Minute No. 668
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – September 13, 2021

Item No. 6 Financial Incentives for Composting

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Committee in 90 days on the potential of introducing the following composting initiative:

    A. An annual financial incentive in the amount of $100 in the form of a Property Tax Rebate, a $100 City of Winnipeg Gift Card, an annual $100 credit on a home's Water and Waste Bill, and/or, a direct grant to compost service providers, for residents who engage in weekly or bi-weekly organic waste collection service and provide proof of purchase of a one-year subscription, or, twelve monthly subscription payments from a service provider.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment be adopted.

Carried

Councillor Browaty asked to be recorded as having voted against the item in accordance with Rule 47(7) of the Procedure Bylaw.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 21, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 13, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment considered the Council Motion of July 22, 2021, and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Committee in 90 days on the potential of introducing the following composting initiative:

    A. An annual financial incentive in the amount of $100 in the form of a Property Tax Rebate, a $100 City of Winnipeg Gift Card, an annual $100 credit on a home's Water and Waste Bill, and/or, a direct grant to compost service providers, for residents who engage in weekly or bi-weekly organic waste collection service and provide proof of purchase of a one-year subscription, or, twelve monthly subscription payments from a service provider.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing,

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 22, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment:

Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

On July 22, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment:

WHEREAS landfills are wastelands hazardous to both the environment and human health;

AND WHEREAS operation and continuous expanse of landfills, as well as the post decommission monitoring, costs the residents of Winnipeg tens of millions of dollars each year with net lifetime costs in the hundreds of millions of dollars;

AND WHEREAS city land is limited, and dedication of land to a landfill will cause large swaths of land and the surrounding areas to be useless to the residents of Winnipeg for other purposes and future city revenues;

AND WHEREAS Water and Waste Department data indicates that each year the residents of Winnipeg trash between 170,000 and 210,000 metric tonnes of garbage;

AND WHEREAS Water and Waste Department data shows that organics represent 44% (approximately 90,000 Metric Tonnes) of the weight composition of the residential garbage stream;

AND WHEREAS on-site (home-based) composting is recognized as a simple and effective solution to divert unnecessary organic waste from landfills;

AND WHEREAS a Water and Waste Department survey indicated that 54% of residents currently or previously have used a backyard composter;

AND WHEREAS financial incentives encourage larger uptake of on-site (home-based) composting, and further reduce garbage collection and disposal costs to the city;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment in 120 days on the potential of introducing the following composting initiative:

1. An annual financial incentive in the amount of $100 in the form of a Property Tax Rebate, a $100 City of Winnipeg Gift Card, or an annual $100 credit on a homes Water and Waste Bill for residents who engage in weekly organic waste collection service and provide proof of purchase of a one-year subscription, or, twelve monthly subscription payments from a service provider.