



Water and Waste Department • Service des eaux et des déchets

**Waste and Diversion Advisory Committee (WDAC)
Meeting #4 Notes**

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 5:00 – 7:30 pm

Location: Millennium Library, 251 Donald Street, Buchwald Room (2nd Floor)

Attendees:

Talatu Shokpeka	Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba
Kelly Kuryk	Green Action Centre (alternate)
Jim Ferguson	Green Manitoba
Greg Cherwonick	Manitoba Housing and Community Development
Vinh Huynh	Winnipeg School Division
Brandy Bobier	Citizen Representative
Lindsay Storie	Citizen Representative
Connie Newman	Manitoba Association of Seniors Centres (guest)
Maureen Gardner	Manitoba Association of Seniors Centres (guest)
Dale Karasiuk	Chalmers Renewal Corporation (guest)
Randy Park	City of Winnipeg
Tiffany Skomro	City of Winnipeg
Darcy Strandberg	City of Winnipeg
Daryl Doubleday	City of Winnipeg
Michelle Kuly Holland	Facilitator, First Person Strategies
Katie Seymour	Note taker, First Person Strategies

Regrets:

Tanya Suderman	Citizen Representative
William Dowie	Green Action Centre
Melissa Dupuis	Citizen Representative
Mario Lopes	Professional Property Managers Association
Dwayne Capon	Citizen Representative
Richard Sawchuk	Citizen Representative
Justin Lee	City of Winnipeg
Kristine Koster	City of Winnipeg

Agenda:

1. Session opening, welcome and introductions
2. Special session: Organics Cart Program - Public Engagement
 - a. *Engagement to-date, where we are now*
 - b. *Presentation of upcoming public engagement process*
 - c. *Facilitated input on partnering opportunities*
3. Break
4. Regular WDAC committee meeting
 - a. *Introduction, regrets*
 - b. *Committee member updates*
 - c. *Old Business*
 - d. *New Business*
5. Session closing, next steps

Summary:

The fifth meeting of the Waste Diversion Advisory Committee (WDAC) was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was:

- To share information about the public engagement process for the Organics curbside composting program
- To gain input and ideas from WDAC members and invited guests about opportunities for the City to reach and engage with their networks
- To review regular and new committee business as well as receive new updates, ideas or experiences from committee members to enrich the recommendations of the committee

The meeting began with a welcome from the meeting facilitator and introductions of members and guests in attendance.

Following introductions, a special presentation was made on the Organics curbside composting program which provided information on the Organics Phase I engagement conducted to date, the input received, where the City is at today, the objectives of Phase II public engagement and the methods of participation that the public engagement will provide (including website, DIY guide, pop-up engagement events, answers to common questions and online survey tool).

City representative Randy Park answered questions that the group had, or anticipated would arise, as part of the upcoming engagement. A list of questions raised and feedback provided in the meeting is attached as **Appendix A**. Randy encouraged committee members to contact the City with any additional questions so that engagement materials can be updated accordingly.

The group discussed the potential role for partners in the upcoming process, with WDAC and guests completing worksheets identifying upcoming events and opportunities for the City to engage with their networks as part of Phase II engagement on the Organics project.

A list of Committee updates is attached as **Appendix B**.

The meeting concluded at 7:00 p.m.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

1. **City of Winnipeg:** At the last WDAC meeting, Committee Members requested information about diverting waste at the source (“reverse triangle” concept) as this practice remains an important area to focus on and learn more about – to achieve the goal of 50% waste reduction by 2020 in Winnipeg. Committee member Jim Ferguson agreed to identify information. *City to follow-up with Jim Ferguson to arrange for information to be shared at next WDAC meeting.*
2. **City of Winnipeg:** City committed to share pie chart showing cost breakdown of the Waste Diversion Fee at next WDAC meeting in response to following question from previous meeting: “If people are paying \$55/year as a waste management levy, how much of the levy will be going to recycling and organics diversion?”
3. **Green Manitoba, Green Action Centre:** Committee members identified that terminology “food waste” used as part of the Organics project has a different meaning in the food security context and discussed whether that terminology should be modified. Green Manitoba and Green Action Centre to consider terminology options and provide suggestions to City.
4. **Facilitator:** Will share the meeting notes and upcoming meeting dates with WDAC Committee members.

Appendix A – Questions and Feedback from Special Session: Organics Cart Program

Timeline and Implementation

Group asked questions and provided feedback on timing and implementation for roll-out of Phase II engagement and project itself, including who the program will apply to, who will be consulted and the deadline for public input.

- What are the timelines for Phase II engagement? When will the engagement begin and what is the deadline for submitting input?
- What is the difference between/definition of single-family and multi-family dwellings?
- Will this curbside composting program apply to both single and multi-family dwellings?
- What is the timeline for providing this service to single family? Multi-family?
- Participant noted many seniors residences are multi-family dwellings
- Will there be another engagement process for multi-family residents and seniors?
- When will this program come into effect?

Carts and Collection

Group asked questions and provided feedback on frequency and mechanics of collection, including what collection looks like, bin size, frequency, placement, and changes to existing service.

- How often will organics be collected?
- Will this change existing garbage, recycling or yard waste pick-up?
- Will garbage be collected less frequently?
- Participant inquired about why garbage collection frequency could not be reduced immediately if the City expects a significant decrease in volume as a result of this new program.
- Will the existing walk-out assistance program applicable to garbage and recycling collection also apply to curbside organics collection?
- How many carts has the City purchased for this program?
- How large is the organics cart and why did the City choose that size?
- Committee member supported choice of 100L cart, sharing that personal experience using 40 and 80L carts was that they were unstable and awkward to manage
- Can you put yard waste in the organics cart?

Costs and Benefits

Group discussed importance of clearly communicating project rationale and benefits, including waste diversion and greenhouse reduction targets, in order to provide context and combat misunderstanding and negative perceptions around the project and its costs. The costs for residents should be clear, and include information on the current levy, how it is used and how it would relate to the addition of organic waste diversion.

- City should provide clear articulation of the rationale behind, and benefits of, organic curbside collection to advance public engagement. For example:
 - The City should clearly state the role of organic waste collection in achieving 50% waste diversion by 2020.
 - Why it is important to divert waste from landfills now?
 - What is the impact at Brady? The answer needs to demonstrate why residents would choose to divert material from a landfill.
- Participant noted that fees appear to penalize residents for positive behavior as opposed to rewarding them for it. Group inquired about potential corresponding decrease to garbage fees.
- Group discussed alternate ways to levy fee that would take into account people's varying financial abilities (e.g. via property taxes)
- Would the City consider collecting the fees through property taxes if it would make it more affordable for some?
- What is the City's rationale for collecting the fees on water bills vs other methods?

- If there is a 100+ year lifetime of Brady and other regional zones, why are we worried about waste diversion? The Committee discussed the potential for provincially regulated organics ban in the future, and general environmental importance of organics diversion.
- Why/how did the City choose the three options for collection?

Public Perception

Group expressed concern about recent negative media coverage and discussed importance of clearly communicating benefits of the program and engaging strategically with community members and organizations to help combat negative perceptions about the project.

- Committee recognized recent negative perception of the program in the general community and expressed interest in working to reduce that perception
- One participant noted that the current perception of the program was not reflected in his interactions with the public and reiterated the importance of communicating the benefits of the project and strategic engagement with as many positive partners as possible to help drown out negative voices and present multiple viewpoints on this project
- Group noted city should consider empowering waste reduction / organic curbside champions – well-known City and community-based partners as well as use online presence to create more positive feedback about the project in the community
- Group noted importance of engaging with politicians and media to keep them aware of what is going on and providing them with enough accurate information to address misunderstanding and negative perceptions
- What do we know about this negative feedback? Where is it coming from? Is it representative of the whole community? What is the City doing to address it?
- Do other cities have composting programs in place?
- Group member noted that residents may be more interested in adopting a program if they knew that other municipalities have already implemented. Another group member recently visited Morden, MB where an organics program was in place.
- Participant suggested City should provide comprehensive FAQ/Q + A, including information about organics programs in other cities to show that Winnipeg is keeping up

Appendix B – WDAC Committee Updates

- City opened 4R depot on Thursday, February 18, 2016 with second depot set to open on Pacific Avenue in Q4 2016
- Green Manitoba held successful “Composting Matters” event to discuss ICI composting initiatives, greenhouse gas reductions and waste diversion. The City attended and participated at the well-attended event.