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**Waste Free Ontario Framework**  
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

November 2, 2016

# Purpose

## Overview of the Waste Free Ontario Framework:

- Context for action
- New framework
  - Vision of a circular economy
  - Waste free Ontario strategy
  - Provincial interest and policy statements
  - Enhancing producer responsibility
  - Transitioning existing programs

# Context for Action

**There is a need for action to increase the recovery of resources and reduce waste in Ontario.**

## CHALLENGES

- ✓ Ontarians generate a significant amount of waste.
- ✓ Ontario's diversion rates have stalled.
- ✓ Both municipal and producer budgets to fund diversion are under pressure as costs rise.
- ✓ Ontario's landfills could be filled within 20 years.
- ✓ Waste Diversion Act, 2002 has resulted in an ineffective system.
- ✓ Application of existing tools are limited and ineffective to support resource recovery and waste reduction

## OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Stakeholders are calling for fundamental reform.
- ✓ Reducing waste presents opportunities to reduce GHG emissions.
- ✓ Improving resource recovery has additional environmental benefits (e.g., air and water quality, resource conservation).
- ✓ Resource productivity makes good business sense.
- ✓ There is a significant opportunity to recover economic value from waste. Recovered resources attracts investment, creates jobs and improves competitiveness.

# Ontario's New Framework



## Vision

- A circular economy

## Goals

- Zero waste and zero GHG emissions

## Objectives

- Increase resource productivity and reduce waste
- Enable an efficient and effective recycling system
- Create conditions to support sustainable end-markets

# Ontario's New Framework

## WASTE FREE ONTARIO FRAMEWORK – A VISION



## Draft – Waste Free Ontario Strategy

- The draft “Strategy for a Waste Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy” outlines Ontario’s vision of a circular economy; one that recovers resources and reduces waste. It also sets goals of zero waste and zero GHG emissions from the waste sector to push progress.
- The strategy identifies how the new Acts will be implemented and the additional actions needed to support Ontario’s vision, including:
  - Issuing policy statements to provide clear direction on implementing the provincial interest.
  - Expanding the producer responsibility framework to make producers fully responsible for their products and packaging, empowering the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority, and ensuring a smooth transition of existing diversion programs to the new framework.
  - Diverting more waste from disposal by:
    - Collecting data to enable the Province to make evidence-based decisions;
    - Putting performance measures in place to track progress;
    - Designating new products and packaging under the new producer responsibility framework;
    - Enhancing the requirements for waste generators;
    - Developing and implementing an Organics Action Plan;
    - Implementing disposal bans to facilitate resource recovery and waste reduction;
    - Minimizing the need for landfills and ensure existing landfills are well managed; and
    - Integrating multiple tools to foster collaboration.
  - Helping people reduce, reuse and recycle by using promotion and education to increase public awareness and participation in diversion activities.
  - Stimulating markets for recovered materials by implementing modern environmental standards and demonstrating provincial leadership through green procurement practices.

# *Resource Recovery And Circular Economy Act, 2016*

## **KEY POLICY AREAS:**

### **PROVINCIAL INTEREST AND POLICY STATEMENTS**

- Establishes an overarching provincial interest and enables the government to issue policy statements to provide direction to implement the provincial interest.

### **STRATEGY**

- Requires the development of a Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy – a roadmap for achieving Ontario’s goals.

### **RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY AND RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

- Overhauls Waste Diversion Ontario to become the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority, a non-Crown body to oversee producer performance and manage a data clearinghouse.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING**

- Establishes a new outcomes based regime where producers would be responsible for recovering resources and reducing waste associated with these materials.

### **COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

- Provides a full suite of tools to carry out compliance and enforcement of the Act.

# ***Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016***

## **KEY POLICY AREAS:**

### **RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY AND RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

- Provides new and continued duties and powers for the Authority under the Act.
- Provides for the Authority to oversee the existing programs and their transition to the new regime.

### **WASTE DIVERSION PROGRAMS**

- Sets out the provisions to continue and wind-up the existing waste diversion programs.

### **INDUSTRY FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS (IFOS), PROGRAMS OPERATIONS, AND STEWARDSHIP FEES**

- Operates waste diversion programs.
- Develops and implements wind-up plans.

### **COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

- Provides scoped compliance and enforcement tools for the Authority subject to provisions set in the Act and regulation.

## ***Food and Organic Waste – Action Plan***

- **Organic wastes make up approximately one third of Ontario’s waste stream. This includes organic waste generated at home, such as food waste and leaf and yard waste.**
  - The majority of organic waste generated in Ontario still goes to landfill (i.e. about 60%).
- The government of Ontario has made public commitments to develop an action plan targeting food and organic waste.
  - ***Minister’s Mandate Letter*** (September 2016) – commitment to begin consultations to divert more organic waste from landfills and to assist in the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan. A draft plan will be posted for public consultation in 2017 with implementation expected in spring 2018.
  - ***Draft Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy*** – proposed the development of an Organics Action Plan, advised by a stakeholder working group:
    - The Strategy identifies potential actions across policy spectrum from regulatory measures to data collection and public reporting
  - ***Climate Change Action Plan*** – commits to implementing the *Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy* and working with the waste sector to reduce the amount of organic materials going into landfills, which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including:
    - Proposing potential targets of 40% of organics diverted by 2025 and 60% by 2035, or other measures such as per capita levels of organic materials recovered.
    - \$20-\$30 million earmarked for implementation of the Waste-Free Ontario Strategy

# Key Discussion Items with Stakeholder Working Group

- **Goals**
  - Identifying the goals of the Food and Organic Waste Action Plan
- **Issue identification**
  - Outlining the **environmental scan** of the current state of food waste reduction and organic waste diversion, successes and failures, barriers and opportunities
  - Identifying the key issues to address in targeted sectors and targeted materials
- **Outcomes identifications** for specific sectors and targeted materials, including targets
- **Identifications of tools and actions, and timelines**, including regulatory and non-regulatory tools
- An **assessment of economic and environmental implications** of various actions
- The **monitoring protocol** and associated **performance measures** associated with implementation of the Framework

**Questions?**