



CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT – MANITOBA (CEM), INC.

Recipient, Recycle Everywhere Champions 2019 Award

STATEMENT

CEM Affirms Its Support for Universal Recycling on City-Owned Land

Caring for Our Environment – Manitoba (CEM) strongly supports the City of Winnipeg's decision to categorize event recycling on City-owned properties as a Universal Service funded through the existing Waste Management Fee.

This motion represents a practical and forward-looking step toward achieving the goals of *OurWinnipeg 2045*, the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan, and the City's broader sustainability, waste reduction, and circular economy objectives. By ensuring that recycling services are consistently available at festivals, community gatherings, sporting events, and other public activities held on City property, Winnipeg can significantly reduce the amount of recyclable material sent to landfill while making waste diversion a standard feature of public events.

Event recycling supports climate action by reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the extraction, production, and disposal of materials, while advancing responsible resource management and environmental stewardship. It also helps foster a culture of sustainability by making it easier for residents and visitors to participate in recycling and waste reduction efforts during everyday community activities.

As an organization that has long advocated for stronger community-based environmental action, CEM views this initiative as an impactful demonstration of embedding sustainability into municipal operations and public services in alignment with the City's strategic plans. Treating event recycling as a Universal Service establishes consistent standards, guarantees equitable access, removes financial and logistical barriers for event organizers, and ensures environmental responsibility is upheld across the entire community - not left to the limitations of individual event budgets or capacity.

CEM was pleased to initiate and champion this proposal and commends City Council, the Executive Policy Committee, and the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment for recognizing the environmental, social, and economic benefits of this approach.

We strongly urge the City to build on this decision through expanded waste diversion, strengthened public education, increased composting opportunities, and other measures that support a cleaner, more resilient, and climate-friendly Winnipeg.

This decision demonstrates how relatively small operational changes can contribute meaningfully to the implementation of Winnipeg's long-term sustainability and climate commitments while improving environmental outcomes for current and future generations.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT – MANITOBA (CEM), INC. (Website: <https://ceminc.org/>)

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