

Alert

May 26, 2006 – Alert 06/024

To the immediate attention of the Clerk and Municipal Waste Managers or Recycling Coordinators

Your Support for the AMO Position on Household Hazardous Waste/Household Special Waste (HHW/HSW) Position Paper (TIME SENSITIVE REQUEST)

Issue: AMO is requesting your consideration and support of the HHW/HSW position paper it has developed in anticipation of a designation of these materials by the Minister of the Environment in the near future.

Background:

The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment, announced on April 20, 2006, that she will be designating HHW/HSW in the near future. In anticipation of this announcement, AMO, through its AMO/AMRC (Association of Municipalities of Ontario / Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators) Waste Management Task Force, has developed a position paper on the management of this waste.

AMO believes that in order to meet its goals of designating HHW/HSW, the Province must provide clear direction in respect of the following:

- ☐ Recognition that HHW/HSW is a public health and safety issue and that municipalities have a vested interest in an effective HHW/HSW management system as it transcends all environmental boundaries due to its potential impacts on air, soil, municipal landfills, water, storm drains, sanitary sewers and waste water treatment facilities;
- ☐ Recognition that the principles of *Extended Producer Responsibility* (EPR) and *Design for the Environment* (DfE) place the responsibility for product residuals and packaging on industry;
- ☐ Industry funding to operate, maintain and expand, as needed, HHW/HSW collection infrastructure and public education programs;
- ☐ Utilize the CSA HHW standard and specify a short list of HSW that includes latex paints and coatings, oil containers, oil filters, propylene glycol, alkaline batteries and pharmaceuticals, and to further stage in residentially generated used motor oil as part of the overall program;
- ☐ Recognize that the current municipal level of service offered across Ontario is varied and that it cannot be reduced but must be improved to an acceptable standardized provincial level of service to be determined in association with municipalities and industry;

- Require industry to fund and establish HHW/HSW related research that provides scientific and verifiable data that can be used to further enhance the system for uniform program delivery for all residents across Ontario;
- Support industry in its efforts for reduction, reuse and reformulation initiatives via eco-labelling, procurement, outreach and education programs;
- Empower Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) by ensuring that it has sustainable funding, full authority to develop an HHW/HSW program and the necessary policy and approval support from the Minister of the Environment.

The [AMO/AMRC Proposal for a Provincial Household Hazardous Waste and Special Waste Strategy](#) has been approved in principle by the AMO Executive, and can be accessed on the AMO website.

Action:

AMO asks its members to pass a resolution at Council conveying its support of the position paper prepared by the AMO/AMRC Waste Management Task Force.

Please forward your municipality's resolution by June 9th, 2006, to:

Association of Municipalities of Ontario
393 University Avenue, Suite 1701
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1E6
Attention: Nicholas Ruder, Policy Intern

or

By Fax to: Nicholas Ruder at 416-971-6191

or

By e-mail to: nruder@amo.on.ca

This information is available in the Policy Issues section of the AMO website at www.amo.on.ca

For more information, contact: Milena Avramovic, AMO Senior Policy Advisor, at 416-971-9856 ext. 342