Agenda – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – July 2, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Recycling at Community Events

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1. That event recycling on City-owned properties be categorized as a Universal Service, allowing it to be funded by the existing Waste Management Fee.

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:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 13, 2026 the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste, and Environment concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and granted an extension of time of up to 90 days to report back on options for encouraging or enforcing recycling at community events on City owned land.

On February 2, 2026 the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste, and Environment concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and granted an extension of time of 60 days to report back on options for encouraging or enforcing recycling at community events on City owned land.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On November 27, 2025 Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment in 90 days with options for encouraging or enforcing recycling at community events on City-owned land.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Recycling at Community Events

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council directed the Public Service to report back to the Standing Policy Committee with options for encouraging or enforcing recycling at community events on City-owned land.

Recycling at these kinds of events is currently inconsistent due to several factors. This includes:

- limited staff;
- volunteer capacity; and
- inconsistent available resources at host locations. (Community Centres, Recreation Facilities, and Parks)

Community Centres operated by staff or volunteers not employed by the City are supported by the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres. The City's role is restricted to information sharing with these Centres. The City lacks staffing capacity for waste management at many City managed facilities. This makes expansion of recycling service challenging.

Strategies for improvement include:

- enhancing the accessibility of bins;
- organizing collection efforts; and
- increasing educational efforts (such as signage).

To further encourage recycling, expectations should be added to event permits and application forms. This will make recycling part of the process at all events on city-owned land.

The Public Service also recommends that the provision of recycling for events on City owned land be included in the Universal Services category of activity. This will allow such activities to be funded by the Waste Management Fee.

Opportunities for partnership with other parties may exist. Groups such as the Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association (CBCRA) can provide free recycling containers and potential new funding support for operations. The Public Service will explore these options.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That event recycling on City-owned properties be categorized as a Universal Service, allowing it to be funded by the existing Waste Management Fee.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On July 17, 2025, Council recommended that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and the Environment with options for encouraging or enforcing recycling at community events on City-owned land.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Direct financial implications of the recommendations cannot be reasonably estimated as the number of requests for event recycling services is unknown at this time. Requests for recycling services at community events may increase based on the educational and promotional awareness. Costs will be absorbed within existing budgets and future operating budgets may be amended to increase collection costs.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On July 17, 2025, Council recommended that the Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and the Environment with options for encouraging or enforcing recycling at community events on City-owned land.

Recycling at events held on City-owned land is currently inconsistent. Not all City-owned facilities and recreation spaces have the staff and/or volunteer capacity, resources or operational oversight necessary to support effective recycling. As a result, recycling is not available at all locations or events.

City-owned locations that commonly host community events generally fall into four categories, each with barriers to recycling:

1) Community Centres (managed primarily by volunteers)
2) City-managed Recreation Facilities
3) Public Spaces (streets and parking lots)
4) Parks

To understand current practices, constraints, and opportunities to improve recycling, discussions were held with various departments and the Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association (CBCRA) regarding potential supports for recycling infrastructure and services.

CBCRA is a non-profit organization that can supply recycling containers at no cost. CBCRA has provided information on City-owned locations that currently have their recycling containers or acquired them in prior years. CBCRA may also have funding/grant opportunities that could support collection services. In addition, CBCRA will be able to provide temporary recycling containers for larger events and remove them afterward. In some cases, they can also provide staff support at events to promote proper recycling.

If CBCRA's proposed program plan is approved by the Province, there will be new operational funding for recycling of beverage containers which are large components of event recycling. This funding could focus on supporting the collection and processing of beverage containers from community events. The Public Service will investigate the acquisition of this funding. If there is a benefit to the City, the Public Service will create a funding agreement with CBCRA for its use.

There are 63 community centres that are owned by the City of Winnipeg but not operated by City staff. These centres are members of the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC), which provide leadership and support to help centres operate effectively. Each community centre operates with its own staff and/or volunteers depending on the location.

Since these facilities are not operated by the City, the City's role relative to recycling is generally limited to information-sharing and messaging through the GCWCC. Monitoring and enforcement are not feasible without resources and requirements built into event agreements and permits.

Recreation Facilities that host community events include arenas, pools, fitness facilities, and recreation centres. Municipal Accommodations is responsible for waste management at these facilities. At this time, there are no dedicated staff resources assigned specifically to monitor recycling performance or enforce recycling practices across facilities and events. Community Services supports recycling but does not have the resources to enable Municipal Accommodations to expand their services at this time.

On March 27, 2025, Council approved that the provision of recycling and garbage collection services, up to a maximum of 3,000 litres each per week, be provided free of charge to properties:

A. Registered as a Charity with Canada Revenue Agency but not categorized or serviced as a multi-unit property; and
B. Community centres and arenas owned by the City of Winnipeg.
C. Business Improvement Zones upon application.

Universal Services are a portion of services funded by the waste management fee. This currently includes:

- the 4R Winnipeg Depots;
- community recycling depots;
- dead animal collection;
- bulky waste sweeps for arson prevention;
- neighborhood cleanup tipping fees;
- landfill closure and post closure costs;
- services provided to organizations registered as a Charity with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) that are not categorized as a multi-unit property;

- Business Improvement Zones (upon application);
- City owned community centres; and
- recreation facilities and arenas.

The Public Service recommends recycling for events on City-owned land be added into Universal Services to provide a designated funding source.

There are 14 parks that can be booked for events; however, not all these parks have recycling containers. Public Works staff have identified several constraints that make the expansion of recycling services difficult at this time. They have limiting capacity to handle recycling beyond their current levels. Overall, Public Works supports recycling but does not have the resources to expand their services.

The operational challenges of temporary events held in open spaces like streetscapes and parking lots for festivals and sporting events will vary. The anticipated scope for each event would be as follows:

- determine type of recycling containers appropriate for the event based on volume expected and type of collection required;
- deliver recycling containers to the event;
- coordinate with event organizers on placement, possibly transfer of recyclables to collection containers during event or at a consolidation point at the end of the event for collection,
- collect recyclables,
- remove the empty containers from the event.

Improving recycling outcomes at community events can be achieved by ensuring appropriate recycling infrastructure and servicing capacity are provided along with strengthening expectations and requirements for event organizers and facility users.

Options to increase participation and compliance include:

1) Improving accessibility of collection containers and education including signage, information literature, etc.

2) Incorporating recycling expectations into event permits, facility rental and booking processes, and application forms with language to encourage event users to recycle.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: April 30, 2026

Project Name:

RECYCLING AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report as the number of requests for event recycling services is unknown at this time. Request for recycling services at community events may increase based on the educational and promotional awareness from the anticipated additons to the application processes. Based on the uptake in requests, costs will be absorbed within existing budgets and future operating budgets may be amended to increase collection costs. These additional costs would be funded through an increase to the Waste Management Fee, with this service requested to be considered a universal service, reported through the Solid Waste Rate Report.

Tanis Yanchishyn, CPA, CA

Tanis Yanchishyn, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance and Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Public Works Department
- Film and Events
- Community Services
- Assets and Project Management

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

This report is in accordance with the OurWinnipeg 2045 policies through

Our Winnipeg Goal: Environmental Resilience

Objectives:

- Prioritize the transition to a resilient, low-carbon future through demonstrated organizational and community leaderships, and collaborative actions that mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.
- Minimize and divert waste from landfill.

Policies:

2.15 Circular Economy

- Advance Winnipeg's circular economy to support waste reduction.

2.16 Waste Minimization

- Improve and sustain performance of the waste reduction and diversion system.

Our Winnipeg Goal: Social Equity

Objectives:

- Build social cohesion through community development solutions, coordinated, effective partnerships, and responsive service delivery. Learn from community knowledge and leaderships, work to be responsive to community needs, and align government processes, resources and services accordingly.

Policies:

5.1 Equitable Service Access

- Provide municipal services through a lens that promotes equitable access for all, with a focus on the youngest, oldest, and systemically disadvantaged members of the community.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

This report is in accordance with Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan through Strategic Opportunity #6 Waste Reduction and Diversion, and supports the following key directions:

> 6.1 Reduce Consumption and Increase Waste Diversion from Residential, Commercial and Industry (Primary Responsibility: Water and Waste Department)
>
> 6.2 Advance Winnipeg's Circular Economy to Support Waste Reduction (Primary Responsibility: Water and Waste Department)

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goas and Objectives. It was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Water and Waste Department
Division: Solid Waste Services
Prepared by: Alexandra Grislis, B.Sc., Mark Kinsley, C.E.T.
Date: May 14, 2026
File No.: G-328