



Water and Waste Department • Service des eaux et des déchets

**Waste and Diversion Advisory Committee (WDAC)
Meeting #6 Notes**

Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 4:45 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex, 999 Sargent Avenue

Attendees:	Talatu Shokpeka	Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba
	William Dowie	Green Action Centre
	Jim Ferguson	Green Manitoba
	Greg Cherwonick	Manitoba Housing and Community Development
	Vinh Huynh	Winnipeg School Division
	Marieke Brunelli	Spence Neighbourhood Association (alternate)
	Lindsay Mierau	City of Winnipeg
	Randy Park	City of Winnipeg
	Darcy Strandberg	City of Winnipeg
	Justin Lee	City of Winnipeg
	Michelle Kuly Holland	Facilitator, First Person Strategies
	Lise Fenton	Note taker, First Person Strategies
	Dwayne Capon	Citizen Representative
	Richard Sawchuk	Citizen Representative
	Tanya Suderman	Citizen Representative

Regrets:	Melissa Dupuis	Citizen Representative
	Mario Lopes	Professional Property Managers Association
	Brandy Bobier	Citizen Representative

Agenda:

1. Session opening, welcome
2. Committee & member updates (roundtable)
3. Current projects
4. New projects – multi-family waste diversion strategy
5. Committee business
6. Session closing, next steps

Summary:

The sixth meeting of the Waste Diversion Advisory Committee (WDAC) was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was:

- To share information and gather input on the City's multi-family waste diversion strategy
- To update the committee on the status of City projects including organic waste diversion
- To review regular and new committee business as well as receive new updates from committee members

The meeting began with a welcome from the meeting facilitator and introductions of members in attendance. Changes in committee membership were shared with the group. These included the departure of Lindsay Storie, the transition of Tanya Suderman to a citizen representative, and the addition of David Heinrichs as

the new representative for Spence Neighbourhood Association. The committee purpose, agenda, and participation guidelines were reviewed.

Members of the committee were asked to share their objectives for the meeting, with a majority of members expressing their desire to receive an update on organic waste diversion.

The City gave a presentation to update the committee on city projects. Included was information on the allocation of the waste diversion fee, which was a question that had been raised at a previous meeting. Also included was an update on the status of the organics diversion program, including feedback from city council, and the timeline for broader public consultations.

The City also provided a presentation on multi-family diversion, which included background information on the current status of waste diversion in multi-family units, as well as the anticipated future growth in the number of multi-family units. Per capita, multi-family units have a much lower rate of recycling than single-family homes. Challenges identified included physical space limitations, particularly for older buildings, lack of convenience of recycling, and a lack of education.

First Person Strategies gave a presentation on the public engagement strategy for the multi-family diversion project, which included who to engage, ways to engage, and a timeline for the engagement. A list of questions raised and feedback provided in the meeting is attached as **Appendix A**.

The group was asked to brainstorm what they thought would be important to Winnipeggers, and what might make recycling more convenient. Handouts were provided to guide a brainstorming exercise, and the committee was divided into three groups. Each group was asked to consider one of three topics related to public engagement:

1. Goals and objectives for multi-family diversion
2. Stakeholders to engage
3. Planning for a multi-family diversion subcommittee

Results of the brainstorming session are in **Appendix B**.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Outstanding action item (Feb 2016):** The City committed to share a pie chart showing cost breakdown of the Waste Diversion Fee at the next WDAC meeting, in response to the following question from previous meeting: "If people are paying \$55/year as a waste management levy, how much of the levy will be going to recycling and organics diversion?"

Response:

The City provided the requested information as part of its presentation to the committee.

2. **Outstanding action item (Feb 2016):** At the last WDAC meeting, committee members requested information about diverting waste at the source ("reverse triangle" concept) as this practice remains an important area to focus on and learn more about – to achieve the goal of 50% waste reduction by 2020 in Winnipeg. Committee member Jim Ferguson agreed to identify information. *City to follow-up with Jim Ferguson to arrange for information to be shared at next WDAC meeting.*

Response: *The following information was provided:*

- National Zero Waste Council: <http://www.nzwc.ca/focus/food/Pages/default.aspx>
- UK Food Waste Policy: <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>
- US EPA Food Waste Reduction: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>
- UN Food Waste Program: <http://www.fao.org/save-food/en/>

3. **Outstanding action item (Feb 2016):** Committee members identified that terminology “food waste” used as part of the organics project has a different meaning in the food security context and discussed whether that terminology should be modified. Green Manitoba and Green Action Centre to consider terminology options and provide suggestions to City.

Response: *The following terminology was provided:*

Organic Waste: *California uses this term to include food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed with food waste*

Food Waste – *this means “food that is discarded or lost uneaten”. Food waste and loss covers all stages of production, processing, retailing, and consumption. The European Commission defines this as “Food lost from the food supply chain”; the EPA defines it as “Uneaten food and food preparation wastes from residences and commercial establishments...and industrial sources”*

- *Used by Food Matters Manitoba, United States government, United Nations Environment Program*

Food Leftovers – *used in Denmark*

Compostable Waste/Materials - *Used by City of Abbotsford, City of Orillia, Region of Durham, etc.*

Food Scraps – *this means “leftover food items that were not consumed that can be composted”*

- *Used by Compost Council of Canada, David Suzuki Foundation, City of Vancouver, Burnaby, Environmental Protection Agency (USA), Minnesota, etc.*
- *Variation: “Kitchen scraps”*

Summary: *The best terms seem to be Food Waste (for recognizeability), Food Scraps (to solve the issues with Food Waste prevention/food waste composting confusion), and potentially Organic or Compostable Waste (probably the broadest/most accurate term, but this may have issues with name recognition amongst the public).*

4. **New action item: City of Winnipeg** to share online information on 4R depots.
5. **New action item: Jim Ferguson** to provide information to the committee on a pilot project done in a seniors apartment in the Elmwood area.
6. **Standing action item: Facilitator** will share the meeting notes and upcoming meeting dates with WDAC committee members.

Appendix A – Questions and Feedback from Presentations on Current City Projects and Multi-family Diversion.

Current Projects

Group asked questions and provided feedback on the breakdown of the waste diversion fee, as well as status updates on city projects including the organics diversion program.

- How much revenue is generated by the waste diversion fee?
- What are 4R depots and where are they located?
- Wasn't a broader public consultation done as part of the Garbage and Recycling Master Plan?
- Are industrial, commercial, and institutional waste streams included in the City's 50% waste diversion goal?
- Participant noted that institutions like colleges are looking for ways to divert more organics.
- Has a broader plan for public consultation been developed? What is the timeline for that consultation to occur?

Multi-family Diversion

Group asked questions and provided feedback on the current status and challenges related to multi-family diversion, as well as the public engagement strategy.

- Are residents of multi-family units currently paying the waste diversion fee that is charged to single-family homes?
- Is the composition of garbage collected from multi-family buildings consistent with single family homes?
- What are the demographics of people living in multi-family units?
- Will the public engagement process include decision makers?
- When discussing construction guidelines, will both new development and renovations be considered?
- Where does the funding for the public engagement on multi-family diversion come from?

Appendix B

Group Brainstorming Session

What will be important to Winnipeggers? How can we make recycling more convenient?

- Accessibility Act, equitable legislation and accessibility more generally
- Formula for multi-family diversion and fees for waste diversion, including the possibility of a prorated formula
- Low literacy and education – e.g. a flyer might not be effective. Could look at other education methods, such as presentations.
- Glossy posters
- Lessons learned from pilot with seniors apartment building in Elmwood area
- Producer responsibility organizations, and where they might fit in to this process

Brainstorming Exercise

Goals and objectives

- Knowing human nature collectively and individually
- Timely pickup is important. Things like odours and overflowing bins are noticeable, and can discourage the public from participating.
- Show the diversion rate so there is a tangible understanding of what improvement can be made
- Fair and equal access to service (e.g. wheelchair access can be limited by bin height)
- Build with the future in mind to accommodate growing populations
- Financial sustainability. Although there is no cost right now to multi-family units, we should look at the indirect costs within rent and condo fees
- Cost transparency. Make it obvious what you can expect, even though you don't pay directly
- Education/promotion should be multifaceted and ongoing with a strong rollout

Stakeholders

- Residents: Condo, rental, and low income. Concerns: Smell, frequency of pickup, wasps and flies, size and containment, lids
- Building owners. Concerns: Safe access for pickup, increased abandoned waste, cost – would it be passed on as part of rent?
- Police and Fire. Concerns: Arson, safety
- Council, as well as the provincial and federal governments: Will they buy in to goal of 50% diversion?
- City of Winnipeg: implementation, education, logistics

Subcommittee planning

- Workload for committee members who might sit on a subcommittee was a concern, and ensuring the subcommittee's work/terms of reference wouldn't be redundant.
- If created, felt it should include representatives from groups such as MB Housing, property owners, seniors, neighbourhood groups, and citizens.