Presentation to Executive Policy Committee, City of Winnipeg

- Wednesday, February 17, 2010 – commencing at 9:00 AM.

Disclaimer

- *The presenters have no business relationship with the City of Winnipeg, nor with waste management firms or with firms doing any form of commercial business with those other entities.*
- *We are environmental geographers, green innovators, and ordinary home owners.*
- *We have no "axe to grind" nor political agenda.*

Addressing EPC agenda items on Wednesday, Feb 17, 2010:

- **1. Organics Collection Options**
- **2. Award of Contract for Collection of Recyclables**
- **3. Fees for Additional or Larger Automated Garbage Carts**

Relevant City Website Info

- We have reviewed the City of Winnipeg website information at: (http://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/pdfs/dept/10CustomerSeminar.pdf) , prior to appearing.
- We have also done preliminary research (completely self-funded) on the 3 EPC agenda topics from several points of view: a) impact on existing home-owner practice, b) basic time-motion analyses, c) employment creation/loss, d) generation of saleable products, e) organic material collection/processing cost-accounted against sales of by-products made available to consumers.
- Only fragments of our research are included in this brief presentation. Our research suggests that CHOICES need to be offered to the population served by this new plan.

1. Organics Collection Options

- There are dozens of options for collection of organics but a clear and broadly-based definition of "**organics**" is needed before specifying which option(s) suit Winnipeg's needs.
- All options require a "green context" within which to operate.
- We suggest a specific context for that collection in the "Green Winnipeg Task Force" that is described briefly at the end of this presentation.
- Once collected, **organics** should be processed in bulk and sold back to Winnipeg consumers as "garden-ready compost". We predict substantial "consumer uptake".

Options for **Organics** Collection
(Including Processing and Sales)

- Before deciding on any specific option(s), we urge Council to require that a task force carefully examine:
- **large city solution** - Vienna, Austria's ***Biowaste Management Organic Farming*** master plan at URL: http://www.bestpractices.at/main.php?page=vienna/best_practices/environment/biowaste_management&lang=en
- **small communities** "total waste management" solutions by general discussion with *Direct Disposal in Sechelt, BC at: (604) 885-4246, attention Norm Bonin.*

2. Award of Contract for Collection of Recyclables

- Consider organics to be part of recyclables BUT develop a separate collection and process strategy accordingly. Review and adopt the "best of the best" solutions in Vienna's TWM program.
- We recommend that no contract award be made for ~90 days, to allow a "Green Winnipeg Task Force" to research several viable options and to short-list 2 or 3 for Council's consideration.
- The contract award should be made on the basis of the contractor's or contractor's partner's ability to process and resell by-products locally, with compliance benchmarks included.
- Contract should require a 6-month proof-of-performance probation, including an impact analysis that complies with the "Green Winnipeg" strategy implicit in this presentation.

3. Fees for Additional or Larger Automated Garbage Carts

- **WINNIPEG - February 8, 2010 - The Public Service today recommended options for enhanced garbage cart service on a cost recovery basis in the northwest area now being served by the new automated garbage collection program.**
- **The current program provides collection service for one 240-litre cart per home. The cart holds the equivalent of three normal sized garbage containers. Some residents expressed concern to 311 and elected officials that the cart size is inadequate for their weekly household waste, and are willing to pay for additional service. The recommendation goes to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on February 9, 2010.**

The City's Public Service Recommendation (website info)

- **Option 1** – Switch the 240-litre cart for a 360-litre cart at a cost of $33.00 per year.
- **Option 2** – Get a second cart, 240-litre size at a cost of $93.00 per year.
- **Option 3** – Get a second cart, 360-litre size at a cost of $116.00 per year.
- Customers would be required to pay the annual fee in full on a quarterly water bill. Customers could choose to discontinue their enhanced service at any time through the year, but there would be no refunds. Customers could pick up their cart or pay a delivery charge of $25.00 to have the cart delivered to their home.
- Option 4 - We support these 3 CHOICES (Option 1 being favoured) **but** with changes to the acceptable content regulation (suggestion follows).

Our recommendation -
Option 4 (Waste Content Choices)

- **Option 4: When home-owners choose the 360 litre carts, placard/label them to accommodate household garbage, grass clippings, branch/shrub clippings, non-toxic building materials, etc... all year. Offer home owners choices to compensate for the loss of the previous, popular bagged garbage/grass/tree/ shrub clippings. That loss of content choice is a major irritant at present.**

- **Research: Sunshine Coast Regional District govt. (including Sechelt, BC) has 2-tier public-private collection service (seems popular with homeowners).**

- **Sunshine Coast Regional District govt. provides manual collection of household waste, one personal 77L container per week (max. 50 lbs) with extra containers permitted by purchasing tags at $2 each.**

- **Homeowners can contract privately for additional large container, collected weekly by automated methods (cost approx. $12 per household/month, very cost-effective). Sechelt's contractor (Direct Disposal) provides the rented containers, which are 240 L or 360 L capacity (but 360 L is most often chosen), sufficient to accommodate tree trimmings, grass clippings, non-toxic discards, etc. *See contact info later in this presentation.***

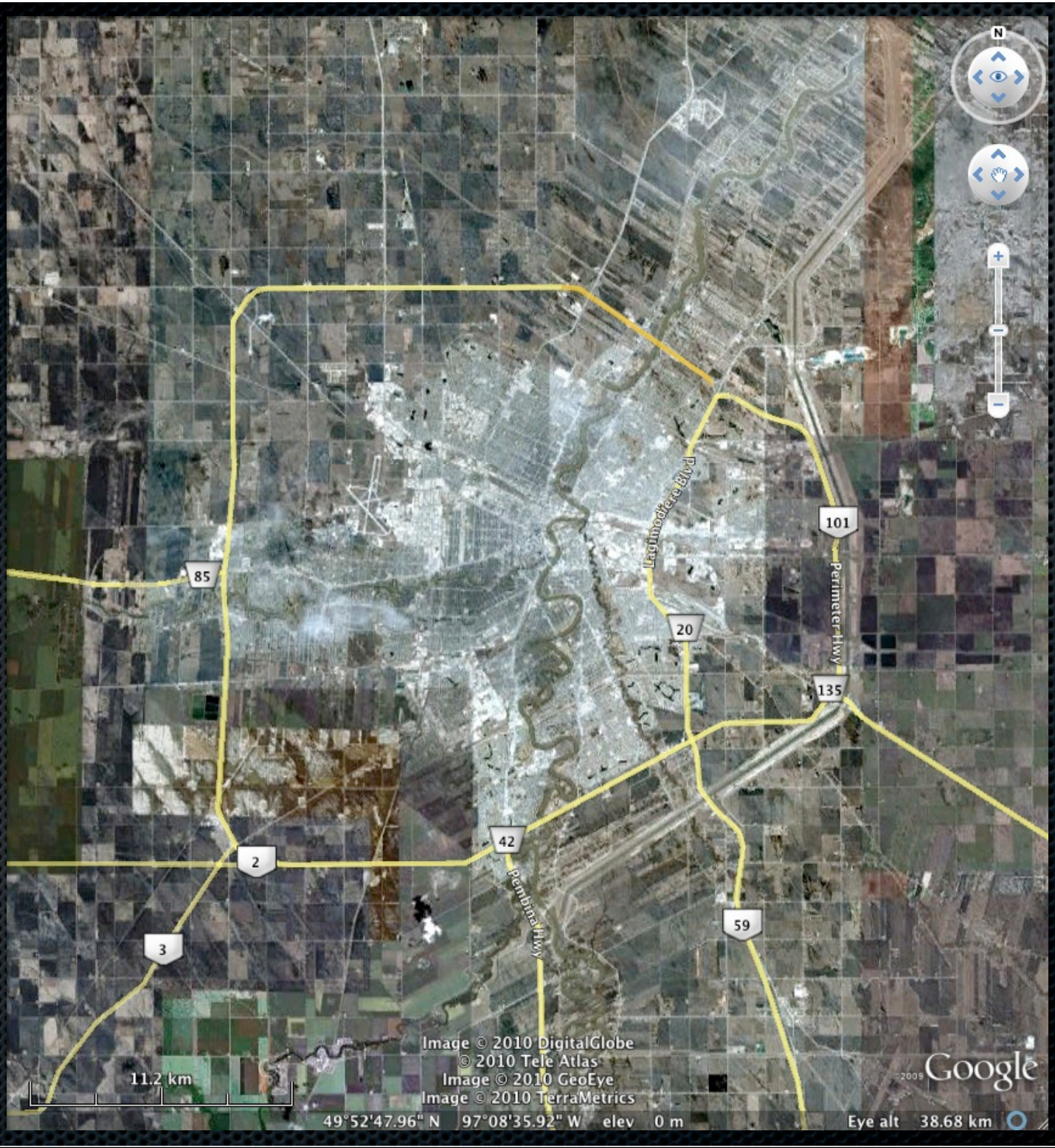
- **The 2-tier system allows each household to tailor its discard practice to fit the smaller municipal or larger private collection containers. Some choose only the private, automated, 360 L container collection. Sechelt's program is also evolving... and can benefit from our evolving TWM program.**

Time permitting, please allow us to present a brief introduction to:

- **Green Winnipeg,** evolving from research and the recommendations of a proposed **Green Winnipeg Task Force.**
- **Which, with your support, will quickly attract a much more inclusive, widely-consulted, actively participating general population.**

Winnipeg -
Green Gateway to the West

Establishing a Green Winnipeg Task Force to Assist Winnipeg's Transition to a Green Community... designed for the new decade.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Total Waste Management

- TWM begins with a comprehensive Green Strategy.
- Waste Management should be Component 1 of the Green Winnipeg strategy and procedure.
- Engages Winnipeg's entire community.
- Requires Council's endorsement and support,
- Evolves its waste management into production of value-added resources.

Some of our research findings to date...

- Waste collection time and motion studies,
- for example...

The “Olympics” of Waste Collection

Green Winnipeg
"Olympic" Trial Results/Projections:

- Manual **weekly** collection of recyclables, averages 6 seconds per household.
- Automated **weekly** collection of containerized garbage, averages 12 seconds per household, but is projected to cost *more than* the cost of the previous manual collection.
- Projected automated collection of 360 L containers will average ~12 seconds per household... but could be made optional on a bi-weekly basis, rather than weekly.

Green Winnipeg's TWM (total waste management) evolution is intended to help the City to:

- significantly reduce environmental impact. We interpret Vienna Austria's program as world-class.
- improve programs' cost-benefit ratios... over time,
- generate employment and saleable products that accelerate home owners' buy-in to the larger green program... again over time,
- avoid or mitigate serious management/policing issues that arise (see Brandon story following).



One of the problems facing the city is that some people are constantly leaving their containers in back lanes, meaning they are being emptied each garbage cycle whether they need it or not. (File photo)

Saturday, February 13th, 2010

City set to crack down on garbage bin problems

Allison Dowd

The days of leaving your City of Brandon-issue garbage cans sitting on your back lane could soon be over.

In an attempt to discourage the growing mess of plastic garbage and recycling bins that litter many of the city's back lanes seven days a week, city administration is proposing an update to Brandon's garbage collection and disposal bylaw.

Under the new bylaw, residents would be required to haul their bins away from the lane and store them on their property before and after their scheduled pickup day.

"Our biggest issue right now is our truck drivers are going down the lane and they're picking containers up that are empty," the city's director of public works, Ian Broome, told the Sun. "It's really playing a game with our efficiency."

The city has also been fielding a growing number of complaints from residents who are upset that their neighbours across the back lane drag their bins over for pickup and leave them there, he said.

Elderly people or those with disabilities could apply to be exempt from the enforcement if they can prove it would be too difficult to move the bins themselves.

In those cases, city staff would drag the carts out to the lane to be dumped and then return them to the applicant's property.

The city is also attempting to crack down on the number of people who — either knowingly or unknowingly — are contaminating their recycling bins with non-recyclable material.

"One of the biggest contaminators we're seeing right now is that people are recycling, but they're putting a black bag full of recycling into their blue-lidded containers,"

Broome said. "We can't see what's in the bag. For the employee's safety, we tell them not to rip them open and check them ... so that's considered contamination."

Other non-recycling materials like kitchen scraps, diapers and even animal carcasses are often ending up in blue bins, he said.

Failing to comply with either requirement could land you a fine from the city. After two warnings, fines would start at $20 and then increase based on any continued infractions.

But Broome cautioned such discipline would only be levied after all education and warning opportunities have been exhausted.

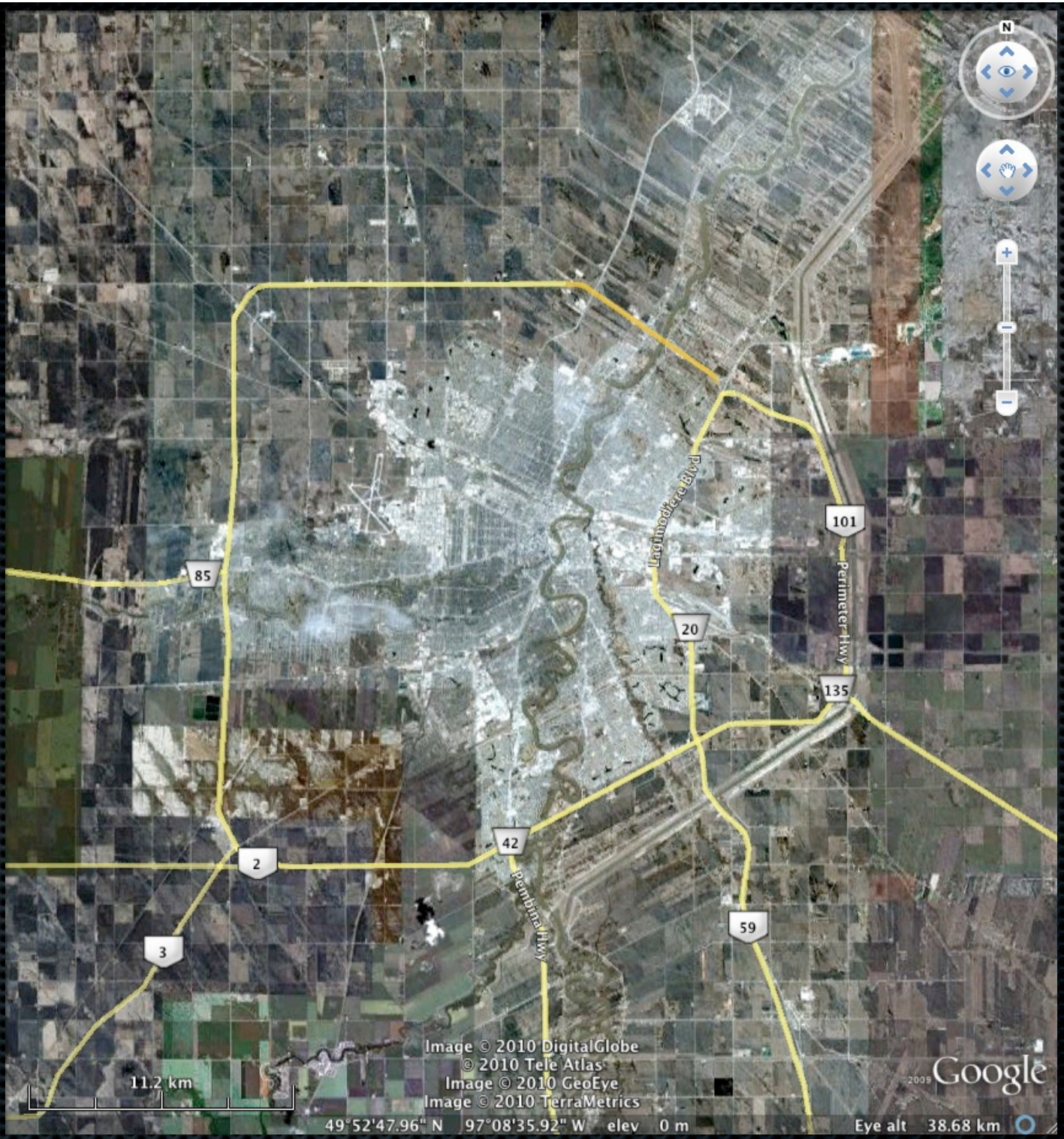
"We're not going in there with an iron hand. This isn't all about fining people. It's meant to clean up our recycling, divert waste from the landfill and make this landfill last as long as we possibly can," he said.

"Brandon has come up (in recycling) anywhere from 35 per cent to 50 per cent. (Residents) need to be complimented on how well they are doing ... there's just a few hiccups that we need to deal with."

The new bylaw will be introduced at Tuesday's regular council meeting, but will not be debated until next month.

Thank you...

- for your attention this morning and,
- for considering the benefits of our suggestions and,
- for enabling ordinary citizens to play a larger, more effective role in what has become such a vital part of our collective Green Winnipeg future!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