

MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental Services Committee

FROM: Erin Mahoney, Commissioner, Environmental Services

DATE: September 12, 2012

RE: **Addition of Spiral Wound Containers to the Blue Box Program**

Spiral Wound Containers, sometimes referred to as Composite Cans, are cylindrical containers comprised of a paperboard body, a food-grade steel or aluminum base, and an optional plastic lid. These containers are used to package food products such as powdered mixes, frozen juice and refrigerated dough. York Region residents generate approximately 340 tonnes of Spiral Wound Containers annually. Waste audit data indicates that the majority of these containers are already being included in the Region's Blue Box program stream. York Region's material recovery facility currently receives approximately 240 tonnes of Spiral Wound Containers annually. The incremental tonnage processed at the Region's material recovery facility is anticipated to be 100 tonnes per year. Greater Toronto Area municipalities who accept this material in their Blue Box program include the City of Toronto, Peel Region, Durham Region, the City of Hamilton, Niagara Region, the City of London, and the County of Simcoe. Halton Region is the only Greater Toronto Area municipality not currently accepting this material.

On November 17, 2005, Council received Report No. 7 of the Solid Waste Management Committee outlining the guiding principles for Blue Box material addition. Material additions to the Blue Box Program must meet three criteria:

- A reasonable expectation to divert material from landfill whereby the material does not pass through the diversion process only to be landfilled as residue
- Availability of two or more domestic markets, or a market with stable operational history and financial security and;
- Completion of a due diligence review of the proposed market outlet

The addition of Spiral Wound Containers to the Blue Box program satisfies all criteria outlined in the guiding principles. Miller Waste, which operates the Region's material recovery facility and is responsible for marketing processed recyclables, has confirmed that Spiral Wound Containers are acceptable at the Region's processing facilities and end markets. No additional staff or capital investment will be required to process additional Spiral Wound Containers

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received at the material recovery facility. As discussed, 240 tonnes of Spiral Wound Containers are already collected in the Blue Box Program. Revenue received from marketing of these containers is projected to be up to \$114,000 per year for all 340 tonnes (note: up to \$33,500 additional revenue per year based on recovery of an additional 100 tonnes of available material).

Staff have been working with local municipal partners to promote diversion of this material using a variety of means. All local municipal partners support the addition of this material. Local and regional printed promotion and education materials will be updated to reflect the addition and diversion will be promoted online using the *Bin-dicator* tool and banner advertisements on York Region's main website. The material addition will also be promoted as a point of discussion at public events. Spiral Wound Containers are being accepted in York Region's Blue Box program as of September 1, 2012.

Please contact Laura McDowell, Director of Environmental Promotion and Protection at 905-830-4444 Ext. 5077 for additional information.

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Environmental Services

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