

Application form - Compost Support Program

Applicant information

Name of organization:	Green Action Centre - Compost Winnipeg		
Legal name of organization (if different):			
Address:	300 - 286 Smith Street		
City and province:	Winnipeg, Manitoba	Postal code:	R3C 1K4
Name and title of authorized representative:	Amanda Wolfe, General Manager, Compost Winnipeg		
Phone number:	431 275 4331	Email:	amanda@compostwinnipeg.ca
Name and title of authorized representative:	Karrie Blackburn, Customer Service Lead, Compost Winnipeg		
Phone number:	204 232 0025	Email:	info@compostwinnipeg.ca

Project information

Project name:	Continue the successful Residential Food Waste Drop off Program
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Description: (provide a detailed project description, including goals, objectives, and environmental and social benefits - 1000 words maximum)

Compost Winnipeg Background

Compost Winnipeg is a social enterprise of the Green Action Centre, an environmental non-profit organization that provides education and resources on sustainable transportation, waste reduction, etc. Compost Winnipeg provides organic waste collection service to single family and multi-family customers. We have over 1,000 residential customers who pay \$35 to \$40 per month for scheduled weekly collection. We collect all food products, including items that are difficult to compost such as meat, bones, dairy products, cardboard, etc. We transport the organic waste to the licensed compost site at Prairie Green Waste Management Facility.

Since 2016, Compost Winnipeg has diverted more than 9,800 tonnes of organic waste from the landfill, equating to 19,600 tonnes of CO2 emissions prevented. We are now at a pace of diverting over 170 tonnes of organics per month, which includes collection from residential and commercial clients.

Project Description

The project is to continue the success of the food waste drop off stations, where residents can dispose of household food waste for free. In October 2024, we set up food waste collection bins at 15 community sites to give Winnipeggers of all income levels access to food waste diversion services and reduce financial barriers. We provide regular collection services and transport the food waste to the licensed composting site at Prairie Green Waste Management Facility. Currently we collect 30 to 40 tonnes of food waste per month from 18 food waste drop off sites.

For most sites, we have a caretaker on contract to monitor the bins and support the program. The 4R Depots have city staff on site so they don't need caretakers. The caretaker visits the site two times per week to monitor the bins and send a photo to Compost Winnipeg. This helps to track the bin status between collections to ensure the bins are accessible and presentable. The caretakers are compensated at \$15 per visit (\$30 per week), totaling \$1,560 for 52 weeks.

The food waste drop off program is very successful, with participation that keeps increasing, and low contamination rates. We have received a lot of positive feedback from residents, in person during collections, emails and phone calls. The program is funded by the City of Winnipeg, via 2024 Compost Support Grant and service contracts signed in 2024 and 2025.

In 2025, the average cost was approximately \$950 per site per month, including weekly collection service (or twice weekly if required), bin caretakers, promotion and reporting. The cost to operate 18 sites for 1 year is estimated at \$205,000. The Compost Support Grant will be applied to continue funding the program, with potential for expansion.

The project goals and objectives are summarized below:

Goal 1: Increase residential food waste diversion

Objective 1: Divert at least 30 tonnes of food waste each month from 18 drop off sites.

Goal 2: Increase access and reduce financial barriers for residents to participate in food waste diversion / composting

Objective 2: Provide free food waste collection services for up to 3000 households each month.

Goal 3: Provide education on the benefits of composting, and what items can be composted.

Objective 3: Reach 1000 Winnipeg residents with our social media and print media to increase awareness and participation in food waste diversion / composting.

Goal 4: Engage with the community and build momentum for future composting programs.

Objective 4: Create local champions for the program by providing training, resources and compensation to community caretakers to ensure the program runs smoothly.

Environmental and Social Benefits

- Divert food waste from the landfill
- Prevent greenhouse gas emissions
- Engage community members on the benefits of composting
- Educate residents on what items can be composted
- Prepare residents for the municipal green cart program
- Reduce financial barriers for Winnipeg residents to access food waste diversion / composting services

Requested amount (please specify how much of the funding will be in-kind advertising) (\$):

In-kind (\$): **Total budget (\$):**

Anticipated start date:

Anticipated end date*:

Project end date (goods and/or services delivered to the City of Winnipeg) shall be no later than March 31, 2027. The project **must be completed before the specified end date. Reporting can be submitted up to 45 days after the specified end date.*

Deliverables: Identify the project deliverables and the proposed monitoring or tracking, including metrics. Make sure to explain how the deliverables support one of the following:

- Providing a subsidy for low-income residents who wish to participate in compost collection but are financially unable to
- Assisting in developing new programs for residents whose dwellings do not currently qualify for compost programs (e.g. multifamily)
- Implementing measures to offset program costs for the benefit of City residents.

Deliverable	Evaluation metrics	Describe how it supports criteria listed above
Engagement material for residents	Number of views on social media	Supports project objective 3 (education)
Caretakers hired on contract	Number of caretakers. Feedback from caretakers.	Supports project objective 4 (engage community)
Monthly report of food waste collected	Weight of food waste collected from each site (estimated)	Supports project objective 1 (increase waste diversion)
Monthly report of number of residents participating	Number of participants estimated from weight of food waste	Supports project objective 2 (improve access / reduce financial barriers to composting programs)
Final Report	Submission of report to City. Feedback from City.	Summarizes the project results, lessons learned, etc.
		Note that the project supports two of the criteria above: It creates a new program for residents to divert food waste
		and it implements measures to offset the program costs for the benefit of City residents.

Timeline:

Activity	Start date	End date
Caretaker site monitoring	June 1, 2026 *	March 31, 2027 *
Food waste collection services	June 1, 2026 *	March 31, 2027 *
Data collection - estimated weight, forms, photos from each site	June 1, 2026 *	March 31, 2027 *
Final Report	April 1, 2027 *	June 30, 2027 *
* The residential food waste drop off program has been operating since 2024.		
The start date and end date in this table indicates the time period when the		
Compost Support Grant will be applied.		

Marketing and communications:

Explain how the project and its work will be shared or publicized:

Compost Winnipeg will continue to promote the food waste drop off sites using the following methods:

- printed materials - bin signs, flyers to distribute at events
- social media - Instagram and Facebook
- Green Action Centre newsletter

The City of Winnipeg hosts the project website:

<https://www.winnipeg.ca/services-programs/recycling-garbage/drop-depots/food-waste>

Regulatory approvals:

Has your project received all necessary environmental permits and approvals? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ NA

Funding information:

Complete the following funding document for the proposed project. Enter whole dollar numeric values (letters, decimals, and dollar signs are not allowed). For "Other Sources of Funding", please indicate if sources of funding are confirmed or pending.

Expenditure Item	Requested \$ Amount	Other Sources of Funding			Source (List all sources)	Total Budget Cost
		Cash	Confirmed or Pending	In-Kind		
Salaries (Attributed to project costs)						
Management / Professional Fees (Identify for each position)						
Equipment						
Materials and Supplies						
Administration Costs (Identify)						
Transportation Costs						
Other	\$65,000	\$160,000	confirmed		City service contract	\$225,000
Total	\$65,000	\$160,000				\$225,000

Add required attachments to generated email before submitting

(check boxes below to confirm they are included):

☒ Prior fiscal year's financial statements

☒ Annual report

☒ Annual general meeting minutes

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