

News release

New Waste Diversion Program targets Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste

Program aims to double recovery rates over five years

TORONTO (July 2, 2008) – Under a new Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) program operated by industry, the companies that make and market such consumer products as paint, solvents, oil filters, single use batteries, antifreeze, propane tanks, fertilizers and pesticides will help to ensure left over materials are managed in an environmentally appropriate manner once consumers no longer need or want them.

“The obligated companies, called stewards, will cover the cost of reusing, recycling, and if necessary, the safe disposal of the left over waste. The MHSW program begins July 1,” said Sandra Banks, chair of Stewardship Ontario, an organization that oversees industry’s role in the Blue Box program and now in this new municipal hazardous or special waste program.

The companies will pay fees to Stewardship Ontario based on the amount and type of municipal hazardous or special waste materials they introduce into the Ontario market. Stewardship Ontario will then use the funds to pay for the program.

“Our industry stewards take their environmental responsibilities seriously,” said Joyce Barretto, Stewardship Ontario’s CEO. “They want to do their part to ensure their products are managed in an environmentally responsible manner and they want to help to put the systems in place so their customers, their employees and all Ontarians can do so as well.”

Existing programs for these waste materials collect about 16,000 tonnes annually. This new MHSW program aims to divert more than 33,000 tonnes of these materials from landfill in five years.

Stewardship Ontario developed and is implementing the program on behalf of Waste Diversion Ontario, an agency created by government to oversee a range of waste diversion programs.

The plan calls for the number of collection event days to increase substantially so that people throughout Ontario have improved access to opportunities to take unwanted MHSW materials to an appropriate location. Most collection events will continue to be run by municipalities in

partnership with Stewardship Ontario, but Stewardship Ontario plans to organize additional collection events in Ontario communities that currently are underserved.

In addition, Stewardship Ontario will enter into agreements with other willing organizations to become collection locations for products such as left over paint, solvents, used oil filters, automotive antifreeze and used single-use batteries.

Stewardship Ontario is developing a new interactive website that will provide a list of the closest locations where people can take left over consumer municipal hazardous or special waste. The site using the program slogan, *Do What You Can*, will begin with a list of existing municipal MHSW events and depots and will be expanded to include other organizations as they join the program. The site can be accessed at www.dowhatyoucan.ca.

Under the new program, industry will pay for about 80% of the total program cost while municipalities will cover the balance. The cost in year one is expected to be \$28 million. It is the responsibility of the individual obligated companies to determine how their stewardship fees will be managed internally and ultimately how the fees will be reflected in their business costs. None of this money will go to government but will be used to develop and implement programs that will ensure proper management of these waste materials.

“Since the Minister of the Environment approved the MHSW Program Plan in February, Stewardship Ontario has been working steadily with our partners to increase opportunities for people to take these left over and waste consumer products to locations where they’ll be taken care of properly. We plan to have an official program launch in the fall when people are starting to think about fall clean-up,” Barretto said.

In addition to developing an extensive system of collection locations throughout the province, Stewardship Ontario will undertake a promotion and education program to explain the range of materials accepted and to encourage people to take advantage of the opportunities to clear out unwanted materials from their garages and basements.

MHSW is often called “household hazardous waste” or “household special waste” in the municipalities that regularly operate collection depots and collection days. The materials are common household products that need special disposal care when they are no longer needed.

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MEDIA CONTACT

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off-hours 613-471-1816, or by email: bmccconnell@stewardshipontario.ca

Attached:

- Media Backgrounder
- MHSW Program Overview



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

About Stewardship Ontario

Stewardship Ontario is an industry funding organization which operates two programs, one for Blue Box materials and the other for municipal hazardous or special waste (MHSW). Both programs aim to increase the diversion of the designated materials from landfill.

Stewardship Ontario stewards are the brand owners and first importers of the printed paper and packaging that are managed in the municipal waste collection system, as well as brand owners and first importers of the municipal hazardous or special materials. A precise list of designated MHSW materials is provided in the backgrounder included below.

Stewardship Ontario was established in 2002 by Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO). WDO is the non-crown corporation created under the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002* to oversee development, implementation and operation of programs to increase the diversion of materials designated under the act including Blue Box recyclables, municipal hazardous or special waste and electrical and electronic equipment waste.

Stewardship Ontario website: www.stewardshipontario.ca

Waste Diversion Ontario website: www.wdo.ca

MHSW Program Plan

- The MHSW program plan was developed by Stewardship Ontario with affected industry stewards, on behalf of Waste Diversion Ontario, at the request of the Ontario Minister of the Environment.
- The plan received approval from the minister in February 2008 with a commencement date of July 1, 2008.
- The minister specified that the program be implemented in phases. See Phase 1 designated materials below. Phase 2 will be introduced at the request of the minister.

Phase 1 Designated Materials

Phase 1 includes the following consumer products and packaging:

- paints and coatings and their containers
- solvents 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, 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, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and pesticides and their containers.

These are products that consumers have used around their homes for decades that require special care when left over materials or waste are no longer wanted.

Objectives of the MHSW Program

- To improve public awareness and access to MHSW collection sites by working with municipalities to increase the operating hours of existing municipal collection depots and expanding the number of voluntary commercial collection systems.
- To increase collection of designated materials and reduce the amount of material disposed of in landfill, incinerators and potentially in waterways.
- To increase the diversion of designated materials in accordance with the 3Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle.

The Role of Industry

- The companies obligated under this program are brand owners or first importers of the designated products. They take their environmental stewardship responsibilities seriously and are committed to ensuring their products and packaging are handled properly from the beginning of their life cycle until the end.
- Under the MHSW program the affected companies will be required to report and remit fees on the types and quantities of the designated materials they introduce into the Ontario market place.
- Stewardship Ontario, the authorized industry funding organization for MHSW, will ensure all affected industries participate in the program and will oversee the collection and materials management process.
- The money raised through this industry fee system will be approximately \$28 million in year one and will be used to:
 - improve the public’s access to collection locations by increasing the number of events that are held around the province
 - manage the materials collected in an environmentally responsible manner, and reduce the amount going to landfill and incineration.
 - support research and development activities to increase the efficiency of collection and diversion of MHSW
 - implement promotion and education programs
- None of the money raised will go to government.
- The industries that make and market these consumer products will invest in new research and development and market development activities that will identify innovative and cost effective diversion techniques wherever technically feasible. This new investment will

support economic development in Ontario that is built on environmental stewardship and sustainable management of resources.

- As the program develops, opportunities will grow for residents in every corner of the province to take materials to a collection event or depot

Municipal and Commercial Collection Channels

- Municipalities can enter into a voluntary agreement with Stewardship Ontario that provides for the transportation, processing and management of the Phase 1 MHSW materials collected by municipalities.
- Under the agreement, Stewardship Ontario will reimburse municipalities for services that contribute to the 3Rs such as programs that lead to the reuse of Phase 1 materials.
- Stewardship Ontario also will establish voluntary agreements with commercial operations that collect Phase 1 materials.
- Stewardship Ontario will be responsible for managing the materials after they are collected and prepared for shipment by the municipal and commercial collection sites. Municipalities currently operate MHSW programs for 11.4 million Ontario residents – close to 4.6 million households. Under the new program, with the majority of the cost allocated to be covered by industry fees, the savings to municipal operating costs are expected to be approximately \$7 million in the first year.
- In 2005, 89 municipalities operated 98 depots and 169 collection events serving program, the goal is to add collection events in the first year, particularly in under-served areas.
- Stewardship Ontario is also working with the commercial sector and other organizations to continue or to start new collection systems.

About Industrial Commercial and Institutional Waste

- As well as diverting household hazardous or special wastes, the program also targets small quantities of MHSW from the industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) sector.
- Companies that can participate are those that are not required to register under the Environmental Protection Act for hazardous wastes.
- These quantities are limited to 100 kg. per month at facilities permitted to accept this type of waste from small businesses.

For additional information

Visit the MHSW website at www.stewardshipontario.ca or contact Barbara McConnell, Communications, Stewardship Ontario, 647-777-3362; off-hours, 613-471-1816, or bmccconnell@stewardshipontario.ca.