SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION
community begins here

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Dear City Council,

At the Seven Oaks School Division we have been composting for 11 years in our schools and offices. This year alone have diverted more than 17,000 lbs of organic waste away from landfills, and composting has become part of the culture of sustainability and land stewardship among our more than 11,000 students.

Many of our students reside in the Old Kildonan, North Kildonan, and Mynarski wards and are eager to continue their climate action by composting at home. We whole-heartedly support the implementation of city-wide food waste collection in Winnipeg.

Why is a city-wide food waste collection system so crucial? (Facts from the Green Action Centre)

1) Organic waste left in landfills produces immense amounts of methane–a greenhouse gas (GHG) 28-36 times more potent than carbon dioxide

-GHGs are the primary cause of the current climate crisis

-Brady Road Landfill is the second largest point-source of GHGs in Manitoba

2) Organics account for ~50% of Winnipeg household waste

3) Organic waste–when diverted from landfills and composted–drastically reduces GHG emissions and becomes a useful and valuable resource

-The Winnipeg Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Project (2020-2022) produced ~440 000 kg of high-quality compost, and reduced GHGs equivalent to a car driving across Canada 48 times–and the project included only <1.3% of Winnipeg households!

4) Winnipeg is one of the only major cities in Canada without a full-scale food waste collection system

-In 2020, Winnipeg's waste diversion rate was 31%, ~20% lower than Edmonton (51.5% in 2016)–a comparable city with a municipal organics collection system

As leaders in our community, you can make a real and lasting change via this critical vote. Our youth are counting on you to make a decision that will continue to impact them for the rest of their lives. We are ready to make this change with you and to spread the culture of composting throughout the city.

Thank you for your hard work advocating for the residents of this city and we hope you can count on you to support a greener future and food-waste collection in Winnipeg.

Sincerely,

Alex Loeppky (Divisional Compost Coordinator), on behalf of the Seven Oaks School Division