

Program Overview

The Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Program is a waste diversion plan to keep household hazardous waste out of our waterways and landfill sites.

The plan was developed by Stewardship Ontario in conjunction with affected industry stewards, on behalf of Waste Diversion Ontario, at the request of the Ontario Minister of the Environment. It received the minister's approval in February 2008.

Stewardship Ontario, an industry funding organization, implemented the successful Blue Box Program Plan in 2004. It has now been assigned the additional responsibility for the new municipal hazardous or special wastes diversion program. The plan will start July 1, 2008.

The plan sets out how the companies obligated under the plan, that is the brand owners and first importers of the designated materials, will work through Stewardship Ontario with interested municipalities and other collection agencies to meet clearly defined targets. The plan has three key objectives:

- To improve public awareness and access to MHSW collection sites by increasing the operating hours of existing municipal MHSW collection depots, doubling the number of municipal collection events, and expanding industry-run collection systems
- To increase the recovery of designated MHSW and reduce the amount of material disposed of in waterways and incineration and landfill sites
- To increase the diversion of designated MHSW according to the 3Rs - reduce, reuse and recycle.

Designated Materials

The minister specified that the program be implemented in phases. Phase one 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.

The Role of Industry

Most companies that manufacture and market the designated materials share the environmental objectives of Stewardship Ontario. They take their stewardship responsibility for the products and packaging seriously.

Under the MHSW program, beginning July 1, 2008 affected companies—called industry stewards—will be required to report the quantities of the designated materials they introduce into the Ontario marketplace and to pay fees to Stewardship Ontario. Fees will be

based on the amount and type of material they introduce into the Ontario market. It is expected that in year one the cost to industry will be \$28 million. This money will be used to:

- Improve on existing MHSW collection programs and develop new ones that help people and companies reduce, reuse and recycle more of these wastes
- Support MHSW collection programs operated by municipalities as well as private companies and not-for-profit organizations
- Manage the various materials collected in an environmentally responsible manner so that products such as paint will be reused or recycled, reducing the amount of material going to landfill, and other products that cannot be reused or recycled will be disposed of appropriately.

Participation of Municipalities

Beginning July 1, 2008 municipalities can enter into an agreement with Stewardship Ontario that provides for the management of Phase 1 MHSW.

Under these agreements, Stewardship Ontario will provide or reimburse the municipality for Phase 1 post-collection services as well as agreed value-added services such as reuse activities. In other words, Stewardship Ontario will be responsible for the management of Phase 1 MHSW after the point at which the materials are collected and prepared for shipment to recycling or other disposal.

Stewardship Ontario will also provide promotion and education support for the participating municipalities as well as conducting province-wide campaigns.

In 2005, 89 municipalities operated 98 depots and 169 collection events serving 11.4 million Ontario residents—close to 4.6 million households. In addition to permanent collection depot facilities, the MHSW plan proposes to add 255 new collection events in

year one for a total of 424 municipal collection events throughout Ontario.

It is estimated by Stewardship Ontario that the MHSW program will enable municipalities collectively to offset as much as 80 per cent of the current costs of managing Phase 1 MHSW.

Other Collection Channels

In addition to the municipal collection system, Stewardship Ontario is working with organizations that run voluntary industry collection systems to grow and expand these programs.

Industry-based collection services may be product specific or event-based similar to the municipal approach.

For example, used oil filters, used oil containers and used antifreeze and used antifreeze containers may be accepted from 'do it yourselfers' by automotive service centres and single use batteries dropped off at participating retailers.

Already, many service stations and retailers accept empty propane tanks in exchange for full tanks. A voluntary industry program run by CropLife Canada collects empty agricultural pesticide containers and conducts special events to collect obsolete pesticides.

Under the program, a network of approved collection points is established. A transportation incentive (TI) is paid to private sector transporters and processors to pick up and deliver to Stewardship Ontario-approved recycling facilities where the materials are processed into new products or uses.

The Role of Ontario Residents

The success of the Blue Box program is because of the participation and enthusiasm of Ontario residents who have asked for expanded opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Stewardship Ontario is confident that Ontarians will embrace this new initiative and looks forward to working in partnership with industry stewards, municipalities and non-municipal collection channels to make it easier for consumers in all Ontario communities to reuse, recycle and manage their MHSW in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner.

Industrial Commercial and Institutional Waste

As well as diverting household special wastes, the MHSW program also targets small quantities of MHSW from the industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) sector. 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 MHSW from this type of generator.

Legislative Authority

The MHSW Program Plan is authorized under the Waste Diversion Act, 2002. Waste Diversion Ontario was created under the act as a non-crown corporation responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and operation of waste diversion programs for a wide range of materials. Stewardship Ontario was established by Waste Diversion Ontario as the body to develop and implement the Blue Box and the MHSW programs.

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