Message to CompostWinnipeg for September 21, 2023

I support a city that composts. There are many benefits to composting for the short and long term. The prominent benefits include methane in the landfill, quality of household garbage and rich soil. First, the methane issue in the landfill would be reduced. Next, the garbage in individual households would remain dry since the wet portions are composted. With less wet garbage, rodents would be less of an issue in homes. Another benefit is the rich soil that mother nature produces from compost. Since many other cities are experiencing these benefits, we can learn from them as we are on the composting journey.

We compost year-round and have done this for the past 26 years. We enjoy the many benefits.

I believe that compost Winnipeg was the initiative behind Folkfest 2023. This was truly amazing to witness. Hundreds of people eating and drinking at concerts and the garbage was minimal because the garbage all had a home. The volunteers were trained and they trained the people who attended. This training was pivotal. I believe Winnipeg needs an education campaign to help citizens learn how to compost. The Instagram account does a little helping but more is needed.

Regarding education, I'm also writing to ask if the compost program is planning to be implemented in apartment buildings. I am an instructor with RRC, instructing newcomers to Canada. We have approximately 1,000 students. Many of these newcomers live in apartment buildings and they are keen to learn how to compost. Do you have a plan for these people to compost? I would be happy to be the contact person for this type of campaign.

This is not on the topic of composting, but I feel strongly about this and need to address my concern here. Regarding the recycling campaign for beverage containers, I'm disheartened by this. There are many issues. First, this campaign contributes to more garbage than necessary. Next, it leads people to believe that their beverage containers are really being recycled (most are not). Last, it puts the responsibility of this plastic mess on the shoulders of the purchaser. It really needs to be on the shoulders of legislative decisions. Let's make decisions to reduce cheap plastic. Let's decide to not have these available in the stores. Only this decision will reduce the plastic mess. There are many solutions/options.

In summary, look to Folkfest for examples of composting. Next, a campaign for learning how to compost is necessary. Many people are ready to learn. Next, the beverage container recycling program is a scam and I wish this kind of energy/money would be put into composting and reducing plastics.

Sandra Schonwetter

September 19, 2023