



New Unical Blue Box Glass Processing Plant to be Built in the GTA

News Release Backgrounder

Stewardship Ontario (www.stewardshipontario.ca)

- Waste Diversion Ontario, a non-crown agency created under the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002* designated Stewardship Ontario as the industry funding organization for Blue Box Wastes, which is described as glass, metal, paper, plastic and textiles collected in municipal recycling programs.
- Companies that are brand owners or first importers of packaging and printed paper made from these materials are obligated to pay annual fees to Stewardship Ontario. Fees rates are based on the types and amounts of packaging and printed materials used, and the amount recycled, i.e. materials that are recycled at a higher rate, generally because they are easier to recycle and have a stronger market, are allocated a lower fee; materials that are recycled less, generally because they are harder to recycle and have weaker markets, are allocated a higher fee. More than 1,800 companies registered as stewards in the 2007 program year (www.stewardshipontario.ca/info/lists.htm).
- Since the Blue Box industry stewardship program began in 2004, the packaging and printed paper industry members have contributed more than \$188 million to municipalities to help pay recycling costs (\$166 million in cash; \$5.3 million in "in-kind advertising space in Ontario daily and community newspapers and \$17 million in approved or committed grants to help improve system efficiencies).

Stewardship Ontario's Market Development for Glass

- Under the BBPP, Stewardship Ontario has the authority to charge fees to stewards of specific materials to:
 1. ensure there are sufficient markets for recovered Blue Box material – to meet overall and material-specific recovery targets to be established over time, and to
 2. enhance the revenue received for materials – to lower the overall net Blue Box system cost to make the recycling program more effective and efficient
- Stewardship Ontario's glass market development program began with a focus on green and mixed (coloured and clear) glass because municipalities typically incur a cost to market this material. The glass market development program includes two funds:
 1. \$500,000 to support glass diversion projects in regions outside the GTA – all of which has been committed through support for seven projects
 2. approximately \$2 million to develop a processing system for mixed broken glass (MBG) collected by programs in and around the GTA, to be contracted based on a competitive tender process. This is the subsidy that has been awarded to Unical Inc. to pay for processing equipment in the new glass processing facility
- These glass market development funds were provided by companies that use glass packaging in addition to their regular fees. By far the largest portion of the total amount was provided by the LCBO.
- **Selection process**—After a competitive bid process developed in partnership with six municipalities, Stewardship Ontario released a request for proposals (RFP) to provide processing capacity for mixed broken glass. Three companies submitted bids. The evaluation panel, comprised of representatives from each of the participating municipalities as well as a representative from Stewardship Ontario, unanimously concluded that only Unical met the technical requirements of the RFP.

- Together, Stewardship Ontario's glass market development funds have contributed to three new glass processing facilities to process 150,000 tonnes of mixed broken glass, to upgrade existing facilities and to test potential new applications.

Unical Inc .

- Canadian Solid Waste, which was the first company to collect blue box materials in 1988 in Montreal created Unical in 1992 to develop markets for the glass it was collecting curbside
- Unical established early alternative markets for mixed glass other than bottle to bottle, such as fiberglass insulation
- This early work positioned Unical, located in Quebec as a processor of post consumer mixed glass
- Unical already has a blue box glass customer base in Ontario
- **Brampton Mixed Glass Processing Plant**—will be a state of the art processing
- Has a seven-year contract with five GTA area municipalities to process a minimum of 43,900 tonnes/year of mixed broken glass
- Due to be commissioned in July 2008
- 120,000 tonnes of capacity
- Initially 61,000 square feet

Five Area Municipal Partners & Blue Box Operating Cost Savings

- **Total savings about \$10,000,000 over seven years**

	Year 1	Year 7
Hamilton	\$158,000 - \$178,000	\$1,170,000 - \$1,300,000
Peel	\$220,000 - \$270,000	\$1,700,000 - \$2,000,000
Toronto	\$625,000 - \$725,000	\$4,700,000 - \$5,400,000
York	\$223,000 - \$258,000	\$1,700,000 - \$1,940,000
Durham	\$30,000 - \$50,000	\$300,000 - \$400,000

Recycled Glass

- End uses for post consumer blue box glass: new bottles, fiberglass insulation, abrasives for sandblasting, fillers, e.g. fine materials for such tiles, potential high-end construction materials
- Glass is one of the original core group of materials collected in the blue box since its inception. Most municipalities are required by law to collect it in their recycling programs

What Produces Mixed Glass and Why it Breaks

- Collecting materials together from blue boxes or apartment bins requires less time than sorting at the curb and therefore is more efficient. As glass is dumped into trucks and moved around processing facilities, it breaks, making it more difficult to sort and clean. However, the savings for the entire blue box system resulting from this approach outweighs the cost of processing the glass in a mixed state. With this new facility, the market for mixed glass will be more reliable and the cost of managing glass will be reduced significantly, making the system more sustainable.