

PPSReview

MANAGING WASTE RESPONSIBLY

**Product & Packaging
Stewardship Review**

An information service for municipal governments

Vol 9, Issue 1, May 2009

THE COMMENTS ARE IN; NOW WE WAIT

EPR principles remain central to WDA update: Gerretsen

Ontario is looking to its provincial government for an update to the Waste Diversion Act (WDA) in the very near future. The Act is Ontario's key piece of legislation promoting waste reduction.

Environment Minister John Gerretsen launched the official five-year review of the WDA on October 16, 2008. Comments were to be accepted until mid-January, but this was extended to April 1.

On April 9, Minister Gerretsen reaffirmed at Waste Diversion Ontario's annual meeting in Toronto

that extended producer responsibility (EPR) will be the basis for future waste management policy.

A discussion paper for the WDA public consultation, *Toward a Zero Waste Future: Review of Ontario's Waste Diversion Act, 2002*, set the tone.

The paper followed the Minister's lead, proposing a move toward zero waste based on the principle of EPR, a focus on waste reduction and reuse, increased waste diversion from the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors, and greater clarity

around roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities of all parties.

Minister Gerretsen alluded to the challenges of balancing the different ideas for updating the WDA in his speech at the WDO annual meeting.

VARIED COMMENTS

"We've certainly heard a number of varied comments," he said. "We have heard that the various roles are unclear, the process is complicated, it's too prescriptive, that we need to simplify it and make it clearer." "We've heard that we need to provide more flexibility so that you are able to meet waste diversion objectives in the way that best suits business."

In depth

**See Page
4/8**

Final WDO blue box program review drops EFW reference

Waste Diversion Ontario's (WDO's) *Blue Box Program Plan Review Report and Recommendations* is now in the hands of Ontario Environment Minister John Gerretsen.

WDO submitted the report to Minister Gerretsen in April, in response to his October 2008 call for the organization to review key issues around the blue box program under the framework of extended producer responsibility (EPR).

The report's 20 recommendations outline a plan for the next five years of the blue box program, including a move to full industry stewardship (see Page 4/8 for an in-depth look at the possible impact of the move to 100% funding).

The number of recommendations is down from the draft version of the plan circulated in the early part of the year. Notably absent from the final report is an earlier recommendation to allow up to 10% of material captured in the blue box system to be burned for energy recovery—and have this count towards meeting the set recycling targets. The full report is available at www.wdo.ca.

Continued on Page 3/8

INSIDE THIS EIGHT-PAGE ISSUE

News in brief	2/8
MB stewardship	3/8
100% funding	4/8
ON tire program	6/8
National EPR	7/8
Editorial	8/8

Briefly...

CONTAINER MAKERS JOIN FORCES TO INCREASE RECYCLING RATES

Four major U.S. producers of cartons, including Tetra Pak, have joined to form the Carton Council. The council hopes to increase the number of states that include beverage cartons as part of their curbside recycling programs. Currently 26 states offer carton recycling. The group also announced it has partnered with Waste Management to accept juice and milk containers at all of the firm's U.S. recycling facilities.

The Carton Council, April 9, 2009
www.aseptic.org

JUST WHAT IS IN THAT BOTTLE OF GLASS CLEANER?

Wondering what's in that bottle of window cleaner or laundry detergent? In March, S.C. Johnson & Son Inc., launched a new website designed to answer that question. The website lists ingredients for several of the company's product lines. It also provides definitions for the ingredients.

S.C. Johnson, March 2009
www.whatsinsidescjohnson.com

BAG BAN COMING TO MEXICO CITY

According to a story in *Plastic News*, store owners giving customers plastic bags could see 1.5 days in jail and fines up to US \$77,000 if a bill approved by city legislators is passed into law. If passed, the law would come into effect in one year. In the story, attributed to correspondent Stephen Downer and posted both March 26 and March 31, the measure will become law once it has been published in the city's *Official Gazette* for a maximum of 90 days. The *Plastic News* article goes on to quote the managing director of Mexico's National Association of Plastics Industries as saying the plastics industry is not to blame for the plastic bags problem. "It's the fault of the authorities, who are incapable of managing waste." There has been criticism of the ban, saying that it will cause job losses.

Plastics News, March 26, 2009
plasticsnews.com

HAVE A COKE, GREEN THE CAPITAL

Coca-Cola announced April 29 that it is "going green in Washington, D.C." Coca-Cola, the National Park Service, the

National Park Foundation, and the Trust for the National Mall are partnering to create a recycling program for the National Mall and Memorial Parks. The program will include auditing the waste stream at the National Mall and developing a recycling program designed to handle large special events. Coke also plans recycling education for visitors to the parks. "With more than six million visitors each year, there is no better place to launch a comprehensive greening effort than here in the nation's capital where people from all walks of life celebrate our country's rich history and enjoy our beverages," said Sandy Douglas, president, Coca-Cola North America, in a press release.

Coca-Cola, April 29, 2009
www.thecoca-colacompany.com

WHOLE FOODS ASKS CUSTOMERS TO "GIMME 5"

Whole Foods, the U.S.-based natural and organic food store chain, has partnered with Preserve to pilot an in-store recycling program for #5 plastics (polypropylene - PP), which would include yogurt tubs. The plastic is not collected in most U.S. cities. The tubs are mailed back to Preserve, where they are used to make household items like cups, razors and toothbrushes. The company will also accept #5 plastics mailed from individual households.

Preserve, 2009
www.preserveproducts.com/gimme5

WHAT'S IN A EUROPEAN SHOPPING BASKET?

Plastic. A comprehensive study of how much and what types of packaging are in a typical European household's shopping basket was released by the European Organization for Packaging and the Environment (EUROPEN) and STFI-Packforsk AB Stockholm on March 10. The report finds that plastic is the most common primary packaging material at 44%, with paper and paper board coming second at 23%. The report also found "a complete polarisation" among countries around the reuse of primary packaging (the packaging that holds the item sold, such as a bottle or can). Estonia, Finland and Poland have a high incidence of reuse at 50 to 70% by weight, while Italy and the UK use virtually none.

EUROPEN, March 3, 2009
www.europen.be

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Current and past issues of PPSReview are available for viewing on the Internet (www.productstewardship.org).

Anyone wishing to support the Fair Comment Project may email Ben Bennett (bbc@albedo.net). Confidentiality is guaranteed.

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**PPS
Review
May
2009
Page 2/8**

MMSM to submit Manitoba packaging program plan to minister in June

A draft, preliminary stewardship program plan for managing packaging and paper is due to be released later this month in Manitoba.

Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM), an industry funding organization, plans to release the draft program plan on its website May 29. MMSM will submit its final plan to the Minister of Conservation by June 22.

An industry consultation meeting will be held in Winnipeg (and online) on June 4. It is anticipated that key points from the draft plan will be discussed at this meeting. Public review of the plan will take place after it has been submitted to the Minister. It is anticipated that the plan will be operational in the spring of 2010.

In the plan, MMSM will outline

how industry will support the collection and diversion of waste packaging material and printed paper from homes across the province.

The plan will define a funding formula for industry stewardship fees, including funding to support research and public education, and promote material reduction and recycling. It will also define how stewards will calculate the amounts of waste packaging and paper materials generated and recovered.

SINGLE-USE BAGS INCLUDED

The Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation was registered under Manitoba's Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act on December 22, 2008. The regulation makes industry responsible for 80% of the net costs of

the packaging and printed paper program.

Under the regulation, packaging is defined as "any package or container, or any part of a package or container, that is comprised of glass, metal, paper or plastic, or any combination of any of those materials and includes, but is not limited to, service packaging."

The program plan will address two types of packaging: pre-packaged goods (all packaging supplied with the product) and service packaging (packaging provided by the retailer to deliver goods, such as single-use plastic bags). It will also cover all printed papers except bound books.

For more information visit MMSM's website, www.stewardshipmanitoba.org.

WDA Review: OWMA, Brewers add their ideas

Continued from Page 1/8

"We also heard that business wants greater certainty ... they want to know what the expectations are and the timeframes they have to work with, and that these timelines are practical."

At the WDO meeting, Minister Gerretsen put to rest any ideas that EPR is not "here to stay," saying, "We may quibble about exactly what we mean by that — but that is a discussion of degree not principle."

ECHOED BY INDUSTRY

A last-minute submission by the Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA) on behalf of its 219 members recognized that EPR is here to stay, but called for changes to its definition.

OWMA's submission lays out a number of specific recommendations for updating the WDA. These are based on OWMA's concerns that the current structure of EPR in Ontario,

using industry funding organizations (IFOs), is reducing competition and displacing "current marketplace participants and activities," a concern echoed to some degree by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (see page 4).

Among the recommendations from OWMA is a change to the definition of EPR such that it be based on the premise that "the producers of products and packaging *operating in competition with one another* bear *individual* responsibility for ensuring those products and packages are properly managed at the end of their life-cycle."

TWO OPTIONS FROM BREWERS

Canada's National Brewers (CNB) had a number of recommendations for the Minister to consider. On the issue of governance, CNB recommends two options:

1/. Eliminate the WDO board completely and make WDA programs

(either collective IFOs or individual stewardship programs) accountable to the Ministry of the Environment as the regulator, or to

2/. Reconvene the WDO as a board comprised completely of independent directors with the sole purpose, and requisite resources to:

- review, evaluate and approve new waste diversion programs;
- monitor, oversee and regulate those programs, and
- provide advice to government on waste management policy issues when requested.

(Program development would be carried out by a collective IFO or individual brand owners.)

**PPS
Review
May
2009
Page 3/8**

WILL MUNICIPALITIES BE LEFT HOLDING THE MRF?

100% industry dollars would be nice, but some big questions need answers

While municipalities may be delighted at the notion of no longer having their taxpayers fund the blue box, there are lingering concerns about what may happen to the program as we know it when industry takes over.

Last fall, Ontario Environment Minister John Gerretsen called for full extended producer responsibility (EPR) for the blue box—100% industry funding.



**In
depth**

The new minister had used the concept as a basis for the municipal hazardous or special waste and electronic waste stewardship programs he requested, but to many, the blue box seemed an unlikely contender for such treatment, given the pre-existing “shared responsibility” approach envisioned in the Waste Diversion Act.

In December, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), along with the Municipal Waste Association, reminded the Province of their contention that industry should be paying for the management of discarded packaging and consumer paper products whether they end up in the blue box, the garbage pail or the street.

NOT AN UNUSUAL CONCEPT

“This is not an unusual concept to most of the stewards to the Ontario Blue Box program as EPR programs exist in other provinces of Canada and other countries in the world where these stewards market printed paper and packaging,” AMO notes. (Right now, it’s just what ends up in the blue

box that is on the table.)

AMO believe the handover can be done in three years.

However long it may take, AMO wants to be sure there is no change in the level of service “to ensure an increase in the rate of participation and to ensure resident satisfaction.”

JOB LOSS

A series of beefed up regulations may take care of the service levels from the householder’s point of view, but will the drive for “efficiency” leave most of the current recycling infrastructure mothballed? It will certainly mean job loss.

If, as some fear, one organization has what amounts to monopoly control over the blue box system, the awarding of contracts could change how the recycling program is delivered, and by whom.

The current system, which sees contracts for the most part awarded at the single municipality level, means a lot of smaller, local companies are able to bid on collection and processing contracts.

Notwithstanding the efficiencies that may result, if contracts were awarded on a regional basis, most of the smaller companies could be squeezed out, leaving the playing field open to maybe a dozen large-scale companies or combinations of companies. This approach would also squeeze out places where municipal forces are used to collect recyclables.

It should be noted however, that a large number of Ontario communities already have their blue boxes emptied by big companies with no apparent impact on the service levels.

There will be a number of complicating factors in the collection equation, with co-collection being one of the biggest.

If co-collection is more efficient the recycling part of it should be competitive with any single-source collection. If a broad-brush regional approach is taken by those offering the contracts, however, then a municipality (and/or its contractor) could lose part of the collection and be

left with half a truck load of waste to collect and a whole truck to collect it.

Given that there will have to be a gradual changeover because of the length of some existing contracts, the challenges posed by co-collection should not be insurmountable.

REAL POTENTIAL FOR CONCERN

Where the real potential for concern lies is in the municipally-owned, and in some cases, municipally-operated material recovery facilities (MRFs).

If Ontario’s blue box program goes down the regional road, we could see five or six super-MRFs serving the entire province.

The troubling issue of material quality versus recovery, which appears to be becoming an issue of dual versus single stream, may be solved by ever-increasing technical fixes. And fewer MRFs would mean fewer sites to install the new technology.

But will all the stewards want to pay for new technology if all it does is make a marginal material a little less marginal?

Until steward fees truly reflect the cost of managing a certain kind of packaging, there will be a lot of cross subsidies. How long will it be before the majority of stewards start saying that maybe polystyrene and plastic film do not belong in the blue box but could be collected by some other method?

Continued on 5/8

**PPS
Review
May
2009
Page 4/8**

Industry takeover could result in empty buildings and job loss

Continued from 4/8

When the municipalities were paying the full shot, and even when they were paying at least half, they were continuously lectured about efficiency. To address this, a portion of the money raised from stewards to offset recycling costs was set aside to fund projects aimed at improving efficiency. And recently that portion was doubled, as the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) was set up.

Since early last year, 20 cents of every dollar collected through a stewards' fees goes into the CIF kitty. That amounted to \$13 million in 2008.

CIF's three-year mandate is to direct funding support to projects that will identify and implement best practices, examine and test emerging technologies, employ innovative solutions to increase blue box materials marketed, and promote gains in cost-effectiveness that can be implemented province-wide.

In theory then, after three years, the CIF's mandate and \$35-\$45 million budget over that period will have gone a long way to bringing municipal programs to more acceptable levels of efficiency.

The amount of funding support varies from 25 to 100%, depending on the project, with most in the 25 to 50% range.


Municipalities then will have invested a lot of their taxpayers' dollars directly, and a lot of monies that were deducted from the regular steward fees payments. And while some of that cash has gone to pay consultants, a lot of that money has paid for bricks, mortar and equipment in municipally-owned MRFs.

If some MRFs are determined to be of value to the operators of an industry-run blue box program, then one assumes municipalities will be invited to sell them. The big question then is how much and

whether or not the investments made in them will be reflected in the purchase price. It's unlikely.

Those MRFs not determined to be of value will be sitting empty, unless they can be sold to another buyer.

There will be few likely buyers. The small time operators (who may have just lost their blue box contracts and could have their own MRFs for sale) may not be interested.



“An efficient white elephant is still a white elephant.”

The big service providers who pick up the regional contracts would presumably be using the new superMRFs, but may be looking for some satellite plants for consolidation, preprocessing, etc.

Whoever may be in the market to purchase these municipal MRFs, it will be a buyers' market and unless they can be put to use in other ways, local councils can anticipate fire sale prices and a huge loss on their investment.

FEW NEW POSITIONS

Along with a loss of local MRFs will come a loss of local MRF jobs, and because the superMRFs will be more technology-based, workers can expect few new positions there.

There will still need to be drivers for whoever's truck is collecting the blue box materials so that is likely one employment area where net job loss would be minimal.

AMO recognizes there are also a lot of municipal staff doing non-MRF and collection work.

Municipalities, it notes, have the expertise and associated infrastructure

to support recycling collection activities (complaint response system, mapping for routing, etc.), even if other people are driving the recycling trucks.

AMO suggests municipalities be allowed to bid on those services, although if the programs are being offered regionally to save money, one assumes the back-up staff would be similarly based. It remains to be seen if municipalities could organize themselves to deliver regional level support of the blue box program.

It may take some creativity but would likely be doable if the political climate locally allowed it to happen. Either way, it would surely result in fewer jobs.

The WDO has suggested it facilitate a process on “how to best transition to full EPR.”

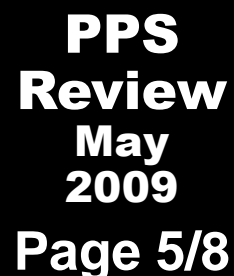
This process would include consultation, research and analysis into how and when stewards would assume full financial and physical responsibility, and how to best deliver program services.

ENCOURAGED

WDO recommends that municipalities and stewards be encouraged “to continuously improve the performance of printed paper and packaging collection and processing systems.”

But until some of the transition questions are answered, some municipalities may be reticent to commit any more of their taxpayers' dollars to increase efficiency.

An efficient white elephant is still a white elephant.



**PPS
Review
May
2009
Page 5/8**

Environment minister approves new tire stewardship plan for Ontario

Ontario Environment Minister John Gerretsen announced the approval of the Used Tires Program Plan on April 9, 2009, at the Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) annual general meeting.

The plan covers the 12 million tires sold in Ontario annually. Used tires will be collected at more than 10,000 locations across the province. They will be recycled into tire derived products like flooring, play ground surfaces and construction-related equipment and materials.

The plan also proposes a three-year timeline to eliminate the estimated 2.8 million tires stockpiled across the province.

Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS), the industry funding organization, is responsible for the development and implementation of the program plan.

APPLAUDED

In a press release, Glenn Maidment, President of the OTS board, applauded Minister Gerretsen's approval of the plan.

"In approving the Plan, the Minister facilitates significant investment in Ontario businesses handling used tires in environmentally beneficial ways, creating jobs and a green economy for future generations of Ontarians," said Mr. Maidment.

OTS projects that in the first year,

the new program plan will add \$22 million to the Ontario scrap tire industry, creating new "green jobs" for the province.

OTS plans to official launch the program on September 1, 2009.

SLIGHT CHANGE IN COST

The final plan was submitted to the Minister by WDO on February 27, 2009. Since the submission, OTS has slightly changed the stewards' fees owing to a calculation error in the program plan.

The errata and the final plan are available at www.wdo.ca.

Walmart encourages customers to report excess packaging

Walmart is encouraging customers to voice their concerns over excess packaging as part of the company's For the Greener Good campaign (www.forthegreenergood.ca). On May 6, Walmart launched a new online product packaging feedback form, where customers can report Walmart products with excessive or inappropriate packaging. Walmart will send customer comments back to the manufacturer.

The announcement was made by David Cheesewright, President &

CEO, Walmart Canada, at the third Walmart Sustainable Packaging Conference in Toronto on May 6.

Walmart Canada has committed to reducing product packaging in stores by 5% by 2013.

"It certainly seems that packaging is a growing focus for anyone talking about environmental sustainability in retail," said Cheesewright in a May 6 press release. "... packaging is an area of our business where Walmart's scale can drive substantial industry-wide change for our thousands of suppliers,

and our millions of customers."

Over 1,000 people attended the conference, which was hosted by Walmart and by the Packaging Association of Canada (PAC).

The conference featured presentations by business representatives, including Tim Penner, President, Procter and Gamble Canada; Lloyd Bryant, Vice President & General Manager, Hewlett Packard; and Dino Bianco, President, Kraft Canada.

Presentations covered a life cycle analysis, sustainable packaging for small- and medium-sized companies, and marketing.

Copies and videos of the presentations are available at the PAC website (www.pac.ca).

mwin, OWMA to merge?

The Municipal Waste Integration Network (**mwin**) board has entered into discussions with the Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA) about merging the two organizations.

In early May, **mwin** sent a notice and a ballot to its members to get their feedback on the idea.

"We believe a merger of the various waste organizations in Ontario would strengthen the municipal voice, provide maximum

return for membership fees and ensure focused involvement by municipal member staff," said the notice.

There is, it notes, "an excess of waste management organizations in Ontario."

While there used to be municipal OWMA members, there is currently no municipal membership category for OWMA, which bills itself as "the voice of the private sector waste industry."

Check www.mwin.org and www.owma.org for updates.

**PPS
Review
May
2009**

Page 6/8

CCME seeking feedback on EPR

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) consultations on extended producer responsibility (EPR) and sustainable packaging EPR ends May 29, 2009. The CCME is looking for comments on its report, *Towards a Proposed Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility*.

CCME plans to prepare a Canada-wide action plan for EPR. This could include EPR plans specifically for packaging, printed materials, mercury containing lamps, electronics and household hazardous wastes.

Further, CCME is considering options to develop a nationwide strategy for sustainable packaging. The strategy would encourage businesses and consumers to make more sustainable packaging choices and would set in place EPR systems to recover used packaging. The sustainable packaging strategy would apply to a wide range of products, from those used by manufacturers to those used by retailers and restaurants.

For more information, or to provide comments visit www.ccme.ca.

Stewardship Ontario names Quick as chair, Zecchini as CEO

Jim Quick, president of the Canadian Paint and Coatings Association, was elected chair of Stewardship Ontario's Board of Directors at the organizations' annual meeting held in Toronto on April 16.

Mr. Quick has been on the Stewardship Ontario board since 2008, when he joined as a representative of the Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste sector. He replaces Sandra Banks of Coca Cola Bottling Company, who retired from the board after six years, the last three of which she was vice-chair or chair.

Stewardship Ontario's Board of Directors has named Gemma Zecchini as the chief executive officer (CEO), a position she has held on an interim basis for the past five months. Ms Zecchini has held senior positions with the Food and Consumer Products of Canada and Refreshments Canada. She has served on the boards of various stewardship and environmental organizations, including Encorp Pacific Canada (Inc.) and Waste Diversion Ontario, which she chaired.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

Stewardship Ontario released its 2008 Annual Report, *Creating Sustainable Communities through Responsible Environmental Stewardship*, at its annual meeting on April 16.

In her message in the report, outgoing chair Sandra Banks highlights that "in one way or another Stewardship Ontario touches the lives of nearly everyone in Ontario." She goes on to say that Stewardship Ontario "owes its success to our many partners," including municipalities, collectors and processors.

The report is available at www.stewardshipontario.ca.

COMING EVENTS

May 26

Framework on EPR Legislation:
Local Government's Role
Product Policy Institute online webinar
www.productpolicy.org

May 27—28

MWA Spring Workshop
Hockley Valley, ON
(519) 823-1990
www.municipalwaste.ca

May 27—29

ECONomics: The Green Economic Summit
Recycling Council of British Columbia
Whistler, BC
(604) 683-6009 ext. 314
www.rcbc.bc.ca

October 5—7

Conference on Canadian Stewardship
Montreal, QC
(250) 495-4592
www.canadianstewardship.com

October 14—16

Paint the Town Green—Recycling Council of
Alberta's 2009 Waste Reduction Conference
Calgary, AB
(403) 262-1234
www.recycle.ab.ca

New websites

www.productpolicy.org—The Product Policy Institute recently launched its new website focused on extended producer responsibility (EPR).

www.municipalwaste.ca—The Municipal Waste Association (formerly the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators) has updated its website for sharing municipal waste reduction information and experience.

**PPS
Review
May
2009
Page 7/8**

Opinion Piece

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of PPSReview

Looking ahead to a more efficient blue box system

By Jay Arthur

Given how long it actually took to get industry and municipalities to agree on some kind of cost-sharing arrangement for the blue box, who would have thought we'd be where we are today, with a complete change in the landscape on the cards?

The Waste Diversion Act we ended up with in 2003 was, to put it mildly, less than perfect, but there was this little clause in the fine print that said the Province would review the program and the set-up after five years. Well of course, they always say that, but this time they actually did it.

And they actually plan to make some pretty radical changes. This has, needless so say, allowed several members of the lobbyist fraternity to build some fairly impressive retirement nest eggs. Industry is throwing its heaviest guns into this effort and with the world under a recession cloud, it is a convenient time to point out that business just cannot afford any more costs. (The assumption here, of course, is that government, i.e. taxpayers, can.)

PRETTY CLEAR

Environment Minister John Gerretsen made it pretty clear where he's coming from when speaking to us at the Waste Diversion Ontario annual meeting last month.

If his voice holds sway at the cabinet table, the next five years of blue box operation could look a lot different in this province.

So let's climb into the time capsule and anticipate what the next mandated review may have to say after looking back at the years from 2009 to 2014.

Everyone in Ontario living south of North Bay has two boxes. (Northern Ontario has been exempted from the Act as it could not be serviced efficiently.)

One of the blue boxes is dedicated for newspapers and Tim Horton cups. The other box takes the rest, not that there is much left since the deposit/return system was introduced for all plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Collection is every other week.

Once the soft drink companies had to pay the full cost of recovering their bottles and cans it just made sense to have people bring the empties to local Tim Horton's stores for a refund. (They are so conveniently located, and this was the only way anyone would agree to having Tim's cups in the recycling system.)

"The few glass containers still in circulation have become collector's items and are invariably stolen from blue boxes even though they are technically recyclable."

Tim's also has lots of space for storage since the drive-through ban was enacted with great fanfare by Premier McGuinty (the same day, coincidentally, that he announced the 10 new nuclear power plants—no fanfare).

Waste and cardboard are collected either in co-collection vehicles or in regular garbage trucks operating in pairs.

There are no mills left in Ontario that can handle cardboard and export is no longer an option, so it is taken to one of several refurbished car plants. Here the boxes are very carefully disassembled and distributed by the Retail Council for reuse. Those that cannot be reused are shipped to Tim Horton's stores, where boxboard is also accepted. The material is collected for shredding and use as landfill

cover at the private facility Tim's owns near Oshawa. (This is also where the residue from the single-stream MRFs is taken; it is mostly Tim Horton cups...)

COMPETITIVE PRICE

Plastic film is taken back to local retailers, along with plastic trays, and is "processed and put to good use," said a spokesman for a Darlington company, noting nothing could be seen coming from the stack behind him.

Here a new energy-from-waste plant was originally built by the taxpayers of Durham and York regions, and subsequently sold to the industry funding organization along with several MRFs and a lot of rolling stock at "a competitive price".

Polystyrene hasn't been collected for some time, with members of the public urged to use the materials for attic and basement insulation.

The few glass containers still in circulation have become collector's items and are invariably stolen from blue boxes even though they are technically recyclable.

In closing, the 2014 review notes industry is about to announce an expanded definition for diversion.

It doesn't cost the taxpayer a penny.

And it is all very efficient.

**PPS
Review
May
2009
Page 8/8**