

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 21, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 6 2025 Sustainable Procurement Action Plan Annual Report

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and received the report as information.

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 21, 2026

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 17, 2026, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and granted an extension of time of 30 days to report back on the summary of accomplishments in the 2025 Sustainable Procurement Action Plan Annual Report.

David Grant submitted a communication in opposition to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 21, 2022, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Sustainable Procurement Action plan, attached in Appendix 1, be approved for implementation.
2. That the Corporate Finance Department be directed to prepare an annual Departmental submission to the 2023 Multi-Year Budget Process to support implementation of the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan.
3. That the following position and required estimated annual salary and benefits, increasing annually in accordance with the Collective Agreement, be referred to the 2023 Operating Budget:
 - A. Sustainable Procurement Liaison (1.0 FTE; WAPSO 4) to be the primary point of contact for sustainable procurement at the City of Winnipeg for internal departments and external stakeholders, and Indigenous Rightsholders and to oversee the Social Procurement Framework and Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (\$121,651).
4. That the Public Service provide annual progress reports by March of each year to Executive Policy Committee.

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 21, 2026

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: 2025 Sustainable Procurement Action Plan Annual Report

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
B. D'Avignon	T. Graham	T. Graham	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report provides an overview of activities delivered under the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (the “Plan”) in 2025.

The Plan (see Appendix 1) outlines the City’s commitment to purchasing goods and services in a manner that aligns with environmental responsibility, ethical labour practices, social equity and Indigenous economic participation. As 2025 marked the final year of the initial three-year Plan cycle, this report focuses on documenting actions undertaken during the year. Activities completed in the first two years of the Plan are detailed in the 2023 and 2024 annual reports: The Plan recognizes the positive contributions already being made by many suppliers and seeks to advance outcomes across four priority areas: environmental, ethical, social and Indigenous that can drive fair, open and transparent purchasing practices.

In 2025, the City completed 12 actions under one or more of these priority areas.

Recommendations for the next three-year Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (2026–2028) will be brought forward in a separate Council report in Q3, 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On July 21, 2022, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee that the Public Service provide annual progress reports by March of each year to the Executive Policy Committee.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

There are no implications associated with the recommendation of this report.

The Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (the “Plan”) was approved by Council for implementation on July 21, 2022.

The vision is to have the City’s procurement practices fully consider the relevant social, economic, cultural, and environmental impacts related to the goods and services purchased and the suppliers who deliver them. Sustainable procurement helps:

- Increase environmental responsibility and resilience through Indigenous knowledge, natural resource preservation, renewal, enhancement, and reuse.
- Develop an equitable, diverse, and inclusive community and remove systemic barriers.
- Support education and employment opportunities to foster social and economic equity.
- Strengthen community cohesion through inclusive engagement, reconciliation, collaboration, and responsiveness with all members of the community.

This action plan (Appendix 1) will enable the City to deliver a successful Sustainable Procurement Program.

Winnipeg adopted a model which promotes a comprehensive approach to sustainable procurement to address supply chain opportunities across four pillars: environmental, ethical, social, and Indigenous.

Throughout 2025, the Sustainable Procurement Liaison engaged extensively with Indigenous governments and organizations, diverse business networks, community intermediaries, Fair Trade stakeholders, training bodies, and municipal peers. These engagements advanced environmental, ethical, social, and Indigenous procurement outcomes while strengthening relationships with suppliers and ecosystem partners.

The Sustainable Procurement Liaison (SPL) worked on the following in 2025:

Action 1: The City’s internal Sustainable Procurement Working Group received presentations from:

- (a) Fair Trade Canada. Fair Trade Canada is a national non-profit certifier promoting fairer global trade by supporting farmers and workers through minimum pricing, ethical standards, and community investment. Their work raises awareness of socially responsible supply chains, helping departments identify ethical sourcing opportunities that align with the City’s sustainability and social-value priorities.

- (b) Black Chamber of Commerce is a national non-profit organization supporting Black-owned businesses through training, networking, financial literacy, and market access. Their presentation helps departments understand diverse suppliers within the Black business ecosystem, promoting equitable economic development and inclusive procurement aligned with the City's social-value commitments.
- (c) Black Entrepreneurs and Businesses of Canada Society is a Black-led non-profit offering mentorship, financial literacy, business support services, lending programs, and pathways into procurement for Black entrepreneurs. Their presentation expands departmental awareness of diverse businesses, supporting inclusive economic opportunities and reducing systemic barriers faced by Black-owned enterprises across Canada.
- (d) AMT Robotics is an Indigenous Manitoba-based engineering and manufacturing company specializing in advanced robotic automation for prefabricated wood construction. Their sustainable, precision-focused systems help reduce waste and increase efficiency in building processes. Their presentation informs departments about innovative local suppliers contributing to low-carbon construction and industrial modernization.

These presentations allow all departments to become aware of non-profit organizations, Indigenous businesses, social enterprises, and diverse businesses that exist to increase business within the social pillar.

Action 2: SPL attended various events throughout the year to better understand diverse stakeholders and Indigenous Rightsholders. The events attended were as follows:

- Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF)
 - Red River Metis Business Excellence Awards (Relationship building with Indigenous Businesses)
 - MMF Expo event to advance Indigenous procurement priorities.
- Women Business Enterprises (WBE) - Supplier Diversity Day and WBE matchmaker event to share City's procurement processes and timelines to improve bidding readiness.
- The Gathering 2025, Social Enterprise event - Imagining Our Future: Moving to Transformative Action to strengthen communities and build local economies that benefit everyone.
- Procurement Conference - Organized and sponsored by Province of Manitoba to enhance vendor engagement, promote transparency, and increase participation of small, local, Indigenous, and equity-seeking businesses in City procurement. The three levels of government had individual sessions on selling to the Public Sector.
- Black Entrepreneurs and Businesses of Canada Society - Joined multiple Meet the Buyers and Supplier Diversity Matchmaking sessions to expand outreach to Black-owned businesses and improved supplier readiness to bid.
- Southern Chief's Organization - BINASI Event - Economic Reconciliation Business and Agriculture Forum.

- Action 3: Fair Trade Canada - Constituted Fair Trade steering committee:
- Participated in recurring steering committee meetings.
 - Supported Winnipeg's Fair Trade Town commitments by aligning procurement practices with fair trade principles, promoting ethical sourcing that protects workers' rights and supports sustainable livelihoods. This work helped ensure purchasing decisions were consistent with the City's ethical procurement goals and reinforced its commitment to social, environmental, and economic responsibility.
 - Promoted Fair Trade at public events, e.g. Earth Day Walk, Grant Park Mall activation, Red River Coop activation.
- Action 4: Ongoing Updates to internal and external Sustainable Procurement websites to have a one-stop shop for all sustainable procurement information. Supplier Code of Conduct was added to all public solicitations (RFXs). The document is also available on internal and external Sustainable Procurement Website.
- Action 5: Created and piloted social value menu clauses in tenders that focus on skills and training. Piloted social procurement questionnaire and environmental procurement questionnaire in Requests For Proposals (RFPs). Encouraged departments to use set asides for Indigenous businesses and single source for social enterprises.
- Action 6: Encouraged suppliers to register on City of Winnipeg supplier registry to allow City employees to find registered and verified social enterprises, diverse and Indigenous businesses.
- Action 7: Training sessions for internal City of Winnipeg employees and external bidders and organizations. The training provided stakeholders with an understanding of the City's new procurement mechanisms like the social value menu, set asides and the social enterprise single source guide. Examples included:
- Provided training on social value menu clauses in 2025 the Construction Season
 - Delivered training on the relevant social value menu clauses for contracted services, Assets and Project Management, and Municipal Accommodation, providing instruction to a team of 12 participants.
 - SPL completed Social Procurement Professional Certificate training conducted by Buy Social Canada.
- Action 8: Initiatives to create new opportunities:
- Met with the Manitoba Construction Sector Council to better understand the training options available in the construction industry.
 - Attended match making event with departments and social enterprises - Construction - Build Inc. and Skoden Flex to explore feasibility of new opportunities.

Action 9: Winnipeg Showcase - 2025 - The City hosted virtual supplier showcases where selected Indigenous businesses, diverse businesses and social enterprises presented their product or services, social value, contract capacity, and types of opportunities they are interested in with City purchasers. The intent was to provide focus and more impetus on set asides for Indigenous businesses and single source for social enterprises.

The SPL intentionally matches City purchasers and value suppliers selected to attend the showcase. The showcase held its events in March, May, September, and November of 2025. The co-chairs for the showcase were MMF, Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET), Women Business Enterprises Canada Council (WBE), and the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The co-chairs worked with the SPL and Buy Social Canada to design each Showcase.

Showcase 2025				
Showcase No.	Date	Presenting Businesses	Duration	Total Participants
Showcase 1-Indigenous Businesses	20-March	5	1 hour	19
Showcase 2-Diverse Business and Social Enterprises-I	29-May	5	1.5 hours	20
Showcase 3-Diverse Business and Social Enterprises-II	15-September	5	1.75 hours	36
Showcase 4-Indigenous Businesses	25-November	5	1.5 hours	25
Total		20		100

These events were not just networking sessions—they were catalysts for real contracts and partnerships that advanced the City's social procurement goals.

Action 10: Increased awareness by posting on “3 Things Today” that is sent to all City of Winnipeg employees pointing to:

- Our City Our Stories - What Works Cities - Silver Certification for exceptional use of Data that gives more opportunities to businesses with diverse workforces or provide training for people with barriers to employment. Redefining what makes a valuable supplier for the City. Instead of evaluating only price, quality and service, the City is now also prioritizing community and social impact.

<https://whatworkscities.bloomberg.org/cities/winnipeg-canada/>

- Our City, Our Stories - Winnipeg continued its commitment as a Fair Trade Town.

<https://www.winnipeg.ca/people-culture/our-city-our-stories/winnipeg-continues-its-commitment-fair-trade-town>

Action 11: Engagement with and provided guidance on City's Sustainable program with:

- City of Whitehorse on social procurement mechanisms.
- City of Ottawa on Indigenous engagement.
- City of Regina on sustainable procurement program.

Action 12: Speaker at Canadian Council for Sustainable Procurement (CCSP):

- Advance Indigenous engagement - Shared the key learnings from showcase event with outreach to Indigenous businesses, diverse businesses and social enterprises.
- Peer Exchange #8 on evaluation tools to measure social procurement mechanisms.

Publications: The City of Winnipeg's Sustainable Procurement Program was listed in the below publications:

- 2024 CCSP Annual Report: The State of Sustainable Public Procurement in Canada
- CCSP Publication - Winnipeg Launches Showcase with Indigenous Supplier Event.
- Buy Social Canada September Newsletter-CLASP Event - Purchasers explore collaborative strategies to buy from social enterprise.

For further details, see Appendix 1 - 2025 Sustainable Procurement Action Plan Annual Report and Appendix 2 - City of Winnipeg Sustainable Procurement 2025 Snapshot.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement**Date:** March 5, 2026

Project Name:

2025 Sustainable Procurement Action Plan Annual Report

Comments:

There are no financial implications associated with receiving this report as information.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA

Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)

Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

Chief Administrative Office

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Goals Alignment: Leadership and Good Governance, Environmental Resilience, Economic Prosperity and Social Equity

Policy Alignment:

1.6 Results-Based Budgeting - budget priorities to achieve integrated, intergenerational life-cycle planning that maximizes community return on investment.

1.16 Equitable Funding Distribution - decisions on external funding and resources to use criteria to prioritize community-led organizations that respond to the needs of systemically disadvantaged groups and demonstrate long-term community benefit.

1.21 Strategic Procurement - coordinate procurement strategies across government bodies that support and enable the scaling up of community economic development opportunities.

1.7 Equitable Service Access - identify and provide access to, a base level of municipal services to everyone, directly or facilitated through partnerships that enables removal of systemic barriers to participation.

1.17 Neighbourhood Needs Assessment - enables focused revitalization to geographic areas that need it most and understanding of socio-economic needs, gaps and resources for collaborative action.

3.10 Indigenous Economic Development - prioritize support of Indigenous-led economic development opportunities for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples.

3.12 Poverty Reduction - reduce poverty and homelessness through community economic development.

3.13 Poverty Reduction - develop criteria to achieve a living wage for municipal employees and those awarded City contracts.

3.14 Strategic Enterprise Supports - enables employment opportunities through municipal procurement.

3.15 Community Capacity Development - support organizations who provide workforce education and skills development that aligns with emerging, evidence-informed economic opportunities.

5.4 Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples - commits to municipal scale responsibilities for recommendations in UNDRIP, TRC and MMIWG.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Opportunity 1 is about Corporate Leadership and actions to help create a culture of sustainability within the City. It includes the short-term direction to “Integrate Sustainability and Climate Action into Procurement standards which can demonstrate increasing impact from year to year” (1.1).

6.2: Advance Winnipeg's circular economy to support waste reduction

Action: Work with local stakeholders and regional partners to support “circular economy” initiatives that minimize waste production.

Action: Work with key federal, provincial and regional stakeholders to advance Extended Producer Responsibility Programs to target plastics, mattresses, cardboard and other designated materials.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The information and recommendations presented in this report align with and advance the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (2021 – 2031) as follows:

Goal 1 Equity and a Culture of Caring are Demonstrated through Strategy Implementation and Systems Change

Related 10-year Objectives:

- C.** Equity and a Culture of Caring are factored into all service planning and budget decisions, resulting in City-wide systems change.
- D.** The City advocates for and pursues partnerships to implement the Strategy.

Goal 3: Equity is Embedded in all City Employment and Income Opportunities

Related 10-year Objectives:

- A.** Hiring and training programs are implemented that focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, reconciliation with Indigenous people, and poverty reduction.
- B.** Support is provided to community-led income and employment initiatives for low-income people through partnerships, grants, and in-kind use of City assets and facilities.
- C.** City purchasing power is leveraged to achieve social and community benefits.

The information and recommendations presented in this report also advance the following **Actions**, as listed in the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan (2024 - 2027):

Initiative 3.2 Sustainable Procurement:

Action 1: Continue to encourage economic reconciliation through the implementation of the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan. This will involve developing supplier lists to share with departments to encourage and support direct purchases from Social Enterprises, Indigenous Business, and Diverse businesses, and exploring community benefit agreements.

Action 2: Through the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan, the City will work with a community organization(s) to convene a quarterly roundtable to bring together purchasers and suppliers to build relationships and identify opportunities. Opportunity for private sector purchasers who sell to the City to connect with social enterprises, Indigenous businesses and diverse businesses and incorporate them into their supply chain for larger City projects.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Corporate Finance
Division: Purchasing
Prepared by: Terminder Singh
Date: March 5, 2026

Attachments:

Appendix 1 - 2025 Sustainable Procurement Action Plan Annual Report

Appendix 2 - City of Winnipeg Sustainable Procurement 2025 Snapshot