



# External Briefing Note

**GEORGINA**

**Subject:** Blue Box Transition – Follow up to Resolution #4

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Mario Puopolo, Manager, Operations (water, wastewater, waste)  
Karyn Stone, Manager, Economic Development

**Date:** June 18, 2024

## Briefing:

On January 22, 2025, Council received [Report OID-2025-0001](#). This report reconfirmed that, effective January 1, 2026, producers will become financially and operationally responsible for the collection of Blue Box recycling from eligible sources. These eligible sources include residential units, non-profit long-term care and retirement homes, and both private and public elementary and secondary schools. These sources will receive Blue Box collection services through Circular Materials (CMO), and their logistics and collection partners, beginning January 1, 2026. Detailed information relating to the transition will be communicated by CMO, and their logistics and collection partners in the coming months. This will include the types of bins, days of collection, frequency of collection and overall coordination, if any, with the Town's collection program. The Town has no control over the planning or roll-out of these aspects of the new blue box collection program.

Sources considered ineligible such as Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) properties, daycares, places of worship, retail stores, non-profit or charitable organizations, shelters, and municipal facilities will be responsible for managing their own Blue Box and recycling needs as of January 1, 2026. These entities will not receive collection services through either the municipality's waste contractor or CMO, their logistics or collection partners.

Pursuant to the Council-approved resolution on January 22, 2025, outlined below, staff were directed to consult with the Georgina Chamber of Commerce and affected businesses to better understand concerns from the business community and explore supports during this transition:

Resolution No. C-2025-0017

4. *That Staff work with the Georgina Chamber of Commerce and affected businesses to understand the issues associated with the transition to extended producer responsibility, and that Staff report back to Council on the information received and if necessary, any potential options, including financial, to support businesses during this transition.*

Since the January 22, 2025, Council meeting, staff have engaged in several discussions with the Georgina Chamber of Commerce, businesses and members of Council to gain a clearer understanding of the specific concerns raised about this transition. Despite initial concerns shared during the Council meeting and subsequent conversations, staff have not received any additional feedback from business owners that would help define the exact nature of those concerns. The Executive Director of the Chamber has informed staff that the Georgina Chamber has not heard further concerns, but has participated in discussions with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which has submitted a letter to the province advocating on behalf of affected businesses.

Additional collection audits were conducted following the January 22, 2025 Council meeting to ensure a thorough understanding of business use of recycling collection. Through these audits, the Town confirmed that on average 123 ineligible properties are receiving blue box collection. These properties fall outside the definition of eligible sources outlined by the Province.

Staff have thoroughly reviewed audit findings related to these ineligible properties, which range from small mixed-use buildings in historic downtown areas to larger commercial plazas, standalone businesses, franchise retailers, and government buildings throughout Georgina. Through various discussions, staff understand that a change to the blue box program will have minor and different impacts for different businesses, and that all of these impacts are manageable through the use of third-party providers and/or self-managed. Staff have concluded that establishing a financial support program for these few properties would be difficult to implement in a way that is both fair and equitable to all businesses in Georgina (being those that have benefitted from municipal collection for years, and for those that have managed their own blue box collection, being the vast majority). Many of these businesses are private and/or commercial entities. This perspective has been shared by the Executive Director of the Georgina Chamber of Commerce.

To ensure consistent and equitable treatment for all businesses and property owners across the municipality, Town staff will continue to ensure clear communication about this new Provincial legislation and the January 1, 2026, deadline. Letters outlining the changes will be circulated by mail to the ineligible properties that have benefitted from recycling collection following the issuance of this briefing note. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix A. In addition, any new information related to the transition will be promptly posted to the Town's website and shared through the Town's social media platforms to ensure widespread awareness.