

For Immediate Release
July 19, 2006

MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT GIVES MUNICIPALITIES THE TOOLS TO KEEP MORE WASTE OUT OF LANDFILLS

Proposed Regulations Support New Technologies; Encourage Recycling Of More Materials

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is asking for public comment on new regulations that would help municipalities and industry keep more waste out of landfills and support new waste technologies, Environment Minister Laurel Broten announced today.

“Our goal is to divert more materials from landfill while encouraging new waste technologies,” Broten said. “To that end, we are working hard to develop the tools that our municipal and industry partners need to manage their waste in the safest and most environmentally responsible way possible for the 21st century.”

The government has released draft regulations, available for a 60-day public comment period starting today, that focus on the following key areas:

- **Recycling** – The ministry is proposing regulations that would create incentives by making it easier for municipalities to increase recycling, and remove barriers that make it costly and/or restrictive for the industry to recycle. This could lead to the recycling of batteries, electronics and roof shingles.
- **Alternative Fuels** – The ministry is proposing to remove specific approval requirements for converting certain wastes into alternative fuels in order to keep these wastes out of landfills and put them to beneficial use. All air emission approvals would remain in place.
- **Emerging Waste Technologies** – The ministry is proposing that pilot or demonstration projects, including energy-from-waste technologies, be removed from the environmental assessment process and from a mandatory waste hearing for a set period of time. These projects would still be required to adhere to the province’s stringent air emission standards.

The ministry is also seeking comments and suggestions on ways to encourage manufacturers to set up systems to collect or accept spent products, such as computers and other electronics, directly from consumers. This process currently requires a lengthy approval process. By making it quicker and less costly to establish ‘take-back programs’, more materials will be diverted from landfills.

“Ontario’s internationally-recognized blue box is a symbol of diversion and the collective effort that’s been undertaken to keep materials out of landfills,” said Broten. “These new initiatives will help us build on the success of existing diversion programs which is good news for the environment and Ontarians.”

Today’s announcement is one way the McGuinty government is helping Ontario communities and industries find made-in-Ontario solutions for managing waste, and protecting the environment. Other initiatives include:

- Improving the environmental assessment process so it will protect the environment while saving time and money in the planning of energy, transit and waste initiatives
- Banning the land disposal of untreated hazardous wastes in Ontario
- Developing and funding diversion programs for materials such as cleaning solvents and paint, and electronics and electrical equipment.

The public is invited to comment on the draft regulations available on the Environmental Registry at www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/ebr/english/index.htm and search for RA06E0008.

-30-

Contacts:
Anne O’Hagan
Minister’s Office
(416) 325-5809

John Steele
Communications Branch
(416) 314-6666

Disponible en français

www.ene.gov.on.ca