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

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Financial Incentives for Composting 2026

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the 2026 Compost Support Program in the amount of up to $65,000 is approved for Green Action Centre – Compost Winnipeg to support its Compost Support Program (as set out in Appendix A).

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver an agreement with the Green Action Centre – Compost Winnipeg and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements").

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Financial Incentives for Composting 2026

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

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
Michael Gordichuk, CCLP, Manager of Solid Waste Services	T. W. Shanks, M. Eng., P. Eng. Director, Water and Waste Department	B. D'Avignon, acting for T. Graham	M. Dryburgh, acting for J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2022, the City has offered the Compost Support Program.

This program provides up to $65,000 each year to residential food waste collection service providers that provide services equivalent to the City's Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Program, which ended in 2022. This is provided either in cash or in-kind advertising credits through News Media Canada.

In 2026, the Public Service accepted applications for the program until March 13. The Green Action Centre – Compost Winnipeg (GAC) was the only applicant. GAC meets all the requirements of the program.

The Public Service recommends the 2026 Compost Support Program be provided to GAC. The money for the program is already approved by Council. No new money is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the 2026 Compost Support Program in the amount of up to $65,000 is approved for Green Action Centre – Compost Winnipeg to support its Compost Support Program (as set out in Appendix A).

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver an agreement with the Green Action Centre – Compost Winnipeg and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements").

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and the Ancillary Agreements, in

accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

4. 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 October 26, 2023. Council concurred with the recommendation that the Public Service continue to administer the Compost Support Program until a city-wide green cart program is operational.

As per the City of Winnipeg Charter, individual grants authorized under a grant program require Council approval in the absence of a program by-law.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Funds are available in the 2026 operating budget from account 445-521020-201906-999.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Background

On October 19, 2011, Council approved the Comprehensive Integrated Waste Management Strategy (CIWMS), which includes a waste diversion rate target of 50 percent. CIWMS was developed through an extensive public engagement process where more than 2,500 people participated over a six-month period. A review of CIWMS was completed in 2019 and identified that the waste diversion rate target of 50 percent could not be achieved without a City-wide Residential Food Waste (RFW) collection program and other investments to Winnipeg's waste management system. The 50 percent waste diversion target was deferred by Council on June 20, 2019, until completion of an RFW collection pilot project and a ten-year financial plan for the solid waste utility

In addition to CIWMS, the importance of diverting organic waste to meet Winnipeg's sustainability goals was supported with Council's adoption of Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan in 2018. This was further emphasized on May 26, 2022, when Council adopted Our Winnipeg 2045 and its goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

On October 26, 2023, Council concurred with the recommendation to continue the Compost Support Program until a city-wide green cart program is operational.

The Compost Support Program, started in 2022, and provided up to a total of $65,000 per year in cash or in-kind advertising credits through News Media Canada. It would be offered to qualified residential food waste collection service providers that meet at least one of three criteria:

- they provide a subsidy for low-income residents who wish to participate in compost collection but are financially unable to;

- they assist in developing new programs for residents whose dwellings do not currently qualify for compost programs (e.g., multifamily);
- and/or they can demonstrate other measures to offset costs of their program for the benefit of City residents.

A qualified recipient under this program would also be required to provide food waste collection services that are equivalent to those provided through the City's Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Program, which ended in 2022. The Compost Support Program has been replacing the Pilot ever since, until a green cart program is established.

2026 Update

The 2026 call for applications was posted online on February 26, 2026, and closed March 13, 2026. As part of the submission, applicants were required to provide the prior fiscal year's financial statements, annual report and annual general meeting minutes to qualify for funding.

Completed applications were evaluated using a process that included minimum criteria (pass/fail) to ensure all applicants met the core objectives of the program. The process also rewarded applicants' innovative approaches and evidence that the applicant is advancing composting for the City.

The Public Service received one application from Green Action Centre – Compost Winnipeg.

The application was evaluated by the Public Service using the process outlined above. Green Action Centre – Compost Winnipeg achieved 85 out of a possible 100 points. As the Green Action Centre – Compost Winnipeg is the only applicant, it is recommended that the entirety of the 2026 compost support program amount of $65,000 in cash be provided to Green Action Centre – Compost Winnipeg.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: April 13, 2026

Project Name:
FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR COMPOSTING 2026

First Year of Program **2026**

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 65,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 65,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	65,000	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Funds for this individual compost support payment are included in the approved annual Current Budget identified as – Solid Waste Disposal Fund – Non Professional Services – Account Distribution No. 445 521020 201906 999.

Tanis Yanchishyn, CPA, CA
Tanis Yanchishyn, CPA, CA
Manager, Finance and Administration

mb
1-Apr-26

CONSULTATION

This report has been prepared in consultation with:

N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

This report is in accordance with the Our Winnipeg policies through Our Winnipeg Goal: Environmental Resilience

Objectives:

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

Policies:

2.1 Climate Action Targets

- Achieve an overall greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 20 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050, relative to 2011, through partnerships with the community, businesses, governments and Indigenous leadership.

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 leadership, 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.

5.6 Equitable Service Access

Welcome and support newcomers, and those who migrate from rural communities and reserves, through strategic collaboration and action that expedites service access and sense of belonging for residents.

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)

6.4 Support Integrated Resource Recovery Opportunities (Primary Responsibility: Water and Waste Department)

Community Energy Investment Roadmap

This report aligns with the Community Energy Investment Roadmap recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the waste management sector, and supports the following priorities and programs:

Section 4: Journey to a Net-Zero Winnipeg

The Big Moves:

Water and Waste: Overall waste generation is reduced and waste diversion to recycling and composting facilities is improved. (p.26)

Section 6: How to Achieve Our Goals:

Waste Management:

I. Organic matter in landfills decays over time and can continue to release GHGs long after it is deposited in the landfilled. The most effective strategy in reducing these emissions is to reduce the amount of waste entering them. This can be achieved through a combination of waste reduction and waste diversion to composting and recycling facilities.

Program Area #9

9.1 A Circular Economy Strategy:

The City will develop a circular economy strategy that focuses on the ideas of zero landfill waste and using waste as a resource.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

One of the guiding principles of the Poverty Reduction Strategy is to promote and maintain the welfare of all residents. By continuing this Compost Support Program, the City is encouraging more waste diversion, which subsequently reduces landfilled waste and harmful emissions, and therefore supports the efforts to clean up the environment and protect the welfare of Winnipeg residents.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Water and Waste Department
Division: Solid Waste Services
Prepared by: Mark Kinsley, C.E.T.
Date: May 1, 2026
File No.: G-275

ATTACHMENTS:
Appendix 1: 2026 Compost Support Payment Application for Green Action Centre