

November 25, 2020

Charles O'Hara, Director
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Resource Recovery Policy Branch
40 St. Clair Ave W
Toronto, ON M4V 1M2
charles.o'hara@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. O'Hara:

RE: ERO number 019-2579 - Primary and secondary schools as eligible sources in proposed blue box regulation under Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016

In review of the proposed blue box regulation, we are pleased to see that primary and secondary schools are listed as eligible sources for collection by producers.

Primary and secondary schools are significant generators of blue box material and should remain as eligible sources when the final blue box regulation is released. Much of the blue box materials that are generated in schools derives from households of our students and are consistent with the list of materials that residents recycle at home.

Schools are publicly funded institutions and removing recycling services would place an additional burden on the tax base and already strained school budgets. Excluding schools would be a back step from the current blue box program that Peel Region offers, as the Region currently collects recycling from all of our schools free of charge.

We have 118 certified EcoSchools in our board and recycling education is built into our curriculum. Our students are very engaged in environmental issues and blue box is one way that they can directly create environmental outcomes. We strongly encourage the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to keep schools as eligible sources once the final blue box regulation is released. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Tracy Appleton – Sustainability Specialist, at tracy.appleton@peelsb.com.

Sincerely,



Shahid Naeem – Manager, Energy and Sustainability, Facilities and Environmental Support Services
Peel District School Board | E: shahid.naeem@peelsb.com

Trustees

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Susan Benjamin
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cc: Alison Pilla, Assistant Deputy Minister, MECP - alison.pilla@ontario.ca
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