



Transitioning the Blue Box Program to Extended Producer Responsibility - Update

Oxford County Council

April 26, 2023

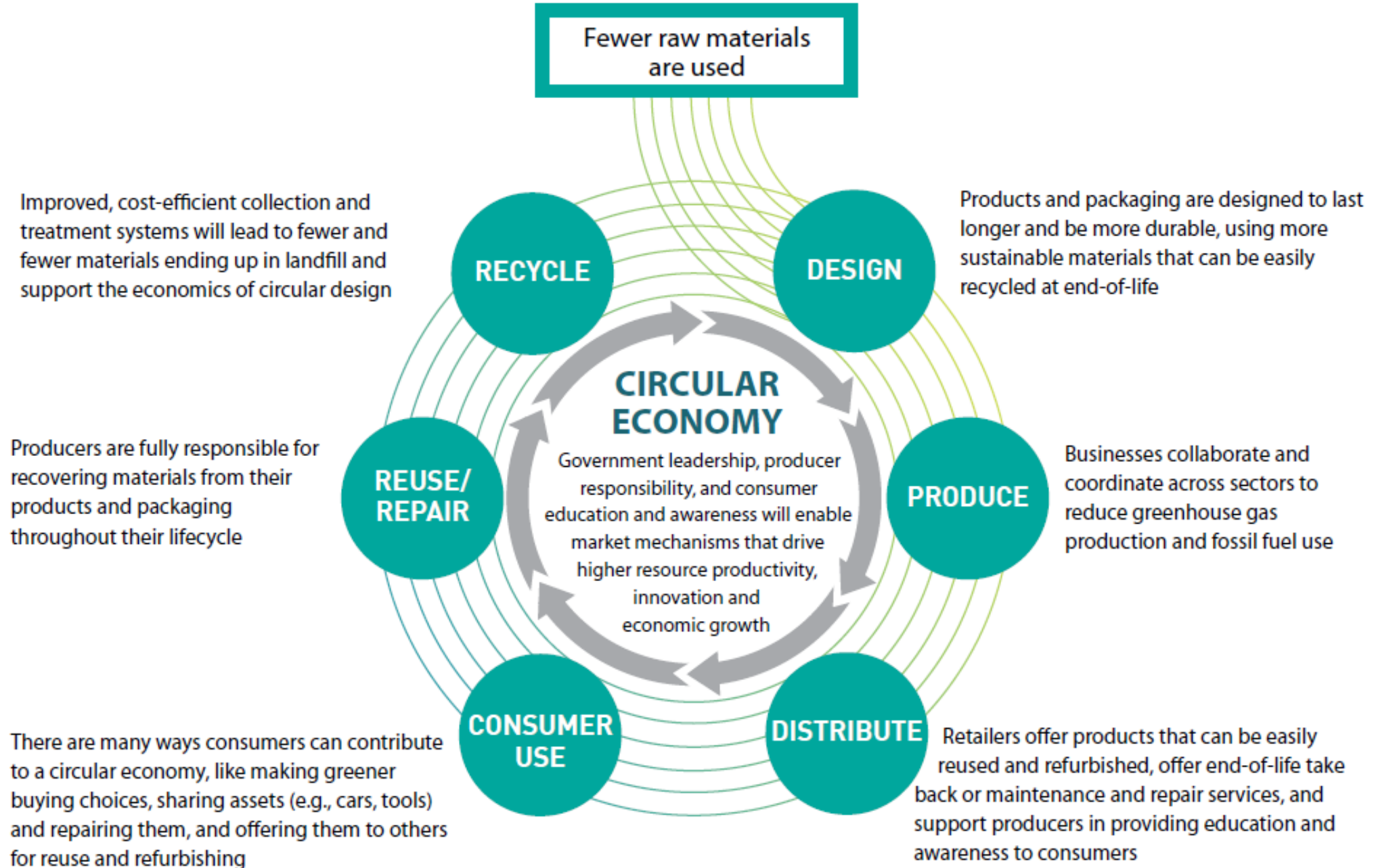
Transforming Waste in Ontario

Bill 151 – Waste Free Ontario Act (2016)

- Repealed the Waste Diversion Act (2002 - 2016)
- Transforms the existing waste diversion framework to support Ontario's vision of a circular economy
- Supports the provincial goal of moving towards zero waste and zero GHG emissions generated by the waste sector

Creation of the Resource Recovery & Circular Economy Act (2016)

What is a Circular Economy?



Old vs New Blue Box Regulation

Old Regulation: O. Reg. 101/94

- Mandates *municipalities* establish, operate, and maintain a blue box waste management system for populations of at least 5,000
- **Provide service to residential sources** including buildings that house multiple residences (Multi-Res, Long-Term Care, etc.)
- 50% of net municipal blue box program operating costs to be funded by Blue Box Program Fund (funded by the Producers)
- The collection and processing of blue box materials from non-residential sources (IC&I) does not qualify for Blue Box Program Funding – **100% of the costs incurred by the municipality**
- 60% diversion of designated waste from landfill

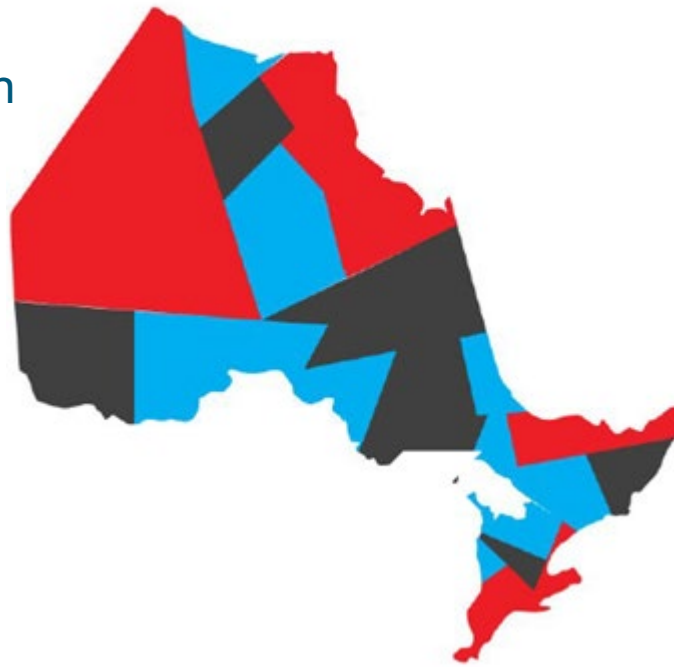
New Regulation: O. Reg. 391/21

- Mandates transition of the Blue Box Program under EPR model by the end of 2025 – **removes program authority from municipalities**
- Only residential sources and public spaces will receive collection (**IC&I collection will not piggyback on to this program**)
- 100% of all collection, processing, and program management costs for program eligible materials covered by the *PRO(s)*
- Expanded list of acceptable materials - designated for resource recovery
- *PRO(s)* are required to meet reduction, reuse, and recycling targets as well as service standards and promotion and education requirements

New Blue Box Regulation – EPR model

Mandates a common collection system across the Province

Allocating geographies



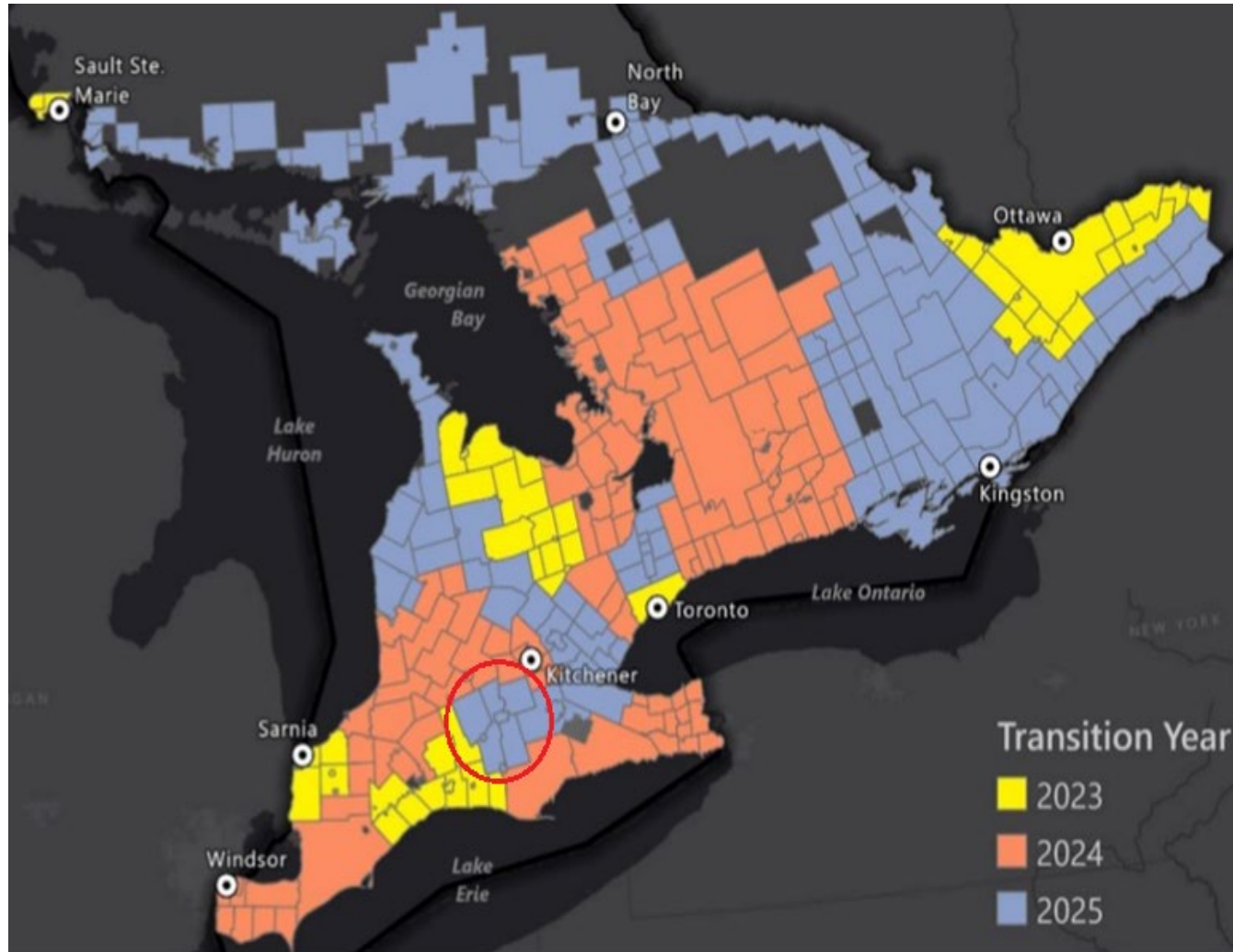
- ✗ Fragmentation
- ✗ Lack of competition
- ✗ Cost escalation
- ✗ Uncertainty
- ✗ Red-tape

Common Collection System



- ✓ Standardization
- ✓ Competitive procurement
- ✓ Cost-efficiency
- ✓ Stability
- ✓ Fair cost & material allocation
- ✓ Responsible for customer service & promotion and education

EPR Blue Box Transition Timeline



First Group of Municipalities (67)

- Transition July 1, 2023

Second Group of Municipalities (127)

- Transition 2024

Third Group of Municipalities (182)

- Transition 2025
- **Oxford County – Dec 31, 2025 ***

* Includes recycling program services provided by SWOX and Woodstock under service contract to the County

EPR Transition Period

Until December 31, 2025

- County continues as the Waste Management Authority for all Area Municipalities, coordinates and/or contracts out all Blue Box Program services
- County will continue to receive Blue Box program funding of approximately 50% until the end of 2025
- County reporting to RPRA on County and contracted Blue Box Programs - Annual datacall ends 2024, Transition Reporting 2021 and 2023

January 1, 2026 Onward

- Municipalities no longer have authority over the Blue Box Program. **Result = Net annual savings of ~\$2 million by the County.**
- Any municipal involvement in the Blue Box Program will be the responsibility of the individual Area Municipality who may choose to seek to perform contracted services in catchment area(s).

New Regulation: Producers and PROs

What is a Producer?

- Producers are product brand holders, manufacturers and/or others with a commercial connection to designated products and packaging in Ontario, such as first importers, wholesalers, retailers and e-tailers
- EPR defines the responsibilities for Producers regarding collection and processing of product packaging for recycling/re-use or end-of-life management

What is a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)?

- Some Producers are independently fulfilling their new EPR requirements but most will be contracted by PROs that provide full management of post-consumer product take-back collection and recycling on behalf of the Producers to ensure compliance with the New Regulation
- A PRO represents one or more Producers and carries out Blue Box services such as:
 - Arranging, establishing or operating a collection or management system
 - Arranging, establishing or operating a promotion and education system
 - Preparing and submitting reports
 - Representing producer(s) for other purposes related to O. Reg. 391/21
 - Responsible for customer service and the development and distribution of promotion and educational materials

Circular Materials

- A national not-for-profit **Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)** supporting Producers to meet their **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** regulatory obligations

Founders

- Founded by 17 of Canada's leading food, beverage and consumer product manufacturers, restaurants and retailers
- Represents over 66% of Blue Box tonnage supplied to consumers in 2020



Program Changes – Designated Materials



Pre-Transition: Shared Industry Funding

Post-Transition: Producer Responsibility

Designated Materials

All of these:



Aluminum cans



Glass bottles & cans



PET plastic bottles



Steel cans



Newspaper

for food and beverages

At least two of these:



Aluminum foil



Boxboard & paperboard



Cardboard



Polystyrene containers & packing materials



Office paper



Polycoat cartons



Magazines



Paper cups & plates



Plastic film



Rigid plastic containers (HDPE, PS)



Telephone Directories



Textiles

Varies by Municipality

(O. Reg 101/94: Schedule 1)

Packaging, Paper Products, & Packaging-like products:



✓ Typical "blue box packaging" items, made of paper, glass, metal or plastic



✓ Printed and un-printed paper (newspaper, magazines, flyers, office paper)



✓ Single-use products used for consumption (e.g., straws, cutlery, plates, coffee cups)



✓ Single-use products used for containment (e.g., aluminum foil, plastic bag)

Consistent across the Province

(O. Reg 391/21 s. 2)

Program Changes - Ineligible Material

Items Still Excluded from the Blue Box

- Hard or soft-cover books
- Flexible plastic used for containment of food (i.e. cling wrap, sandwich/freezer bags)
- Packaging & single-use items not made of paper, glass, metal, or plastic (i.e. wooden box, bamboo cutlery)
- Garbage bags, recycling bags, compostable waste bags
- Tissues, paper towels & other paper sanitary products
- Alcohol packaging (handled through the Deposit Return Program)
- Biomedical or hazardous waste



Impacts – Acceptable Blue Box Material Changes



Designated Blue Box Materials will be expanded and standardized Province-wide

Enhancements to County/SWOX/Woodstock Blue Box Collection is:

- Single-use products such as plastic bags *; styrofoam packaging; food / beverage service items like straws, cutlery, plates, and food service ware

Reductions to the Blue Box Collection in Woodstock is:

- Packaging-like products made of flexible plastics (e.g., plastic freezer bags, plastic sandwich bags)
- Books and hardcover periodicals
- Alcoholic beverage product and packaging



Program Changes: Eligible Sources

Existing Program	Transitioned Program
Sources	
<p data-bbox="359 494 1080 529">Local municipalities with 5,000+ population</p>  <p data-bbox="384 876 1054 958">Collect or accept from same sources as residential garbage</p>  <p data-bbox="397 1190 1042 1290">50% funding does not include costs for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I), even if serviced through municipal program</p> <p data-bbox="537 1329 912 1358">(O. Reg 101/94 s. 7, BBPP p. 59)</p>	<p data-bbox="1378 494 2084 575">All Ontario communities outside of the Far North, including First Nation communities.</p>  <p data-bbox="1327 882 1538 911">single-family homes</p>  <p data-bbox="1633 882 1829 911">seasonal dwellings</p>  <p data-bbox="1931 882 2135 936">multi-unit residential buildings</p>  <p data-bbox="1352 1210 1513 1265">public & private schools</p>  <p data-bbox="1620 1210 1849 1265">specified retirement & long-term care homes</p>  <p data-bbox="1951 1210 2125 1265">specified public spaces</p> <p data-bbox="1600 1325 1875 1353">(O. Reg 391/21 s. 1 & 4)</p>

Program Changes: Non-Eligible Sources



Program Changes: Non-Eligible Sources

O. Reg. 103/94 – IC&I Source Separation Programs

- IC&I sector is required under the Regulation to provide for the collection, handling, storage, and removal of source separated waste
- Provide information to users and potential users of the program
- Applies to the following properties with thresholds:
 - Retail shopping establishment, retail complexes, and office buildings (10,000 m² +)
 - Large construction and demolition projects (2,000 m² +)
 - Multi-residential buildings (6 + units)
 - Restaurants
 - Hotels & motels (75 + units)
 - Hospitals (class A, B or F)
 - Educational institutions (enrollment 350 +)
 - Large manufacturing

Program Changes: Non-Eligible Sources

Current Municipal Blue Box Programs in Ontario

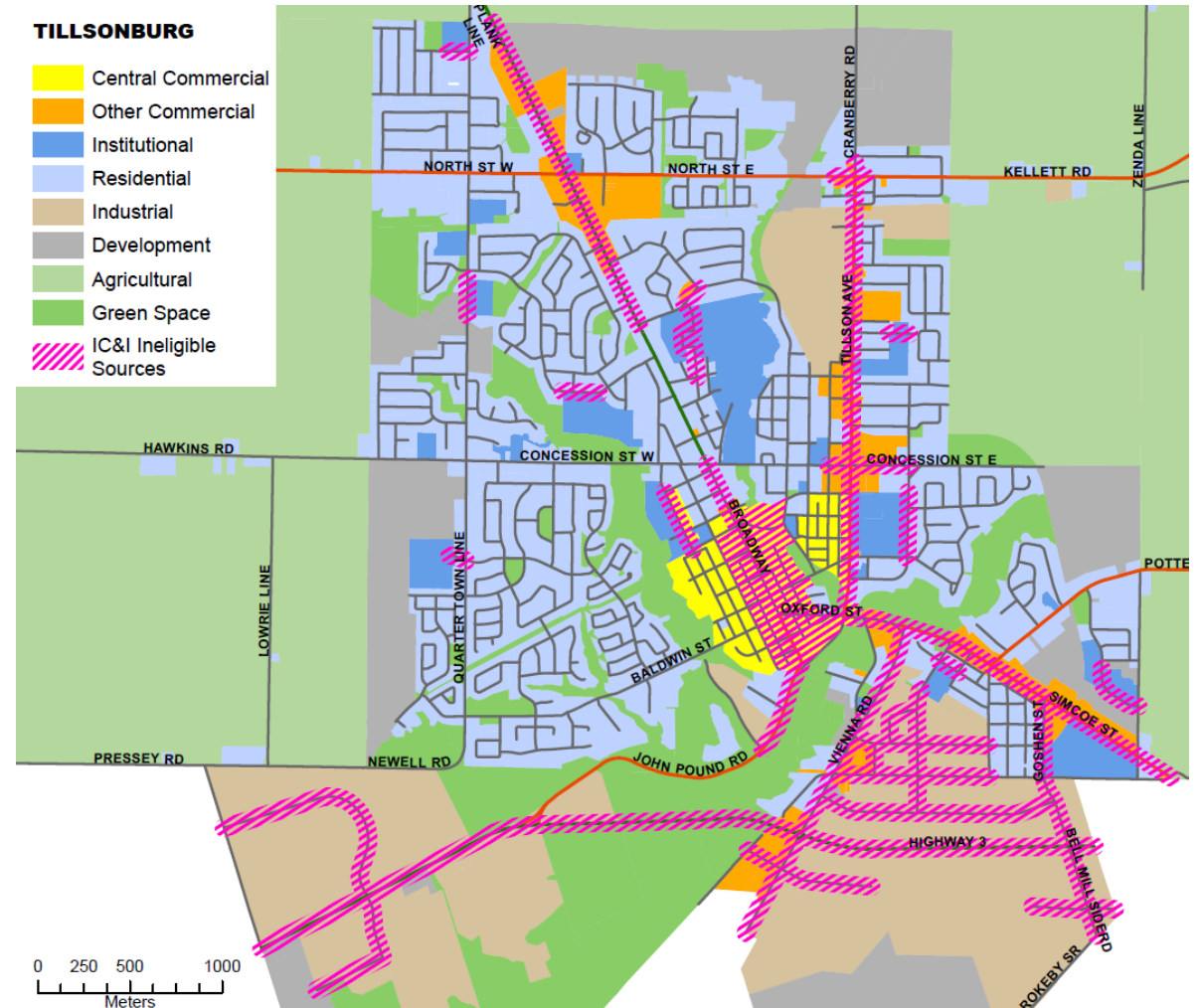
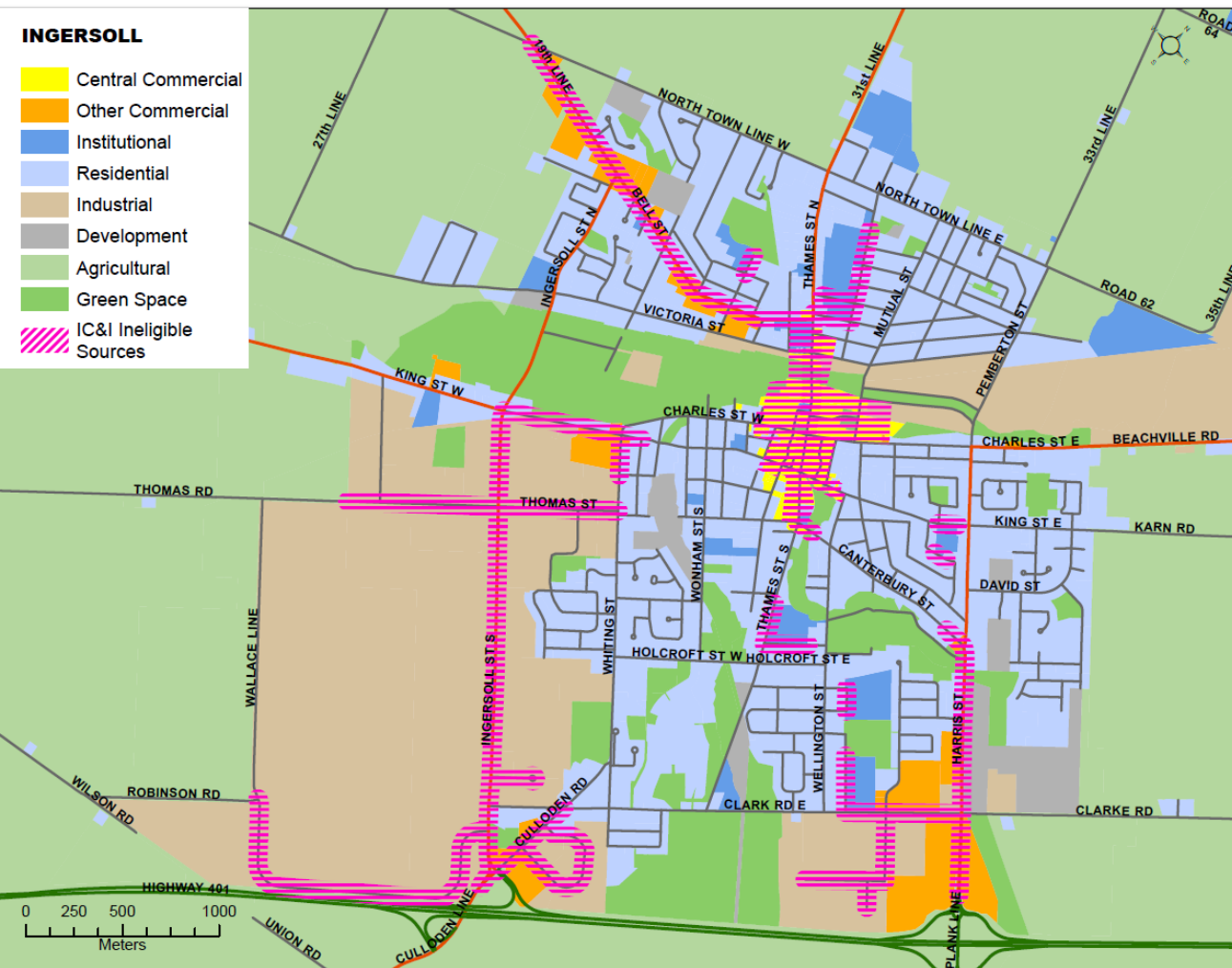
- Regulates and funds operational blue box expenses for residential collection only
 - Funding sources = Producers (50% of costs), blue box revenue sales and tax levy
- Select IC&I properties located on an collection route and who can meet the residential program requirements can participate in the curbside program
 - Funding sources = blue box revenue sales and tax levy

Program Changes: Non-Eligible Sources

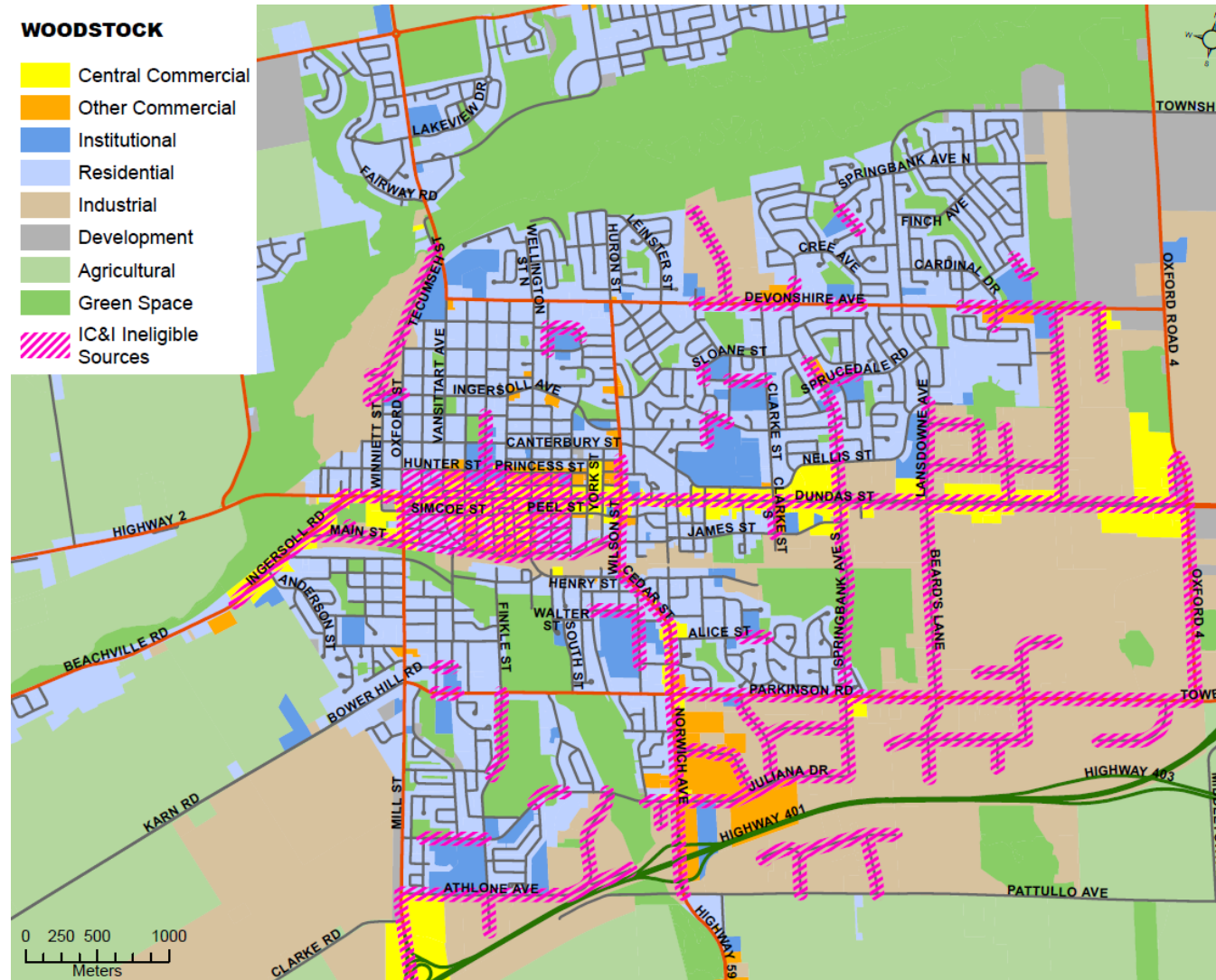
2026 – Future EPR Blue Box Programs in Ontario

- *PRO(s)* will service some IC&I (e.g. not-for profit long-term care, retirement facilities and schools)
- Municipalities could consider funding and servicing select IC&I sectors (e.g. arenas, libraries, municipal sites, churches, daycares, EMS/Police, BIAs, commercial farming operations, etc.):
 - Using net blue box program savings (future levy or user pay)
 - Consider provisions for bulk bin collection depots
 - Continued funding for convenience (drop-off) depots

IC&I Ineligible Sources – Urban Areas



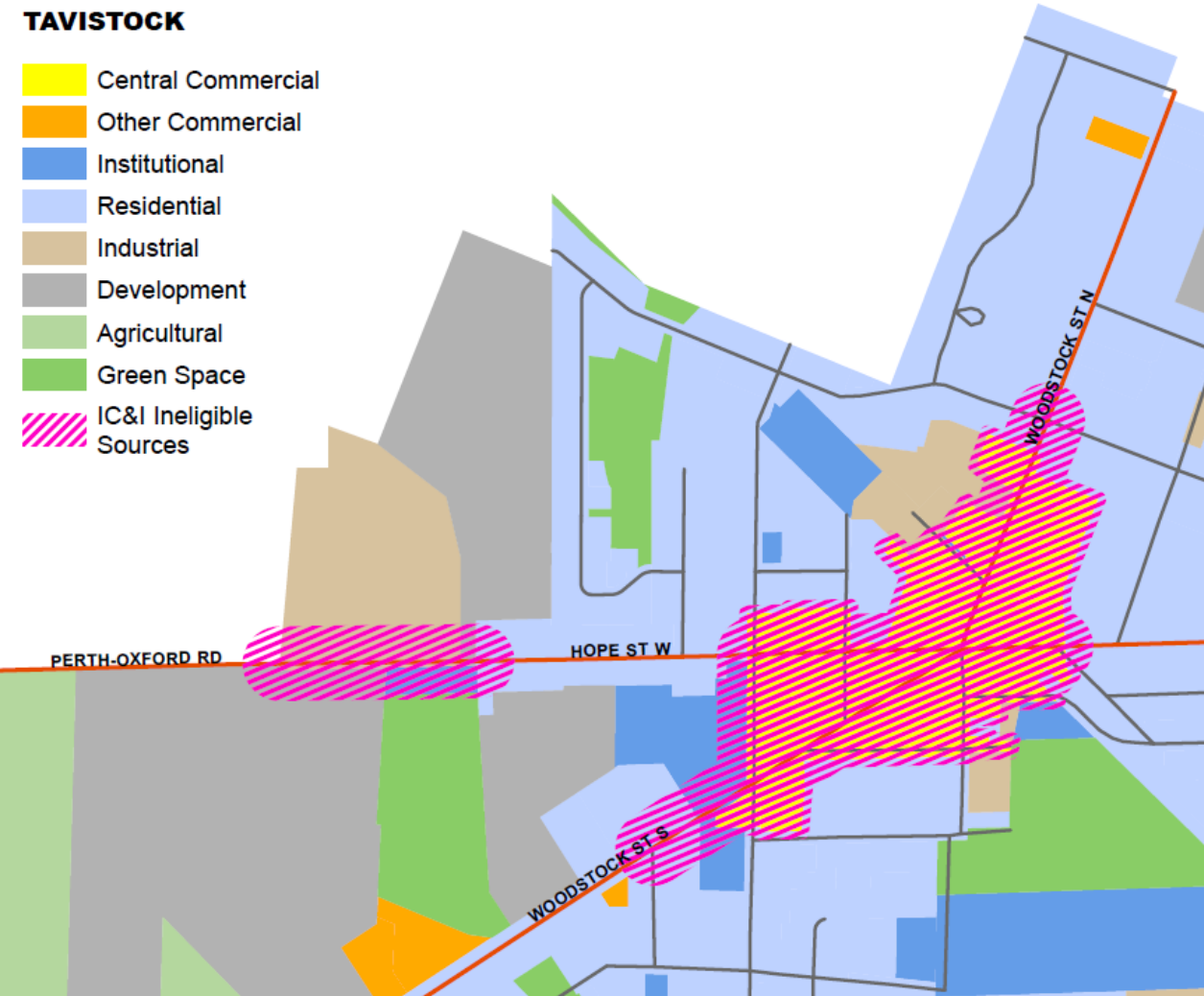
IC&I Ineligible Sources – Urban Areas



IC&I Ineligible Sources – Rural Areas

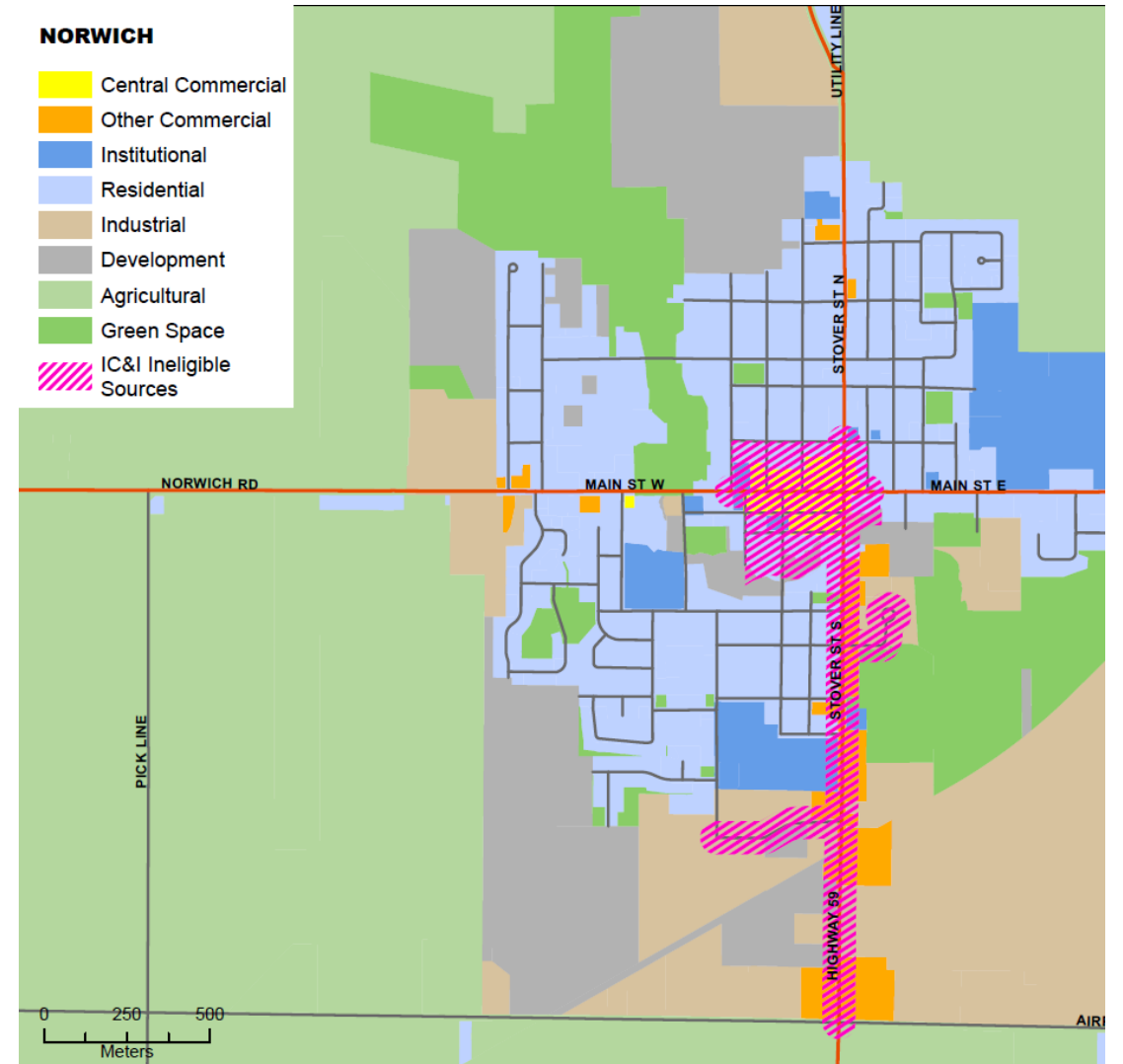
TAVISTOCK

- Central Commercial
- Other Commercial
- Institutional
- Residential
- Industrial
- Development
- Agricultural
- Green Space
- IC&I Ineligible Sources



NORWICH

- Central Commercial
- Other Commercial
- Institutional
- Residential
- Industrial
- Development
- Agricultural
- Green Space
- IC&I Ineligible Sources



2026 – Level of Curbside Service Impacts

Residents will continue to receive curbside collection but may see level of service impacts such as:

- Collection day and frequency (e.g. once/week, bi-weekly, etc.), which may not occur on the same day as curbside garbage collection
- Blue Box material streams (e.g. single stream vs dual stream, separate stream for certain material types i.e. cardboard)
- Customer service inquires/support will not be a municipal responsibility and managed by PRO(s) through their procurement contracts with Producers

Impacts – Public Spaces & Convenience Depots

Public Spaces

- No obligation to use the same public space recycling sites currently used by municipalities
- Number of blue box receptacles equal to or greater than:

(Number of Residents Per Municipality x Total Blue Box Materials Produced) / Total Program Eligible Blue Box Material Generated in the Municipality

Convenience Depots (Drop-off Depots)

- No obligation to maintain convenience depots (OCWMF Depot, Woodstock Enviro-Depot) but PRO(s) may consider feasibility if materials are from eligible sources

Other Impacts across Oxford County

Programming Considerations

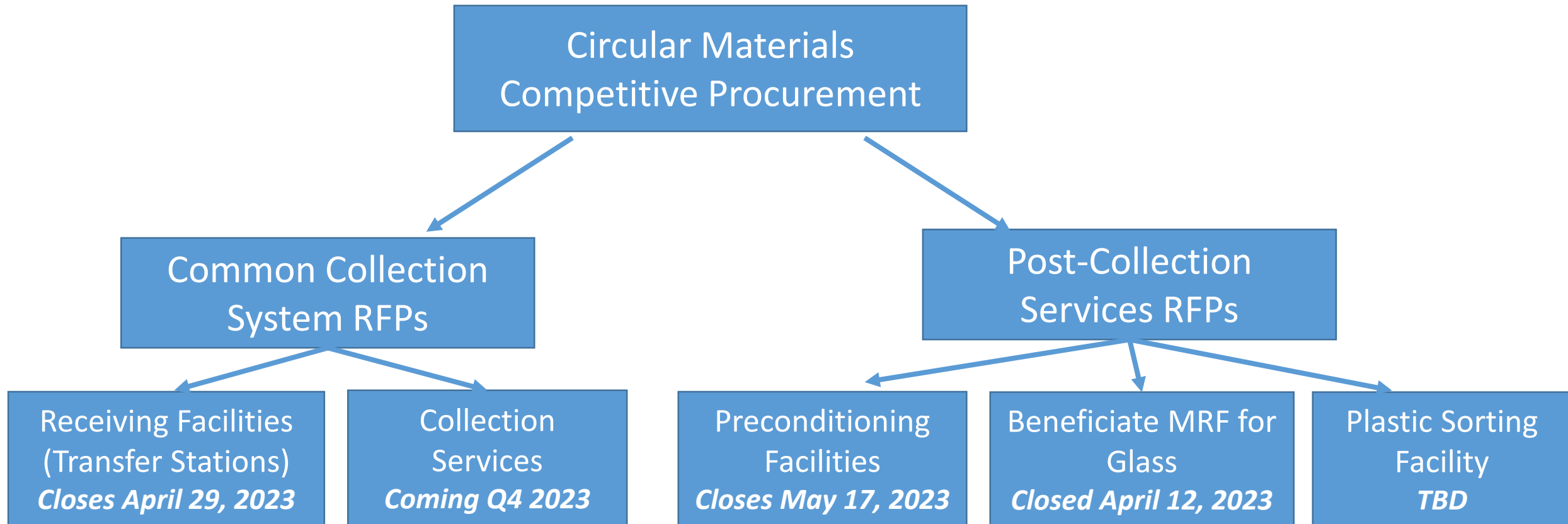
- Will ineligible sources receive curbside collection? Who has governing authority? Who would qualify for this service?
- Will non-funded convenience depots continue to operate? Who is responsible for funding these operations?
- Who will report to PRO(s) when new developments are ready for collection to the RPRA?
- How will municipal stranded assets be evaluated – Area Municipal or County level?
- Does the County participate in the upcoming Collection Services contract for our Catchment Area (Q4 2023)?

Preparing for Transition – Oxford County

Transition Plan:

- Comprehensive communication plan
- Early targeted communication for ineligible sources
- Updates to wasteline.ca outlining:
 - upcoming program changes
 - where to find additional information
 - commonly asked questions
 - information to be linked within local AMs webpages for access
- Communication plan extend through to the end of 2026

Preparing for Transition – Service RFP Bids



Next Steps

- Information delegations to all Area Municipalities (AMs)
- Seek feedback from Area Municipal Service Providers regarding interest in upcoming competitive procurement RFPs and other Programming Considerations
- Seek direction from County Council on whether the County is to partake in the competitive bid process for future Blue Box Collection Services
- Report to County Council Q2, 2023 – decision making approach going forward