reduce and reuse these materials and to take left-over designated materials to a facility or event designed to collect them.

### **References**

MHSW Program Plan ([http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/pdf/plan/MHSW\\_plan\\_nov\\_30.pdf](http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/pdf/plan/MHSW_plan_nov_30.pdf))

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

Stewardship Ontario MHSW Program Information (<http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/index.html>)