



## The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

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### Staff Report

**Report Title: Waste Management Report July 2025**

**Date: Jul. 7, 2025**

**Report Number: PW-2025-34**

**Department: Public Works**

**File Number: C11 PW25**

**Prepared By: Cory Dulong, Manager of Environmental Services**

**Attachments: None**

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#### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report PW-2025-34 prepared By Cory Dulong, Manager of Environmental Services.

#### **Background:**

##### Huron Landfill Incidents

In the month of June, there has been two incidents at the Huron Landfill that required the temporary closure of the site.

On June 20, 2025, there was a fire in the open surface pit of the Huron Landfill during operating hours. Landfill staff were made aware of the issue and covered the area with sand to stop the fire from spreading. Once staff determined that they could not extinguish the fire immediately, the Ripley-Huron Fire Department was called to extinguish the fire. The quick response of the Landfill Staff to respond, control, close the Landfill and call for assistance of fire services prevented the issue from getting out of hand.

On June 27, 2025, a customer at the Huron Landfill experienced a medical emergency soon after the site opened. Landfill staff contacted emergency services who arrived on scene and promptly directed staff to close the site. The customer was then transported to hospital and police later concluded their site investigation and allowed the site to open on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

##### Blue Box Transition

In 2019, the Province of Ontario began the process of transitioning the Blue Box Program from being operated and funded by municipalities to producers. The current Blue Box Program will wind up on Dec. 31, 2025 at which point Circular Materials will take over the program.

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, eligible sources (ie. residential properties) will be able to recycle at the curbside only. There will be no community cardboard bins or recycling bins available at our landfills.

Non-eligible sources (ie. commercial properties) will no longer have access to recycling services through the Blue Box Program. As a result, Township staff have been in discussions with other municipalities and Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling (BASWR) regarding the possibility of providing recycling collection to non-eligible sources.

Township staff are in the process of a communications plan that is intended to provide important information that property owners and residents will need to be aware of.

The first step was to update the Township website to include important information for our residents regarding the transition: <https://www.huronkinloss.com/live-here/garbage-and-recycling/>

The next steps are communicating this change to customers that are regular users of the recycling facilities at the Huron Landfill and Kinloss Landfill and engaging with commercial property owners to determine if providing recycling services will be feasible.

We are told by Circular Materials that they will begin their communications with residents regarding the new program in November.

### **Discussion/Analysis/Overview:**

#### Incidents at Huron Landfill

Both incidents were very unfortunate, however, Landfill staff acted quickly and appropriately to address each situation.

#### Blue Box Transition

The main concern with this transition is what will happen to the non-eligible source recycling material. We are also aware that many residents use the landfill recycling facilities regularly, so this change will be impactful to them. Education and communication will be critical in preparing residents to make use of their curbside recycling service.

Our goal is to avoid having a significant amount of this material end up at our landfill, so Township staff would like to determine if there is demand for a non-eligible source collection program. If we determine that it would be used, we will then need to investigate how the program will be funded as we know there will be a significant cost to operate this program.

Regardless of if the Township offers this program or not, we still have to determine how we will recycle the material we generate internally as no municipal facilities will have access to the Blue Box Program as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.

One positive development of this transition is that materials that can be recycled will be consistent across the province. Based on the information provided by Circular Materials, items such as coffee cups, milk cartons, corrugated cardboard, aluminum trays and plant trays are expected to be accepted in the Blue Box Program.

### **Financial Impacts:**

We did not encounter any direct costs as a result of either incident.

The cost to fund recycling programs in 2026 is still being determined.

**Performance Measurement:**

None at this time.

**Strategic Area:**

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability                    |

**Strategic Goal:** Strive for continuous improvement and increased efficiency

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Cory Dulong, Manager of Environmental Services.

**Report Approved By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer