

## 17 comments on "The Future of Brady Road Landfill"



1. Mike Di Ianni says:

October 24, 2011 at 9:09 am

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I believe that a Rec park is the best solution for Brady landfill and should include a ski and snowboard hill in the wintertime so that our children and adults have a place close to home to enjoy the outdoors

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2. Joe Nation says:

October 24, 2011 at 11:08 pm

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Why is it always the northend? As soon as there is a problem even down to garbage disposal there is comments about the northend. I haul garbage daily and i see bins and yards that are full all over the city.. Maybe the northend's garbage problem would be solved if the city would have more pick up days. But then again who am i to talk i'm just the owner of "First Nation Sensation Moving & Hauling". What do i know i live downtown!

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3. Ted Jaworski says:

October 25, 2011 at 6:54 am

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Count the aluminum cans! Environmental alright! What is this from Honest Vandal?

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4. Steve says:

October 25, 2011 at 8:50 am

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Instead of big centralized trucks moving all that organic waste around it would be much more efficient to start composting programs in schools and community clubs, get people to compost in their backyards, put leaf mulch back into their flowerbeds. I shouldn't have to pay taxes to support a

big heavy inefficient approach that involves huge trucks driving all over the city and wearing down the infrastructure. You can't be serious about community gardens at the landfill, it stinks, it's not easily accessible, who knows what's in the soil. This plan seems to take the current system and try to tweek it using buzz words and 90s approaches. Winnipeg would benefit much more from engaging and educating citizens directly about returning organics to the soil. I've managed to do so by having my neighbors give me their organic waste and wouldn't be surprised if I am net 50-75 bags per year more than our household throws out, all in one small backyard, no tax money or required.

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

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October 26, 2011 at 2:02 pm

Your suggestion of backyard and community-based composting would be an ideal solution for dealing with organics and we commend your personal efforts in this regard. However, we are not aware of any large cities with significant organics diversion that rely solely on this means of composting. We certainly would like to see this happen and will be continuing to promote composting at source, but believe that curbside collection and centralized composting will be required to achieve the magnitude of diversion targeted under our master plan. Furthermore, our public consultations over the past year indicate that there is public support for our approach.

If community gardens were to be located at the Brady Landfill, they would be located on natural soils separate from the actual landfill operation. However, this is just an idea at this point and the purpose of floating this idea is to get feedback such as yours.

We hope that this response answers your questions and thank you for your comments.

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• **Aaron** says:

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October 28, 2011 at 1:47 pm

The extra costs of organics collection should be recovered by decreasing the frequency of collection. If the 240L bin can last a week now it should be able to last 2 weeks once we hit 50% diversion.

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5. Jonathan Greene says:

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October 25, 2011 at 9:13 pm

Wow, I can't believe nobody has commented. Well, a lot of the ideas are good though I don't know if the best place for a sports field is right beside the garbage pile.

I figured somebody would say something about the \$50 fee!

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6. Govind Thawani says:

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October 26, 2011 at 7:56 pm

This site is too close to residents and should be shut down and new facility should be located North of the city where development will not approach for 50 years.

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

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November 2, 2011 at 11:09 am

When the Brady site opened in 1973, it was remote from residents. In 1985, when the decision was made for Brady to be the only City-operated active landfill, it was still relatively remote from residents. Since that time residential developments have continued to move closer to Brady. With the planned changes at Brady, the garbage burial operation will progressively move further from residential developments and with more waste diversion, smaller operating areas and improved operations will be implemented. These changes will minimize impacts from the operation on residents.

Brady is located on an ideal site for an environmental and waste containment standpoint. The study leading up to the 1985 decision was only able to identify one potential site to the north within a reasonable haul distance. This site was not recommended since the soil and groundwater conditions required for a landfill were inferior to Brady and it was located outside of the City of Winnipeg proper.

Thanks for your comments.

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7. **Rach** says:

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October 27, 2011 at 12:19 pm

I like the idea of a recreational area and wetlands. I can't imagine anyone paying \$500000-1M for the new homes going up in Waverly West want to look out of their windows and have a dump for their view! Does anyone know when this project is to be completed? I live by the dump so I'm pretty excited to see the changes!

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

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November 2, 2011 at 11:01 am

The present landfilling operation will only be visible to nearby residents for about another 5 years. Within this time, the operation will become more compact, berms (dykes) will be used to screen the operation, and landscaping of finished slopes will be underway. Also, operational improvements such as more frequent covering of waste and gull control will help to make the operation less obvious.

There is sufficient capacity at Brady for at least 100 years. In spite of this, the objective is to continuously work towards reducing garbage burial requirements. Council's recent approval of the garbage and recycling master plan is a commitment to this direction.

Thanks for your comments.

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8. **Nicole** says:

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October 30, 2011 at 3:42 pm

The Brady Road Landfill site is too close to the new Waverly West development, Richmond West and St. Norbert. This year the garbage smell travelled to these neighbourhoods on a regular basis. I am not sure what the independent consultants were measuring when they say "Instances of odour are short-lived and not routine". Maybe they only spent a couple days in the area but as a resident who lives in the surrounding neighbourhood the smell seemed to be a weekly problem.

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I think any garbage disposal site should be a lot further from residential neighbourhoods.

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- **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

[November 2, 2011 at 11:15 am](#)

When the Brady site opened in 1973, it was remote from residents. In 1985, when the decision was made for Brady to be the only City-operated active landfill, it was still relatively remote from residents. Since that time residential developments have continued to move closer to Brady. With the planned changes at Brady, the garbage burial operation will progressively move further from residential developments and with more waste diversion, smaller operating areas and improved operations will be implemented. Improved odour control is a key focus in the improvements at Brady.

Currently we are carrying out a new method of covering the waste on a frequent basis that so far is proving to be effective in controlling odour. There are also upcoming changes that will help to control odours, including:

- Monitoring odours at the perimeter of the site on a regular basis, especially under adverse wind conditions to identify any significant odours and to allow for early action to mitigate the odours at the source
- Moving towards one smaller operating area which will result in less exposed garbage
- Moving the future operation further south
- Installing a landfill gas collection and flaring system
- Composting some of the more odour producing organics such as kitchen waste organics and biosolids under controlled conditions,

We hope that this answers your questions and thanks for your comments.

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9. **Lisa** says:

[November 3, 2011 at 2:02 pm](#)

I am a recent resident of the new Waverley West development and we paid a sizeable sum of money for our brand new home. I was assured time and time again by the Ladco Developers, as well as my builder, that living close to Brady Landfill would not be a problem when we built our

home. I was told the landfill would be moving further south next year and that there were no reported odours from residents in the area. This summer we could smell landfill odour on a weekly basis and on occasion we had to move our activities inside because the smell became too strong. Our property taxes have recently been assessed at \$6,000 per year, so I would hope that for all the property taxes we are paying the city will do whatever it takes to eliminate the odour, reduce methane gas emissions for our general health and the environment, and obstruct the view of the landfill. I love the area we live in due to its proximity to our everyday activities and our new neighbours are wonderful, the landfill is our only concern at this time. I am curious to know why the landfill smell is worst in the evening? Is a lot of garbage buried at this time?

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

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[November 9, 2011 at 10:56 am](#)

With the planned changes at Brady, the garbage burial operation will progressively move further from residential developments and with more waste diversion, smaller operating areas and improved operations will be implemented. The present landfilling operation will only be visible to nearby residents for about another 5 years. Within this time the operation will become more compact, berms (dykes) will be used to screen the operation and landscaping of finished slopes will be underway. Also, operational improvements including more frequent covering of waste and gull control will help to make the operation less obvious.

Improved odour control is a key focus in the improvements at Brady. Currently we are carrying out a new method of covering the waste on a frequent basis that so far is proving to be effective in controlling odour. Furthermore, there are upcoming changes that will help to control odours, including the following:

- Monitoring odours at the perimeter of the site on a regular basis, especially under adverse wind conditions to identify any significant odours and to allow for early action to mitigate the odours at the source
  - Moving towards one smaller operating area which will result in less exposed garbage
  - Moving the future operation further south
  - Installing a landfill gas collection and flaring system
  - Composting under controlled conditions, some of the more odour producing organics such as kitchen waste organics and biosolids
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We are not exactly sure why the landfill odour would be worst in the evening. This is not because more garbage is being buried at this time, but may be related to cover operations being completed at the end of the work day and odours not being dissipated until the cover is completely in place. In any event the changes referred to earlier should improve this situation.

We hope that this answers your questions and thanks for your comments.

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10. **Paul Moeckel** says:

[November 3, 2011 at 7:51 pm](#)

Brad Road is spewing garbage and litter throughout the entire area. Plastic bags are blowing across farm fields for miles, and now can be seen as far away as Oak Bluff. The highway is lined with trash that falls off trucks enroute to the dump. The fences along the dump do nothing to stop light materials from being blown away. It is a disgusting eyesore, especially in this day and age. Obviously no realistic thought given to future planning of the city. The smell that will engulf the new residents of the developments moving closer, will cause an outrage among the new home buyers, who aren't made aware of the problem, as it certainly is not a selling feature. When the wind blows from the south, life in suburbia is going to be unbearable. Also, what about ground water issues from the dump... the La Salle and Red River are close by. What about the old dump sites east of Brady Road and along Cadboro Road, that have been and will be excavated to make room for the new developments. The Stench of the water coming out of the Cadboro Road site was unbelievable... what was in that water.. and what are the ramifications of possible contaminated ground water and sump pits and pumps spewing out the seepage into the yards and streets of the new area? What are the findings of any testing done before development went ahead ?

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

[November 9, 2011 at 10:22 am](#)

When the Brady site opened in 1973, it was remote from residents. In 1985, when the decision was made to have only one landfill located at Brady, it was still relatively remote from residents. Since that time residential developments have continued to move closer to Brady. With the planned changes at Brady, the garbage burial operation will progressively move further from residential developments and with more waste diversion, smaller operating areas and improved operations

will be implemented. Improved odour and litter control are key improvements being implemented at Brady.

Regarding groundwater, the deep clay soils at this site provide effective containment of harmful substances.

Regarding the former landfill on Cadboro Road that is being excavated, the consultant for the developer advises that:

-The former landfill is currently being fully excavated and removed to Brady Road Landfill to rehabilitate the site to meet environmental quality guidelines and be dedicated as a green space.

-Water currently being managed on-site is leachate, a liquid that is found within landfilled waste as a product of water mixing with decomposing waste. Environmental investigations of the site were undertaken prior to excavation and continue to-date. As part of those investigations, site water that does not meet regulated guidelines is sent to the North End Water Pollution Control Centre for treatment.

-Removal of the landfill will be completed in 2012. As the site is located in thick clay and the waste source is being completely removed, the possibility of contaminants seeping out of the site is remote.

We hope that this answers your questions and thanks for your comments.

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### 19 comments on “The Garbage & Recycling Master Plan – Consultant’s Draft Report”



1. Crystal says:

[August 30, 2011 at 4:53 pm](#)

Gimme a break, we pay enough bills to the city in water, and property taxes. I don't want to have to pay anymore. I have no problem with the way things are

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2. Louis says:

[August 30, 2011 at 4:57 pm](#)

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Well, if that's what you heard, you weren't listening to me. I like the garbage collection the way it's done now with the men and the truck.

Sometimes you hear what you want to hear and pretend you were listening.

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3. **Herb** says:

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August 30, 2011 at 5:20 pm

We cant continue to use resources and not reduce, re use or recycle unwanted materials or packaging etc. it is just wasteful and as reported many other negatives. This IS CHANGE and change is not easy—like wearing seatbelts and the first time the Blue Box was introduced. As populations expand these problems get worse. Right now we divert 15%, sorry but that is pitiful. We can do much better Good work City!

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4. **Tim** says:

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August 30, 2011 at 10:21 pm

2014 for organic waste. Wow. Has anyone at city hall seen the movie "An inconvenient Truth"?

Is is not possible to put out a tendering notice now? There are many small businesses that would probably appreciate the opportunity to collect organic waste from a few neighborhoods on a smale scale basis.

Put out tenders on a few neighborhoods and let's get started now. If you don't get any responses from a tender ad, then wait til 2014 to get city resources in place. This is a good opportunity to create a "green business" sector so we don't have to ship our garbage elsewhere.

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

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August 31, 2011 at 11:54 am

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Thanks for your question Tim. The year 2014 is being proposed for a curbside organics trial program because it allows for the other major city-wide diversion programs and infrastructure, such as an enhanced composting area at the landfill, to be implemented first.

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5. denise says:

August 30, 2011 at 10:51 pm

I suspect changing Brady landfill to their new name will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars...literature signs, etc. I say leave the name, use the money and fix the roads. Like someone mentioned I am content enough with keeping my own garbage bins and don't want to spend more money of "extra" garbage bags to be taken away. When you live in mature treed area, you will have plenty more bags in the fall and spring than new developments and we already pay enough for school taxes etc and established roads and lanes that are in DIRE need of fixing.

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6. Raymond Koe says:

August 31, 2011 at 8:09 am

I strongly suggest that the City of Winnipeg implement a test study for refunding of aluminum cans and plastic beverage containers. This would give the City a somewhat better idea of public participation.

In my travels around this city, I see many of the recycleble items, simply left on the streets and sidewalks. And many times, within mere feet of a recycling bin.

I am very sure, if the City were to do a test evaluation of giving refunds for above mentioned items, the results would be quite favorable.

If Saskatchewan can have such a plan in place, why can't the City of Winnipeg at least try to do the same.

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

August 31, 2011 at 11:28 am

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The system in Saskatchewan uses a combination of a non-refundable container fee and deposit. For example, a 355ml aluminum soda can has a 5 cent non-refundable fee and a 10 cent refundable deposit (<http://www.sarcsarcan.ca/sarcan/beverage/index.php>).

Jurisdictions which have a container deposit system generally have high return rates, but their ability to collect other materials in a curbside recycling program is limited without some sort of additional fee for service.

Here is some additional information: <http://garbage.speakupwinnipeg.com/2011/04/what-i...>

Thanks for your suggestion and let us know if you have any more questions.

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7. Lorna says:

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August 31, 2011 at 9:43 am

Looks to me like most of the important issues are addressed, and it looks pretty good to me in most respects. I think the time lines are reasonable – jumping in on parts of of it without a coherent and accepted plan will only lead to more of the ad hoc crap we currently enjoy. But a garbage levy? I'm willing to pay for the service, but let's call it what it is, a city service that should be supported by property taxes. We have had a "tax freeze" for far too long while city services get funded by special levies that allow the mayor and council to maintain the fiction that there has not been an increase in the cost of home ownership aka property taxes.

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8. Kim says:

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August 31, 2011 at 11:52 am

This is a good summary of the consultations that have been held. The plan, on its surface is good — I haven't read the nitty-gritty yet. I have no problem paying more for the enhanced service because we really need a good system that can divert waste rather than burying it. I am one of the people that backyard compost and put out a couple of grocery bag-sized compostable bags per week. If anything, I should be angry about the proposed user-fee, but I'm not. I just wish everyone could see the benefits of the new system, but people in this town have issues with change. Too bad about that. That's why we're last in just about everything. I'd rather be a leader.

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9.  Martha says:

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August 31, 2011 at 5:35 pm

We (north of the river) already have this system for garbage collection. I was initially against the carts thinking that they would take up too much room in my garage and would be heavy to move. However, they don't seem to take up much more room than one can but they DO seem to HOLD an enormous amount. And in fact they are very easy to roll to the curb, which is why I really like them. It's so much easier to get to the curb in winter

My only complaint was the lack of an option for occasional pick-up of additional waste (like at Christmas). I didn't have need for this often enough to make it worthwhile getting a second cart. This proposed system of a \$5 charge for three additional cans seems very reasonable. I presume you mean the old type of cans, so I won't have to buy more carts?

I am very much looking forward to the organic waste pick-up coming on-stream. Home composting does not make sense for me for various reasons.

I am also very glad to see in increase in the frequency of yard waste pick-ups. Spring and fall was not enough.

I don't think it matters much to me which way you fund it. Logically, it should be through an increase in property taxes which is long overdue, but if that won't fly, the \$50 a year charge is acceptable.

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•  SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

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September 1, 2011 at 2:06 pm

Hi Martha, the intent of the excess waste pickup is to handle the occasional extra garbage bag(s). The recommendations being considered would not require an additional cart. Thanks for your question.

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10.  Jose Hemanz says:

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August 31, 2011 at 7:39 pm

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It's \$50 now, in 5 years \$100, how much in 10 years if it gets started..???

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11. John S. says:

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September 8, 2011 at 2:45 pm

I am curious what specific advantages it is imagined there will be to replacing the existing "autobin" (aka dumpster) system with garbage trolleys, especially in areas with significant numbers of multi-family houses. Dumpsters require fewer stops and only a single pass of the truck (rather than one for each side of the alley), while eliminating the problem of storing garbage (and trolleys) on residential property. Trolleys can be tagged or lit on fire as easily as a dumpster. The suggestion that it would be more "fair" if everyone were on the same system is spurious – policy is about providing cost-effective services to residents, not satisfying the hobgoblins of planners' little minds. The only conceivable advantage would be in "trackability", which is no advantage at all if the system is paid for through general revenue or a blanket, uniform "user fee."

And a word on "consultants." If you have a plan, then propose it and spare us this rigamorage of paying someone to cook up an idea you have already come up with. I'm not paying Stantec to pick up my garbage — I'm paying you.

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

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September 9, 2011 at 11:13 am

John, thank you for your comments and questions.

The communal AutoBin system is outdated, and Winnipeg is one of the last remaining Canadian cities using them. Replacement costs are high as the trucks and containers are no longer readily manufactured.

The recommendations primarily affect single-family homes and smaller multi-family units which could be serviced by the automated carts. Larger multi-family units will continue with their existing service at this time.

Some other challenges with AutoBins are that there are no limits to the amount of garbage that can be placed in them, and they are targets for illegal dumping and arson. The per household cost of

garbage service is higher and recycling participation is typically lower in AutoBin areas compared to the rest of the city.

Carts are becoming the industry standard for garbage collection in North America because they have been shown to:

- Increase participation in recycling, composting and other diversion programs
- Reduce litter
- Reduce worker injuries
- Reduce illegal dumping and arson

As the City currently has 5 different methods for residential garbage collection, transitioning to uniform garbage collection will help to provide an equal level of service and make the system easier to administrate.

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12. **Cecile** says:

[September 13, 2011 at 10:35 pm](#)

You are NOT listening to Winnipeg taxpayers. We do NOT want automated bins or blue boxes. There is no space on my lot for these monstrosities and we will NOT use them. Why do a study just to push through your initial ideas. What a waste of taxpayer dollars!

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13. **Gordon** says:

[September 14, 2011 at 10:13 am](#)

The only objection I have to the new auto bins is that they are far too big. It would take us 2-3 weeks to fill one in winter and twice that in summer because we recycle and compost.

I understand that each bin has a chip to identify it with a particular property. It would be best to charge each property for each time that the bin is emptied. The technology is available and it should be included in the system upgrade.

This would be more equitable for the whole community. Those with more garbage should pay more. Those who don't need the huge weekly pickup should pay less. Those who dump garbage in other peoples' bins should be prosecuted.

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14.  ric says:

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September 19, 2011 at 1:31 pm

The north end will become a dumping ground cause the crap will pile up now with this system.

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•  ric says:

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September 19, 2011 at 1:39 pm

The poor wont pay for extra bins and wont pay to get bigger stuff picked up like mattresses for example so it will just end up in backyards and alleys.

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#### 5 comments on “A Curbside Organics Program for Winnipeg”

1.  Peter says:

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April 10, 2011 at 10:08 am

A potential additional benefit, with anaerobic composting, is the production of methane gas, which could be used for fueling garbage trucks (as in Toronto) or space heating of buildings in the new Brady industrial park or injection into the natural gas mains as is done in several locations.

The focus here is on residential organics, but there must be a huge volume from restaurants, grocers, and food processors. In addition there is the city's residual biosolids from sewage treatment. Why don't we see a comprehensive plan for treatment of all these waste streams? Presumably you won't have separate facilities for, say, restaurant waste and home kitchen waste.

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•  SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

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April 14, 2011 at 1:59 pm

Peter, the focus is currently on residential, but we are developing strategies for the commercial sector. What facilities for composting organic waste will look like in the future are still to be

determined. The plan looks at our waste management over the next 20 years, so all collection, disposal and processing will need to accommodate future outputs.

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2. Peter says:

April 10, 2011 at 11:18 am

On the collection side, presumably the weekly collection is to address odour problems. These are not an issue for bins kept outside in the winter months, so bi-weekly collection alternating with bi-weekly dry garbage pickup should be sufficient.

Of course curbside organic pickup should not replace home composting for those able to do it. The city should continue to promote home composting of kitchen waste as the preferable organic solution.

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3. Rose Russo says:

April 10, 2011 at 5:56 pm

I have noticed since the curbside garbage pickup more garbage which have flown of the truck or bins onto the streets, yards and boulevards. Either people are not packaging or bagging the garbage properly or the fact that they have no follow up sanitation workers to pick up the fall out is part of this disgusting problem. As a result our city is looking like a garbage dump or worse like a third world country. I think some kind of notice should be given and perhaps a fine to those homeowners who do not contain their garbage properly. This also should apply to blue boxes. Either that or put back at least 1 sanitation worker to ride the truck to pick up the mess.

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4. Holly says:

May 17, 2011 at 1:09 am

Hey Peter, just wondering what the benefit of home composting is over curbside organic pickup?

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**5 comments on “What is a Community Depot?”**



1. Peter says:

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April 10, 2011 at 10:23 am

The problem with a depot at Brady only or with, say, 2 or 3 around the city is that people have to make extra trips by truck or car to recycle items and that in turn raises GHG emissions. That may be unavoidable with larger volumes of renovation waste, but something closer to home or to shopping is needed for other items.

The city needs to collaborate with the various stewards currently setting up recycling programs under provincial regulation to establish smaller depots at many more locations – say at every major shopping centre in the city. Currently a number of retailers take back items they sell – e.g. ink cartridges at Staples and fluorescent lights at Home Depot. These take-back options need to be expanded for items that can't be recycled in the blue box.

A particular peeve of mine is that valuable metals from broken appliances, home renovation projects, etc. are not collected in the blue box while much less valuable materials, such as glass jars, are collected. Every building supply store should have a bin to collect these items. The city needs to work with stewards and retailers to make this happen.

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

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April 14, 2011 at 2:00 pm

The plan to set up depots at Brady Rd and potentially other locations does not exclude additional depots within the city. The goal is to implement facilities which will have the greatest impact. Facilities within the city require finding sufficient space, being convenient and accessible, and being accepted by the community. A depot at Brady would receive the existing volume of materials dropped off at the landfill directly, thus there is a huge potential for diversion.

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2. Peter says:

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April 10, 2011 at 10:43 am

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One additional point is that under the provincial policy of extended producer responsibility (EPR), it is the product stewards (manufacturers and distributors) who should be responsible for recycling the materials and packaging they sell. One example is Multi Material Stewardship Manitoba (responsible for packaging and paper products), which subsidizes 80% of blue box costs. The city needs to systematically identify all products and packaging ending up in the waste stream and work with the province to see that EPR principles apply and the costs of recycling (including depots) are borne by the producers rather than the taxpayers. This cost of business may be reflected in prices of consumer goods, but for competitive reasons will incent producer stewards to create efficient recycling systems. It is appropriate that the costs are borne by the producers and consumers of various goods on the market rather than subsidized from taxes. However until that happens, the city may need to invest in recycling infrastructure while also negotiating with the province and producers to shift the costs where they belong.

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3. **Garth** says:

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[April 20, 2011 at 9:06 am](#)

We used to most of this service for FREE. FREE to me and FREE to the city of Winnipeg.

In St. James, before the days of rolling garbage carts, 2 guys in a old truck used to drive around the neighborhood before garbage day and pick up anything they could either fix up or sell as scrap. Old bikes, computers, TVs, furniture, lumber, renovation waste, yes even our kitchen sink (literally) found its way onto their truck.

This was BEFORE the days of the rolling cart, because now that we aren't allowed to put those items at the curb the guys in the truck don't come around anymore (living off of welfare now?). All this material now makes its way to the dump one way or another (mostly illegally by being dumped at the civic centre, then the city loads it into a truck and dumps it at Brady, at great expense to the city).

So the city wants to replace the 2 guys in a beatup old truck with community depots that cost \$1-\$2 million to build and \$500,000 annually to operate, EACH! Laughable. So now I have to pack everything up in my vehicle, burn gas and produce greenhouse gases to make a trip to the depot. And what are the chances that the city workers will do as good of a job re-purposing these materials when their next meal doesn't depend on their success? Right.

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You aren't saving money and you aren't saving the environment. The city and hired consultants just never got close enough to the ground to realize how good they had it before – FREE services provided by your own citizens, now being replaced by a multi-million \$ service. The downhill slide all started with those rolling garbage carts, and it keeps on rolling downhill.

(A local place to drop off hazardous and electronic waste would however be nice, if the price was right.)

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4. **Garth** says:

[May 22, 2011 at 11:50 am](#)

I see the city has now hired a private security firm, Avion Services, to watch St. James residents drop off recycling and yard waste. Why? Because since the rolling carts were forced upon the residents over a year ago, they've had NO OPTIONS for disposing of bulky items or that periodic extra bag of extra garbage that doesn't fit in the cart, so the civic center became their unofficial waste transfer station, until last week.

How much money are those rolling carts saving us again? What's the cost to me, in time and money, and the environmental cost of making a trip to the Brady landfill to dump off an extra bag of garbage or some bulky item like an old chair or bike?

Perhaps these Community Depots should have been in place BEFORE the rolling carts. At least it would have made the best of a bad situation, where the city spends millions replacing the free labour previously provided by private enterprise which used to pick up these bulky re-usable items. The way it stands now, we have the worst of a bad situation.

Be prepared for your citizens to find more creative ways of disposing of bulky items. I already saw an old TV nicely placed on the gravel road by the community gardens. Before the rolling carts, I NEVER saw illegal dumping in the neighborhood, even at the civic center. Now it is common. Again, just how much money are we saving?

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#### **4 comments on "Recycling: What do we collect and where does it go?"**



1. **Jonathan** says:

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April 6, 2011 at 11:35 am

How would apartments move to an automated bin service for recycling and garbage. Would every unit have a rolling bin they would put out, or would they have to keep the autobins?

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

April 6, 2011 at 1:44 pm

Hi Jonathan, we are still working on developing strategies for multi-family garbage, recycling and organics. Apartments and condos come in all shapes and sizes so the type of service each unit would receive would depend on the circumstances.

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2. **Peter** says:

April 10, 2011 at 2:16 pm

Metals, in addition to the beverage containers you currently collect, all meet your 3 criteria:

- there is a market,
- the market can accept the volume of material, and
- it makes environmental and financial sense to recycle that item.

Moreover, Gerdau Ameristeel in Selkirk is a local industry that produces steel products from the scrap it purchases.

So why doesn't the city collect scrap metal in the blue box? Currently one must drive to a scrap dealer to get rid of the stuff, which entails extra driving and is not worthwhile for small household quantities.

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

April 14, 2011 at 2:03 pm

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Scrap metal is not currently collected in the blue box because the materials recovery facility is designed to handle containers, not durable metal goods.

There is currently a scrap metal drop off area at Brady Road Landfill and that material is diverted.

Thank you for your comments and this is something that we can take into consideration for the plan.

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#### 4 comments on "Where does all our garbage come from?"



1. PMC says:

March 24, 2011 at 9:58 pm

Your remark, "does not have access to the amount of waste hauled by private companies" is not accurate. At the Brady Road Landfill there's a weigh scale. Each and every vehicle has to be weighed, no exceptions. Each vehicle pays a fee to leave their waste behind. Therefore, it is known exactly how much waste is deposited by non resident and resident transportation.

The comment I would like to contribute is one that was suggested to me by some more seasoned folks. Stop the packaging industry in their tracks. The cardboard boxes, the plastic bags, and all other deposable materials have to stopped from being produced. Europe has had an entirely different approach for over 40 years! Why reinvent the wheel? Use the same ways that work very well thank you kindly. For example, each family or single person or company or corporation has its own durable packaging that is used about 1,000 times before being replaced. This personal packaging is filled, emptied, cleaned up and the cycle continues over and over again. Why search for candlelight when there's street lights every 300 feet? Use a proven and economical system instead of asking every Tom, Diana and Harley.

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

March 28, 2011 at 9:20 am

Yes, we do have access to the amount of garbage hauled to Brady Landfill, but there are two other landfills in the region that are used by private waste haulers. We do not have access to the information at the private landfills.

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• **laya** says:

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June 9, 2011 at 8:21 pm

this whole speak up winnipeg website is just a pile of crap like what at the landfill!!!!

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2. **Peter** says:

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April 10, 2011 at 3:46 pm

I agree with the remark above and elsewhere that expert research and analysis and best practices are needed to guide solutions. You already have a good statement of the vision we'd like to see fulfilled. Now it's up to Stantec and other experts to do the waste stream analysis – not only for Brady but elsewhere in the city and capital region – and then systematically identify the different components and approximate volumes of different materials in the waste stream and potential ways of processing and utilizing them. Then you need to focus in material-specific ways on what is required to reduce each item of waste and get the best use from it in cost-effective ways, taking into account external social and environmental costs. Then you need to identify appropriate incentives and policy instruments (e.g. landfill bans) to ensure these resources are diverted, used well, and, ideally create, local economic benefits.

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### 3 comments on “What does garbage and recycling cost us?”



1. **Peter** says:

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April 10, 2011 at 3:24 pm

1. MPSC no longer exists. MMSM now provides funding for recycling.
2. The WRARS levy and rebate now charges \$10/tonne for garbage, which you save when you recycle instead, and pays out the money collected to municipalities in proportion to the waste diverted. This \$10++/tonne difference between disposal and diversion does not appear in your calculations. One strategy to increase incentives for diversion is to get the province to increase the levy and payments.
3. The cost of garbage covers only operating costs, with zero value for the land. You need to factor in a land value as well, even if it doesn't appear among current expenses. One way to do this is to

estimate the replacement value for the land if you had to purchase an equivalent amount. Another way to think of it is what is the opportunity cost of using all this land as a dump rather than an industrial park. How much investment is the city foregoing under the current land-use?

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2. Peter says:

April 10, 2011 at 3:25 pm

4. Another cost that is not reckoned in is the (so far external) cost of the methane produced. What would it amount to if CO<sub>2</sub>e were valued at, say, \$50 or \$100/tonne? GHG emissions are a social cost even if they are not paid, through damages produced from climate change. Under a cap and trade regime, currently under review by the province, some actual payments will need to be made.

5. Recycling is treated as incremental costs on top of garbage collection and disposal. If, however, most discards could be diverted to organic composting and recycling, then dry garbage collection could be done every other week. These savings plus the WRARS levy and rebate should be treated as offsets to the costs of recycling and composting.

Recommendations: (1) Present a revised cost structure incorporating the items above, and (b) identify ways to recover additional costs for the recycling program from producers under extended producer responsibility (EPR). Recycling should end up at most zero net cost and preferably a profitable economic stimulus.

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3. Peter says:

April 10, 2011 at 10:31 pm

In addition to convenient alternatives for recycling and organics diversion, a graduated pay-as-you-throw model for garbage collection is needed. Toronto provides an excellent example by making available 4 sizes of garbage cart ranging from one to 4 1/2 bag capacity and charging accordingly on a waste utility bill that could be combined with the current water and sewer bill. Also added to the bill is a credit for current costs now charged to the property bill. For the smallest sized container, the credit exceeds the garbage charge. See <http://gmf.fcm.ca/files/2010-SCC/Wednesday-Feb-10...>

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**One comment on “Phase 1 Wrap-up”**



1. Laya says:

March 17, 2011 at 9:22 am

Winnipeg needs to get the experts in here to get this program running. Too much talking about and not acting upon it.

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### 11 comments on “Options for Yard Waste Collection”



1. Lorna says:

March 15, 2011 at 7:43 pm

Two pickups of yard waste fall and spring assumes you don't garden nor mow nor have more than a tree or shrub or two in your yard, only prune in certain months regardless of the variability of weather and other conditions, own/drive a vehicle that will hold yard waste to take to a depot and are a fit adult but not a senior. Too limiting to be useful and discourages participation. The plan should ENCOURAGE recycling not create obstacles. Gardening is good for the environment and should be encouraged too. We have a mobile bin for mechanical dumping and the fall yard waste pickup twice last fall did not even begin to address the yard waste, even though we compost, plus it was not timed properly because there was a late fall. Lots of people garden here – the plan needs some knowledgeable horticultural input.



2. Tracie Perras says:

March 18, 2011 at 4:35 pm

I don't know about everyone else but my compostables would probably need a weekly pickup year round, if the bin is large enough like the size of Toronto's I could probably get by with every three weeks. We recently moved here from Calgary and they just introduced large blue recycling bins which are great mine was full every week but I was concerned that there was no thought to composting bins, this is the next largest percentage of (that I have to dispose of ) stuff that we can take out of the landfills and reduce the greenhouse gasses emitted and then have a wonderful composed dirt . I think people would compost more if the bins were introduced instead of composting

at home in their own composters. I believe that if we did these two things we would be a lot farther along reducing our impact on the earth and future Winnipeggers.

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3. Renald says:

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March 18, 2011 at 5:56 pm

Please start to refund us like all the other Provinces and you can make sure People will start to recycle,,!

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4. Tim Walker says:

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March 19, 2011 at 2:16 pm

Re: An organics program for Winnipeg "within 10 years"

Question:

If I put up a sign on my desk at work that said, "I intend to improve my diet within 10 years", do you think anyone would take me seriously? Would people say, "Wow, that guy is a really good role model and leader?"

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• Laya says:

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March 19, 2011 at 7:38 pm

I believe the city of Winnipeg needs to get with the times, hire the right people for this. get the experts, get a site and do it. They sure talk the talk but really haven't done walk the walk.

i agree with you Tim. You made such a huge point right there.

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

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March 21, 2011 at 12:01 pm

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@Tim,

The 10 year timeframe proposed in the plan is for full implementation and the time needed to reach the additional 20% diversion from an organics program. It doesn't necessarily mean that the plan would only start within 10 years.

If Winnipeggers indicated through this process that it is a priority to implement curbside organics collection as soon as possible (as it is to us), a start date for collection would likely be 18-24 months from approval. This time is needed to design and construct a facility to process organics from a weekly organics collection program.

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5. Erin Keating says:

March 21, 2011 at 2:38 am

Looking at those numbers, I definitely feel that the yard waste should be picked up every two weeks. The two week period will also allow people to get more used to the system whilst minimizing the chance of forgetting about pickup dates.

I am also very concerned about the idea of bringing in kitchen composting within 10 years. This seems outrageous considering we do not have to invent a process; we just need to follow cities that are successfully doing it already. In this "Global Economy" we speak of all too often we need to get much better at transferring knowledge, technologies, and systems instead of massive containers of plastic crap.

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6. V. Seib says:

March 27, 2011 at 3:31 pm

The automated rolling cart will not hold enough yard wastage from Charleswood large yards and many trees.

Every spring I rake up the leftover leaves my neighbor's trees have left on my yard over the winter and every fall I mulch the grass clippings and leaves from my large yard in Charleswood.

There is no way that 10 large lawn garb bags every spring and every fall will fit in the automated rolling cart and I should not have to purchase a pickup truck, just to haul yard wastage to a dropoff.

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- **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

[March 28, 2011 at 9:13 am](#)

The proposed yard waste collection would be manual collection, so you would not need to use your cart or take the yard waste to a depot. Thanks!

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7. **Gord Richardson** says:

[March 29, 2011 at 1:40 pm](#)

I have a service that looks after my yard and they use composting mowers. As far as spring and fall clean-ups are concerned, the service folks come when weather permits and when the spirit moves them. Whether or not these activities would consistently match the 2 spring & 2 fall yard waste pick-ups is a concern, but clearly, bi-weekly yard waste collections would be excessive in my case. I'm a senior with a small car so hauling spring and fall yard waste to the 'Leaf it with us' depots is impossible. I'm sure my yard service could meet the spring and fall pick-ups if each was expanded from 2 to 3 weeks. I'm sure others may have the same concern over hitting the target dates but for different reasons such as illness, absence on business and the like.

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8. **Annie** says:

[April 30, 2011 at 2:40 pm](#)

Yard waste pick up every two weeks, please! We have a heavily treed yard, so even though clippings are mulched in, if there's a wind there are lots of twigs and branches, i.e. twice in spring and fall would NOT work at all. Come on, we have this huge urban forest, something to be proud of! Let's take care of it! Never mind the 55 bags of leaves in the fall...yes, 55. In my car I can fit, maybe, 4 or 5?

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### 31 comments on "Residential Recycling Options"



1. **candice** says:
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March 11, 2011 at 11:53 am

would LOVE to have the blue carts! although if we stayed with the blue boxes i'm not sure why we would have to provide everyone with an extra box...my family needed a second one so we simply went out and bought another one. why can families not just go out and do this now if they wish to recycle more?

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2. **Trish** says:

March 11, 2011 at 11:59 am

I would prefer a cart; the box is clunky and we recycle a lot, so we'll often have the box + at least two blue recycle bags.

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3. **karl** says:

March 11, 2011 at 2:16 pm

I would love a cart! Somehow I think it's going to get all political when people will not be able to decide which side of the street the box should be on in order to get picked up.

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4. **Ed. Vorst** says:

March 11, 2011 at 9:40 pm

I think it's important to note that our recycling programs in Winnipeg might be a huge crock of hooey. Before I start recycling more, I'd like to know whether or not my blue-box fill doesn't just become landfill somewhere else. Or, whether or not the fossil fuels being used to collect and re-distribute don't outweigh any benefit in recycling said materials.

If the main goal right now of the city is to get us to recycle more, they're going to have to justify it, regardless of price. And, should that really be their goal anyway? Shouldn't they be somehow encouraging us to consume less instead of dealing only with the after effect thereof?

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5.



KDF says:

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March 12, 2011 at 9:52 am

Ed Vorst raises some important questions. I often wonder as I'm rinsing out containers for the recycling bin whether I'm wasting additional water because the container might end up in a landfill. Folks don't always realize that just because something is "recyclable where facilities exist" doesn't mean that the facilities exist here or that there is a demand for the recycled product. I'd like to see the answers to the questions posed by Ed. Vorst before selecting EITHER option.

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• T.J. McLeod says:

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March 14, 2011 at 12:57 am

I for one think it's totally wasteful to be required to rinse out containers and waste all that water. You pay to pour it, you pay to get rid of it in some way. Take a beer can or bottle that has been drained by the person who might stuff their cigarette butt in the thing. They don't rinse them out before they cash them in. Yes they're dirty but even the lowly pop bottle or can gets recycled and completely cleaned for whatever it becomes next. I for one refuse to wash out my 4-liter milk jugs since it's obvious I'm wasting water but of course keeping my drain really really fresh and clean and also making the city machinery work even harder for that process too. I don't vacuum out my cereal boxes either, wouldn't make sense and since all recyclables are dumped into dirty trucks and bacteria abounds in all environments it travels through, those same recyclables don't have to be spic and span when thrown in your bluebox. Sure, don't want chunks of meat and fat left in a styrofoam tray but then again you cannot actually clean that styrofoam since it's porous and has now absorbed all that bacteria by now. I want better options here, I want them to make more sense and NOT try to brainwash into thinking we should be completely sanitizing something like a milk jug considering what it will go through to complete the transition to recycled materials.

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

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March 15, 2011 at 9:28 am

Hello T.J.

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You raise a number of important points. We don't require rinsing of recyclables for the blue box.

You can rinse your recyclables if you choose to, which may help reduce odour. Some residents may find this helpful if they keep their blue box in their home. We do request that items placed in your blue box be emptied. For example pour out what's left in a bottle or empty a food container that was spoiled.

Finally, you mention Styrofoam trays used for meat packaging. We currently do not accept Styrofoam or polystyrene (PS or Type 6), the plastic Styrofoam is made from. They should be placed in your garbage.

More information on recycling is available here:

<http://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/recycle/blue...> or see our FAQ section

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6. **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

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March 12, 2011 at 11:52 am

@Ed & KDF

Thanks for your questions about our recycling program.

Approximately 95% of all material received through the blue box program and recycling depots at the Materials Recovery Facility is sorted, baled and then sold and shipped to manufacturers all over the world.

The cost of shipping material to be recycled is taken into account when it is sold. Material is shipped when there are no local markets and it makes financial sense. The net cost of recycling was approximately \$13 per household in 2009. In comparison, the cost for garbage collection was approximately \$61 per household.

Using recycled material generally uses a lot less energy than new materials. For example, recycled Aluminum uses 96% less energy and boxboard (e.g. cereal boxes) 43% less energy.

Reducing and Reusing are the first two steps in the waste hierarchy that we've adopted for the Garbage and Recycling Master Plan.

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Here are some links to more information on our site:

MRF Tour: <http://garbage.speakupwinnipeg.com/2010/11/mrf-vi...>

Guiding Principles: <http://garbage.speakupwinnipeg.com/background/gui...>

Phase 2 Options: <http://garbage.speakupwinnipeg.com/opportunities-...>

Thanks again for your questions!

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7. **T.J. McLeod** says:

March 14, 2011 at 12:45 am

I believe they do recycle what they take, it's not a conspiracy of some kind. What I do expect to see with this change for the better, is the City stepping up and tackling all those mattresses and other illegal items being dumped and for which are being reported to 311. Some of us are skeptical about that part and although it's pretty mind boggling as to what people dump in many of the neighborhoods (not their own of course), that will not change much when the autobins are removed. Sure, would be nice in theory but many who stop their vehicles and offload, don't always throw it in the large bins, they're often found leaning against other things-fences, garages, vehicles etc. I expect that they'll hire a few more officers to deal with such problems. Recycling is also a good thing, one cannot dispute that such a change isn't prudent. One thing I'd expect to see and it involves the MB Government as well as City Hall to get onboard here, all of those "deposits" we pay for pop bottles and cans and anything else, I want the option to save them up and turn them in for actual money. I don't care if it's 2 cents or 5 cents, other provinces already offer this yet in Winnipeg those in the recycling end often state "we're non-profit so it will hurt us" So what, non-profit but you all still get paid I'd think, or do you work for free like a volunteer? Even those places that employ the special needs persons, get workers that are paid in some way so I want this option and soon or the City of Wpg. and/or the MB government are just being hypocrites. It's why you won't ever see a beer can on the road for more than a few hours, people pick them up and cash 'em in. Thousands of pop cans or bottles everywhere since "it's only 2 cents for a penalty at time of purchase." You don't see so many scrambling to pick those up. The carts will be a good idea but another thing to note re: damage from the guy picking them up. I've witnessed on more than a few times where the lone person driving that truck (yes, private company but so what!), somehow flips the larger black to-the-curb carts into the back of that truck. Also noticed that he enters an access door and literally catapults that thing out from the top and it lands on the ground (about a 12 foot drop) with a large thud. Damage will eventually occur and don't ever think the homeowner will be paying for that replacement either. My own property, I have video surveillance and intend on fighting them if they ever refuse to pay for repairs or replacement and will win, guaranteed! I do plan on calling up 311 every single time I see

junk in the backlanes since that will not stop just because the bins are on their way out. I encourage many of you to do the same but also to accept this change as a good thing. There is no limit as to how many blue bins one household can have sitting and waiting for pickup and if you are using the autobins right now, look closely at your own refuse and see how much of that could have been recycled. The added note to this long comment, recycling your old tv's and other items? If they aren't forcing you to take your old PC to a place like Syrotech etc. and pay for that option but are setting up depots where you can drop it off, great. Also, things that still work and thrown into those bins now, places like Value Village sell exactly such things and am I wrong to say that many citizens go dumpster diving and find their own treasures? One last thing to note though Winnipeg? Within a few years this too will be changed and microchips will be in use for them to monitor what you dump, how much the cart ways and it WILL BE Pay-As-You-Go. Refute this if you'd like to try but it will be fact in a few years.

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8. Will says:

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March 14, 2011 at 1:45 pm

I think whether you have a box or a cart depends on how much space you have. Some people may prefer carts, so perhaps the trucks should be able to handle both.

That is amazing that 95% of recycled material collected is recycled, that's great! What happens to the glass that is collected? – I see there is a big pile of glass at the landfill, so is this included in the 95%?

Also, I would be interested in knowing if anything is recycled back in Manitoba? Could there be an incentive to do Research and Development on using recycled content in Manitoba? – i.e. help kick start some companies making things out of recycled material.

Also, what % of the garbage at the landfill is biomass? – it seems like a waste of space to have that there, when you could either compost it, or use for biomass energy. Is there anything that is being looked at there?

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9. Will says:

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March 14, 2011 at 2:12 pm

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It looks like the sorting machine is great, and the system we're using is pretty cost effective. Perhaps there needs to be some more incentive for people to recycle their waste...

One idea could be that households get a tax rebate, small gift, recognition or entered into a competition for having a good 'recycling to waste' ratio. We know that most of the garbage can be recycled, so how can people be rewarded for putting effort in? – As you say, it only costs \$13 (per year?) to recycle, whereas it is \$61 for garbage, so there seems to be a monetary benefit to the city to recycle more. So, it looks like there could be a better incentive scheme.

The problem then arises how do you know what the weight/volume is? One way that should work well would be just to do it by volume, so the garbage/recycling men log what is collected, i.e. "3 + large blue boxes", or "2 + standard carts", they would need to press just two buttons (number + identifier). The GPS could automatically pick up where the location is, and log that amount for the house....

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10. Will says:

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March 14, 2011 at 2:16 pm

...Data could then be downloaded to a central database. If the buttons are large and easy to use, it would just become a force of habit for the garbage/recycling men to press the buttons each time they dump the waste, and wouldn't take much time at all.

Then, when tax time comes around, this can be used to determine if there is a rebate. Also, people can get a readout of how much they could potentially recycle, i.e. how much they recycled vs. threw away, how this compares to other people, what their rating is. For people who make a real effort, they should get recognition and a certificate, and be entered into a draw, or invited to visit the recycling centre or government event.

People need an incentive to do anything, and by making it a challenge/game people will enjoy recycling.

Thanks for listening, and glad to see there is some discussion about this, as common sense would suggest that there is value in the materials we are throwing out. There's nothing more important we can do while we are here on earth than to do our bit for making the environment we all live in a little better.

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- Will says:

March 15, 2011 at 11:30 am

Just to add to the discussion, a caller into CBC radio pointed out yesterday that not throwing hazardous waste such as batteries, pesticides, motor oil, etc. into the landfill is as important, if not more important than increasing the amount of paper, plastic, etc that is recycled. Hazardous waste thrown in the landfill will eventually get into the groundwater and/or atmosphere, causing harm to future generations.

Making sure that residents of Winnipeg are disposing harmful chemicals appropriately (i.e. not down the drain or in the garbage) is an important part of any green/recycling initiative. I would rather spend millions on making sure that residents are safely disposing these harmful chemicals first (i.e. education, making it easier, incentives, etc), and then increasing recycling and perhaps introducing carts. On the other hand, if increasing recycling increases revenue, and this revenue can be used to improve the quality of our environment, then I would support that.



- Jennifer says:

March 20, 2011 at 11:20 am

Wow Will you are making some great points here! Information on how to properly recycle hazardous wastes as well as which types of plastics, etc is knowledge that every Winnipegger should know.



11. Will says:

March 14, 2011 at 2:18 pm

btw – is there any benefit for people being able to bring high value plastics (such as PP and HDPE, or plastics/glass of a certain colour) to a central facility or collection points? – I know this uses more gas, but perhaps there is a business case for separating out some high grade plastics? (and perhaps people get more of an incentive for doing this). There could be separate large bins for putting your green, white, clear plastics in, and data could be logged to the same central system as discussed above.



- **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

March 16, 2011 at 10:22 am

Will,

The city accepts plastic containers with a recycling triangle on the bottom, including all bottles, pails, tubs, and jugs.

For some materials such as bulky metal items not suitable for blue box (copper pipe, aluminum BBQ, etc) you can recycle these items privately at numerous scrap dealers in the city. The dealers pay you to give them the materials.

We are currently evaluating and seeking public comment on Community Depots where residents can drop off materials for diversion (<http://garbage.speakupwinnipeg.com/opportunities-to-participate/phase-2-options/#2>) These facilities will accept a variety of separated and co-mingled materials and it would be possible to pilot separated plastics collections; an excellent example of such a program is in Victoria, BC. In Victoria residents can bring HDPE patio chairs and tables for recycling, along with other bulky HDPE items.



12. **Irene Welch** says:

March 14, 2011 at 7:32 pm

I think the blue boxes work very well. I've had two boxes since recycling started and only had to replace them once. They are more economical than other options. Let's direct the cost of those options to public education on the subject so we can get greater compliance to recycle. We should also implement curbside composting to further cut back on garbage going to landfill. I compost year round as well as recycle 2 boxes full weekly and have reduced my garbage to a kitchen size garbage bag weekly. We are a family of three. Yard waste (leaves, small branches etc) is our biggest problem as we live in an older neighborhood with many mature trees. I would like to see a program to pickup yard waste as part of the composting program. Thank you



13. **Linda** says:

March 14, 2011 at 11:07 pm

We would love to have the large recycle cart. The small blue boxes get damaged too easily.

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14. **frustrated** says:

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March 14, 2011 at 11:40 pm

I do not want the carts. With our yard and front pickup it would be to cumbersome to move them on garbage day for recycling especially in the winter time and huge snow banks. There is just enough room for the blue boxes where are we suppose to put the carts?

Right now the blue box easily sits inside the house and we can recycle all that we can without any problems. Its a lot easier for us to use the blue boxes and in turn carry them out to the curb than the monster carts. If we are forced to use the new carts I doubt that we will recycle at all.

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• **Will** says:

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March 15, 2011 at 11:45 am

I would prefer a cart because I have a back lane and I could (hopefully) leave it there permanently. We have two green Superstore containers that we have in our lower kitchen cupboards (i.e. they sit side by side on the lowest shelf). It's handy just to throw recycling in there and when they're full the can both be carried out at the same time (one of top of the other) and dumped into the blue boxes (which are slightly bigger) so it doesn't overflow that much, though usually I spill some so have to pick it up and throw the odd bit back in the box. We could actually do with 3 boxes, though have never got round to buying a third.

It would be nice if we could leave a note out the back to ask for another recycling bin, then the recycling people log it, and a bin is shipped out, or they have some in stock and just provide another one.

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• **Will** says:

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March 15, 2011 at 11:48 am

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Perhaps there could be videos on youtube on how people store and transfer their recycling, so that other Winnipeggers can get ideas on how best to store and transfer their recycling? – I think the hassle of doing this is something that stops people from recycling, so it has to be made as easy as possible (and/or an incentive given as I posted on a previous comment).

If we had a cart, it would be easier as it is bigger and don't have to worry about it overflowing as much. And it protects it from rain. However, I can see that having to drag the bin out the bag each time there is a pickup would be a hassle, though I did this in the UK, and you just get used to it. We used to have garbage pickup every two weeks, and recycling every two weeks in between that.

Perhaps the city should buy lids for everyone, and ask people to start using these, and educate people on the importance of keeping the recycling dry. Also, perhaps the recycling boxes can be stacked up on top of each other to save space, with just the top box needing a lid. Providing people with an educational pamphlet could explain everything that the city wants.

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• Judith says:

March 15, 2011 at 4:29 pm

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Actually if you can fit a blue box you can fit a cart, they are taller, not wider! one cart is like 3 recycle boxes!

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15. Judith says:

March 15, 2011 at 4:31 pm

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CART! Give me a C A R T! In fact, i'd pay for two! LOL! I never have as much garbage a week as I do recycling! it takes my house 2 to 3 weeks to come up with one bag of garbage!

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16. Lori says:

March 16, 2011 at 3:55 pm

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Our family would love to have the blue cart but we would want it to be larger than the roll out garbage can we currently have and are using from the city! We have five recycle bins that go out each week already and only a half of can of garbage for a family of six I think we can do even better than this if we had a large roll out recycle bin. We love our roll out garbage can as it is so much easier to use than bags and other cans. Our neighbor shares with us as well as she is a single woman and doesn't have much garbage or recycling so just adds to our containers which in turns makes one less stop for pick up.

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17. Moe says:

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March 18, 2011 at 1:10 pm

I would LOVE a cart for our household!! We currently use 2-3 blue boxes and every week I pick up recyclables that have blown out of the blue boxes in my neighborhood due to windy weather etc. The blue boxes are not sturdy enough and need replacing often too and are if the paper products are more valuable if kept dry then the cart is definitely the way to go!

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18. RON EDMONDS says:

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March 19, 2011 at 6:16 pm

i would prefer the cart to the boxes

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19. Will says:

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March 19, 2011 at 7:27 pm

In the UK we had the same carts as are now being looking at being implemented in Winnipeg. It's definitely nicer/safer for the garbage/recycling men, so for that reason alone, I think they would be great.

We also had a garbage pickup (1 cart per household) every two weeks, with recycling every two weeks in between (i.e. alternating). We had 4-5 people (adults) living in our house, and we learnt to make sure we recycled everything we could, because garbage space was valuable (also we didn't have compost pickup, but we still did fine).

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With compost / yard waste pickup also in the works, and organic waste making up a large proportion of most people's garbage, why don't we have just one cart for each house, and then this is used for garbage one week, and then recycling the other? – To know which week we were in (i.e. to remind people if it was recycling or garbage week), perhaps all the garbage/recycling men would have to do is flip/slide over a large identifier on the bin once it is dumped (i.e. a large green/grey circle on the lid).....

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• Will says:

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March 19, 2011 at 7:29 pm

.....This would be good because it should save the city from having to spend the ~\$9million(?) on a blue recycling cart and so would just be the \$9million dollars on the grey recycling cart for everyone, and would also save people space in their yard (i.e. just one cart). Because Winnipeg has such an advanced recycling system (i.e. material doesn't have to be sorted at the source like many recycling systems around the world), couldn't the same 'garbage' trucks be used for the recycling as well? – i.e. one week they're garbage trucks, and the next they're recycling? – Saving considerable cost to Winnipeg.

Like with pretty much every introduction of a new system, there would be teething problems, but in order to try and curb people's reliance on unlimited garbage, and if a compost/yard waste/recycling/garbage is all being introduced at the same time, I think (based on my experience in the UK of a 4-5 person household) an alternating recycling/garbage cart could work, save the City considerable money, and get the City of Winnipeg on a far more green and eco-conscious path. Critical to the credibility of Winnipeg and Canada, in terms of doing our bit to help the environment....

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• Will says:

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March 19, 2011 at 7:30 pm

.....If the idea above is feasible (and any other ideas), is there enough time to consider doing a trial in an area of the city? Or is there not much time is left in terms of a decision on which way to go, i.e. in terms of buying two carts per household, two sets of automated garbage/recycling trucks, etc...

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Thanks again for listening and setting this up. I think this is a great thing you are doing in terms of communicating, and making it easy for people to provide feedback. In my mind, this is what true democracy should be like. Cheers.

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- **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

[March 21, 2011 at 1:23 pm](#)

Will,

Thanks for the suggestions. Alternating week pick-ups and co-collection have the potential to provide efficiency and savings to our collection. We are not proposing any changes to the collection schedule within the short term, but these are possibilities that we can look at in the future.

Edmonton, for example, only picks up garbage every other week in winter. Generally, the materials which alternate must be inert. For example, garbage and recycling can be alternated as long as there is pick-up weekly for organic materials, otherwise there will be problems in summer with odour from the organic material in the garbage.

One challenge to only using one cart for garbage and recycling is that many residents use their cart to store their garbage during the week, not just on collection day. So residents would have to find an alternate place to store their garbage and recycling for two weeks.

Part of any plans for change is allowing time for residents to get used to the new system and learn what materials go where. We also need time to implement systems like a composting facility if the public shows a desire for kitchen waste collection. Once these changes are in place, we would re-evaluate how often materials need to be collected and we would be in a position to do some trials with ideas like alternating week pick-ups to reduce costs and optimize the collection.

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20. **Andy** says:

[March 30, 2011 at 8:12 pm](#)

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I would prefer to have a cart for recycling. We have been using the garbage cart in the St. James area for the last year or so and I think it is great! Only one trip to the curb to "take the garbage out" and everything is contained within the cart. I currently use multiple recycling boxes and often find that the loose items blow down the street and require multiple trips to the street.

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#### 4 comments on "Guiding Principles & Resources"



1. Ryan Johnston says:

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March 14, 2011 at 6:20 pm

I don't recycle anymore since the Recycling collectors ruined my blue box and want me to pay money to get a new one! I will not pay to recycle. Give me a free box, and I may reconsider! These guys toss these bins around like ragdolls. How long can these things possibly last?

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2. John MacIsaac says:

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March 14, 2011 at 11:42 pm

Why doesn't Winnipeg adopt the same type of program that Calgary has for recyclables. I lived there on and off for 6 years, back in the 80's and early 90's, and I never saw any useless garbage anywhere. They have a central depot for all recyclables and even pay you. You have the whole city working for you and no waste. Just a thought.

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3. g. king says:

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March 15, 2011 at 1:55 am

Hello, I would like to encourage my fellow Winnipeggers to recycle. We need to take better care of this wonderful world of ours. Recycling, is not that hard to do, even if you just do the easy stuff like junk mail, newspaper and clean empty packaging. Leave out the rinsing of soup cans for your garbage, if not so inclined.

We all pay for waste through our taxes-it is not free! So ultimately we should have "Pay as you Throw" (direct pay). And (compulsory) recycling would have no fee-as an incentive to recycle. We

send far too much to the landfill, at 83%. Our waste is a valuable resource-recyclables-  
metals/plastics/organics. We have deforestation, global warming, litter, resource depletion as  
reasons to recycle.

Recycle bins should be paid by city. (previous commenter didn't want to pay for a blue bin-even  
though the city doesn't buy our garbage cans (in most of the city) The recycling crews do  
throw+break the blue bins and can be frustrating-and cause citizens to desist from recycling.

Our landfill needs improved marshaling/ staging for recyclables + re-usables/ organics.  
Organic programming could also be city wide. Organics makes up ~40% of our waste. It is valuable  
compost/natural fertilizer. Reducing the need for chemical fertilizers. Our recovery rate is really too  
low for a vibrant/ economical well off/ environmentally aware city-17%.

give it a try!

g. king

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4. **drummerboy** says:

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[March 15, 2011 at 10:56 am](#)

In Alberta and Saskatchewan, the recycling rebate is implemented at the Province level, not the city,  
so if we want to have that system here, talk to the Province.

Before you do, find out what recycling costs residents of Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, etc.  
because of the levy. They all pay to recycle. Calgary is \$96/year, Saskatoon doesn't have recycling  
at the home yet through the city (just private, which residents pay for) and Edmonton has a fee of  
\$300+ per year for garbage and recycling services. This is all because of the refundable deposit  
system in those Provinces.

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#### **21 comments on "Residential Garbage Collection"**



1. **Judith S** says:

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[March 8, 2011 at 4:34 pm](#)

When will there be carts in Weston?! I'm tired of the autobins here! Bring in the carts and soon! Also,  
lets switch over to carts for recycling too instead of having to have 4 little bins to hold everything!

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2. **charles frohlich** says:

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March 14, 2011 at 10:49 pm

Having lived in this house for the past 51 years, the large metal containers are the best, efficient and safest way to pick up garbage. In my location it is rare to have an overflow, so the lids keep flies to a minimum. In case nobody checked, I have timed the time the truck stops to the time it empties the container and pulls away is 30 seconds! In my opinion it would be another stupid decision to get rid of them

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3. **Linda** says:

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March 14, 2011 at 11:06 pm

Anything that the garbage men can't throw all over the place.

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4. **Ed Terlecki** says:

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March 15, 2011 at 6:39 am

I went to last night's open house, the entire event is geared to agreeing with what I believe is the final garbage plan. I don't believe for one minute that the city wants input from us. The first guy I talked to at the open house told me that the city can't keep the auto-bins because the trucks are becoming obsolete, they can't get parts or new trucks, if this is the case just tell us and quit wasting my time asking what I think of the bins. Right now there are problems with the bins because they are poorly managed, the city expects us to cut through their wall of red tape to report a damaged bin when the smart way would be to have the drivers of the collection trucks report the damaged bins, people complain about large objects being left outside of these bins, wake up do you think the idiots leaving this stuff are going to start taking it to the dump when the city gives everyone roll out bins, NO instead what will happen is that crap will increase because the roll out bins are smaller than the big auto-bins. Right now when someone walks their dog and picks up after it they can throw the crap into one of the large auto-bins, when we get the roll outs that won't happen and more crap will remain on our walks. Now recycling, in one of the windiest cities around our city decided that a blue box without a lid was the way to go, my street is covered with recyclables right after the collection even when it's not windy, the only solution is a covered container, now let's line up another dozen or so meetings to

discuss the graffiti issue, don't look at what Canada Post did to solve their graffiti problem on the red boxes because that works, let's find another solution!!!!!! Ed Terlecki

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5. Ed Terlecki says:

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March 15, 2011 at 7:19 am

I almost forgot, where am I going to empty the garbage bin overflowing with dog crap that is in the Seven Oaks Museum property when the auto-bins are gone, also the garbage bins in McGowan Park, fortunately the walkways in the park are never cleared so traffic in there is very low (the playground equipment will last a lot longer) I know where I would like to stick the garbage when the bins are gone!!

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6. Kali says:

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March 15, 2011 at 1:04 pm

In the North End, the autobins are still the best solution. As attitudes change perhaps we can look toward the personal automated carts. At the moment, the autobins are a dumping ground for many large and bulky items, this problem would only be exacerbated by switching to the smaller carts.

The bins currently suffer from a fair bit of arson – they manage to survive because they are made of metal (the lids, well, not so much). What do we think will happen once the entire cart is made of plastic? The argument I'm sure would be to make sure your cart is in your yard, which is fine and dandy except how do you protect the cart for the night before garbage day (as most people bring their garbage out the night before) and what about people who may indeed bring the cart onto their property but don't have a fence? How will it be protected then?

What about rental properties? The North End has areas that are more than 60% rental stock – how are we going to make sure those landlords have a cart for their tenants? When either a homeowner or tenant needs a new cart, who is going to pay for it? The replacement cost is well out of the realm of possibility for most lower-income residents, they will likely just choose not to replace them and either throw their garbage in a neighbour's cart, thus reducing how much room the neighbour has, or just throw it in the back lane.

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Last but not least, who thought this cart thing was a good idea with our climate in the first place?? I can only imagine the seniors we'll be killing off as they struggle with both the cart and their pride to drag it through the snow filled back lanes back into their yard. Personally I think the idea is flawed city-wide, however it is potentially catastrophic in neighbourhoods like the North End.

As much as I have a love-hate relationship with the autobins, they are the best option for the upcoming years. This is something that will need far more research and an extremely well thought out and publicized plan in order to succeed.

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7. Lorna says:

March 15, 2011 at 8:03 pm

I have been using the automated cart and have only one MAJOR objection. When the cart is emptied, the lid usually falls open. We have many months of winter in Winnipeg and it often snows on garbage day (oops, recycling day!). When the snow that has fallen into the cart melts in my garage and then freezes when the garage cools off, there are garbage bags and various other things, like the dead rabbits my dog brings me from the yard, frozen into the ice at the bottom of the cart. There have been many weeks on end this winter when my cart has never been completely emptied because garbage is frozen to the bottom. These carts are way too big to bring into the house to thaw (and who wants to thaw a dead rabbit and weeks old garbage bags in the kitchen anyway). Other jurisdictions, including one of the tiniest municipal jurisdictions in Atlantic Canada, use carts like ours with a raised grid in the bottom which allows moisture to drain to the bottom. Something similar here would be a useful design adaptation for any new carts.

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8. Lorna says:

March 15, 2011 at 8:21 pm

Blue boxes should have lids regardless of how they are picked up. I can't think the debris potentially left blowing in the wind by automated carts for recycleables could possibly be any worse than what the BFI guys leave behind on the street – neither have any sentient component.

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9. RMOSS says:

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March 16, 2011 at 11:00 am

I also attended Monday's event. I recall going through a similar turmoil some years ago when the city wanted to introduce autobins. Now that we've had them for a while and the city has spent large sums of money supplying autobins & trucks, they want to eliminate them-now that's a waste!! Of course, nothing in this world is perfect and people abuse these bins, but on the whole, they are a neat alternative. Personally, I hope the city does not remove them and keeps the status quo. I cannot see how garbage removal with autobins costs twice as much-there are far fewer bins than roll-out carts, as homes share them. Emptying of roll-out carts is a very SLOW process and must use tons of fuel for the trucks, having to stop at EACH residence and slowly lift and replace the carts.

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

March 16, 2011 at 11:14 am

Hi, thanks for you comment. Here's some information about our current costs of garbage collection and disposal:

In AutoBin areas there are about 24,000 homes where we collect about 43,000 tonnes of garbage each year at a cost of \$3.5 million = \$145/house each year

In cart area, there are about 43,000 homes where we collect about 32,000 tonnes of garbage each year at a cost of \$2.9 million = \$67/house each year

In manual area, the cost per house (in the northeast) is about \$3.1 million for 42,000 homes or \$73/house each year

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• **Ed Terlecki** says:

March 17, 2011 at 6:11 am

When you figure the cost of AutoBins are you factoring out all the illegal dumping by contractors and others who use the large bins because their small auto bins are not big enough for what they want to throw out.

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- Ed Terlecki says:

March 17, 2011 at 6:15 am

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sorry I meant cart not small auto bin

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- SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

March 21, 2011 at 12:07 pm

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AutoBins cost more than any other collection method for many reasons. One of the reasons is that some individuals and businesses dump illegally. The amount of garbage collected in AutoBin areas has been much higher than the city average for more than a decade and well before before carts were implemented in northwest Winnipeg. Participation in the blue box recycling program is also much lower in AutoBin areas compared to the rest of the city.

Another factor to consider with AutoBin collection is that the collection trucks are nearing the end of their service life. Maintaining and repairing them is becoming increasingly more expensive. We are one of the few remaining cities still using AutoBins and there are few manufacturers left in North America that supply the trucks. They require an extremely long lead time to build each unit because there is no demand for them. If AutoBin equipment were no longer manufactured, it would impact our ability to replace and repair our AutoBin infrastructure. This is part of the reason that the other cities in Canada have discontinued their service.

A cost that's not part of the collection is the amount spent responding to AutoBin arson which was approximately \$1 million in 2009. So far, there has not been a significant amount of arson related to Automated Carts

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- George says:

March 21, 2011 at 5:15 pm

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Houses don't generate garbage. Its the people who live there that do. Why can't you compare costs on a per resident basis? I wouldn't be surprised if the Autobin areas had on average a higher population per house.

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- **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

[March 23, 2011 at 10:54 am](#)

We often talk about garbage in per household terms because garbage is property tax supported. This makes it easier to compare volumes of garbage generated and costs on a per household basis.

Additionally, in a sense properties do generate garbage. A house with a large lawn and number of trees will generate yard waste independent of the number of residents. If that yard waste is not composted, it contributes to the amount of garbage generated.



10. **Carolyn Garlich** says:

[March 17, 2011 at 2:58 pm](#)

One-size-fits-all is not the solution. There are diverse neighbourhoods in Winnipeg. 1. Most Winnipeggers are responsible about sorting waste and recycling, but there are neighbourhoods where there is a lot of irresponsible behaviour. The people who suffer most are the conscientious people who live in these areas. Autobins seem to have improved conditions in these neighbourhoods. Although autobins have their own downsides, there may be some neighbourhoods where they should be retained. There are other areas like Wolesley, where they definitely should be phased out.



11. **Carolyn Garlich** says:

[March 17, 2011 at 3:00 pm](#)

Secondly not all neighbourhoods are built alike. In some places the lanes are very narrow, and it would be hard for a vehicle picking up carts to manoeuvre, and for many of these homes the front street is not an alternative in winter because they have no driveways at the front, and in the winter the boulevard is piled high with snow.

A third way in which the one-size- fits-all does not fit all is when it comes to the size of the cart. We should look at cities that have various sizes ranging from one bag to several, with different prices attached to each. For seniors, who typically have only a small amount of garbage, a small one bag

cart would be easier to manage. I like the idea of putting variable prices on the carts but giving a standard rebate to the household. In some areas the rebate is even slightly larger than the annual fee. This is a real incentive for people to reduce their residual waste, particularly after other options are in place.

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12. **Stephanie Unger** says:

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[March 24, 2011 at 3:02 pm](#)

This proposed cart system may work in suburbs, where population density is very low. Often only 2 – 4 people are sharing a large house in the suburbs. In the north end and central and west end neighbourhoods, using a cart system will be neither fair nor "uniform", because population density means that if there is a cart provided for every 2 – 4 people as it will be in the suburbs, we will have so many carts in our back lanes that we will be unable to drive down them or park in our own driveways.

The autobin system is essential in high density neighbourhoods where the number of people sharing a backlane makes individual garbage cans or carts completely impractical. It is not fair to expect 10 people sharing a rooming house or small apartment block to share a cart....as if people in the suburbs have the right to produce more garbage than people in lower income neighbourhoods.

I live on a street where autobins are used. As long as the trucks actually come every week, the bins are sufficient in size and enable us to deal with the garbage that is not produced by us as residents. Our neighbourhood deals with a lot of garbage from the fast food restaurants, convenience stores etc that we as residents do not produce. If we are forced to fill our own personal cart with this kind of garbage, we will certainly not be motivated to keep our neighbourhood clean (do I choose to empty my household garbage can or clean up the back lane this week?).

I have also lived on a street with garbage cans in the west end. This was a terrible system because people stole the bins, tipped them over as an act of vandalism, started fires in them and knocked them over with their vehicles. The autobin system may still allow for arson, but prevents all the other problems.

I would be extremely disappointed to see the autobin system taken from our Spence Neighbourhood and would see it as yet another act of discrimination against low-income neighbourhoods and neglect of the needs of people in rental situations.

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13. **Garth** says:

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[March 24, 2011 at 9:28 pm](#)

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Most people know that incentives work, while disincentives generally do not. Incentives make for happy taxpayers who want to work within the system. Disincentives make for disgruntled taxpayers who see reduced services and will attempt to circumvent the system. Here are some scenarios.

Problem: You want people to recycle more.

Incentive: Provide high capacity recycle carts with lids.

Disincentive: Tell people to recycle but don't provide proper bins or carts. Hire a pickup service that leaves recyclables littered all over the streets and back alleys and inexplicably leaves some materials in your bin even though they aren't stuck or frozen there.

Problem: You want people to compost more.

Incentive: Provide composite carts which are picked up weekly or bi-weekly, as in Nova Scotia (I lived there, it's a province-wide program, works great).

Disincentive: Tell people to compost but don't provide any services.

Problem: You want people to create less household waste.

Incentive: Provide proper alternatives, like good recycling carts and a compost service.

Disincentive: Force people to use a rolling garbage cart. Make larger households pay for a larger or a second cart. For households that may only periodically need a larger cart (I.e. family gatherings, house guests, renovations), don't give them any options and make them drive to the landfill. To top it off, periodically decide not to empty their cart because the lid is open by 1 inch, or it's an inch too close to a snow bank (which the city put there), even though it was picked up the prior week with no problem in the exact same location. In the case of narrow back lanes (this is Winnipeg), don't bother to raise the forks on the truck so you have to drive right up against the opposite fence and knock or drive over someone's recycle bins. Lovely.

We've had the rolling garbage carts for a year, and here's my experience:

What to do with yard waste? We mulch our grass but there's always branches, etc. that have to go somewhere and don't fit in the bin. We aren't allowed to burn them, so people just illegally dumped it all at the civic centre. The city gave in and took down the 'no dumping' sign. So the civic centre is now our local dump for yard waste. Wonderful.

What to do when you have bulky items like styrofoam packaging or renovation waste after making a major purchase at a local retailer? Who's going to drive to the dump for a 1 kg load of styrofoam, so it's off to the civic centre again to dump it illegally (haven't done it myself, but it has become the norm in my neighborhood).

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What to do over the Christmas holidays when the garbage truck may not come for nearly 2 weeks? You could attempt to put everything in your rolling cart...it may not quite fit but you could hope the driver has pity on you due to the circumstances. Sorry, no. So now what? Are you going to drive to the landfill for a bag or 2 of extra garbage? I didn't think so. So it's off to the civic centre again, our new local dump. Perhaps it can be renamed to Civic Centre & Transfer Station, because that's what it is since we started using the rolling garbage carts. I'm sure the mice, rats and racoons love the new system.

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14. **Rose Russo** says:

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April 10, 2011 at 5:58 pm

I have noticed since the curbside garbage pickup more garbage which have flown off the truck or bins onto the streets, yards and boulevards. Either people are not packaging or bagging the garbage properly or the fact that they have no follow up sanitation workers to pick up the fall out is part of this disgusting problem. As a result our city is looking like a garbage dump or worse like a third world country. I think some kind of notice should be given and perhaps a fine to those homeowners who do not contain their garbage properly. This also should apply to blue boxes. Either that or put back at least 1 sanitation worker to ride the truck to pick up the mess.

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15. **Kim** says:

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June 1, 2011 at 4:38 pm

I'm a north-ender. My neighbors and I are looking forward to the day when the autobins are gone for good. Gone will be the car parts from the illegal home-based chop shops, gone will be the construction material in the bins from areas far and away, gone will be the stench of bins no one ever cleans, gone will be the fires that start at the back of many of our properties, gone will be the mangled fences that result from a dropped bin, gone will be the mass amounts of recyclables that end up in the bins because people are lazy, gone will be the need for us to sweep up after the bin dumps a load, gone will be the need for us to dig the snowbank out from in front of them when the snow is plowed, gone will be the dents in the cars that pull over a little too far and scrape the posts on the front of them, gone will be the graffiti-riddled eyesores, gone will be the excuse not to reduce, reuse, recycle, gone will be the infested couches and mattresses that fill these every week, gone will be the people that sift through them every day for junk and leave a mess in their wake. I could go on

but I have to run errands. All you naysayers, give it up because these things are old, dead, horses. They need to be removed and we need to move on to something better for everyone.

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### 55 comments on “Options for Garbage, Recycling and Organics”



1. **C. Allen** says:

March 4, 2011 at 3:02 pm

The consultant's options report is a good synopsis of what was discussed in phase one of this process. I'm glad it reflects the will of the vast majority of those who participated alongside good common sense for the long term. I do hope implementation starts this year. If you have ever watched the TV show, "Trashopolis," you can see what other jurisdictions have done right and wrong throughout history. I hope Winnipeg's plan comes out on the "right" side of our own trash history. It's about time.

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2. **Don Halligan** says:

March 4, 2011 at 5:45 pm

The new large bins are just great; however, it is difficult to fit in large items sometimes. It may be better to increase recycling items, if possible, The bins look cleaner, without garbage blowing around, discarded on streets, etc. Kuddos to the City.

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3. **charlene** says:

March 4, 2011 at 6:25 pm

Here in our area we don't even have room to put shoveled snow. where are we suppose to put these bins? seriously! Plus the mattress and old furniture the that can be found beside the dumpsters in the North End will still be thrown there. If people are disposing of there items like that now, giving them smaller bins that they have to tend to is not going to solve any problems. After the small bins are stolen (or go missing) in the rougher neighborhoods think for a moment, how will people then dispose of there garbage. This idea might work for neighborhoods where people are already caring about the area.

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• Tanya says:

March 6, 2011 at 10:39 am

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People care about their neighbourhood all over the city. I believe that there are other issues and challenges that lead people to discarding their mattresses and old furniture beside dumpsters, its not because they don't care. When you bike, walk or take the bus, try getting rid of your mattress.

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4. Dan says:

March 4, 2011 at 6:57 pm

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We would like to recycle more ,but what is the use when the people that are supposed to pick up the recycling dump a lot of it in the back lane.

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5. Steph says:

March 4, 2011 at 7:28 pm

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My parents have another home in Florida and at their place their recycling cart is just as large (maybe even a bit bigger) as their garbage cart, which is the same size as ours (I have garbage cart). I think introducing a recycling cart is a great idea. I live in a family of two and we generally have 2 grocery store sized bags of garbage in our cart each week but our 2 recycling bins are both usually overflowing.

While I strongly support this idea and recycling I believe for the goal of 50% of Manitobans recycling, you need to make some sort of incentive for people.

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• Aaron says:

March 7, 2011 at 10:12 am

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A simple incentive would be to give out prizes randomly (say \$500 a month) to households that actually recycle. This kind of small prizes for recycling would push the recycling rate up, especially

if there was a larger grand prize once a year. Manitobans love to gamble and the great thing about it is that its addictive.

Better yet the prize could be only for households meeting a certain diversion percentage. I think this would be much more effective than more ad campaigns.

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• Tanya says:

March 7, 2011 at 2:02 pm

I think that incentives are ok, but their have been studies that show it doesn't improve participation more than social influences and education. We need education that can personally relate garbage issues with every Winnipeg resident.

On another note. Recycling is not going to save the world or Winnipeg from environmental changes. It still uses a lot of resources by reprocessing and transportation. We seem to forget that their are 3 R's and only think about focusing. We need more resources that we can reuse over and over again in our homes or work places. And reduce our consumption behaviour.

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6. Lola says:

March 4, 2011 at 7:39 pm

In my thinking, those who don't recycle, don't see the value in doing so, or don't see the personal benefit to outweigh the perceived inconvenience. We need to put a value of some kind on these items to make it beneficial for those who are least likely to recycle.

I lived in Regina for a number of years and was very impressed with SARCAN, an organization: <http://www.sarcsarc.ca/sarc/index.php> which pays consumers (or anyone) a small amount for returning recyclable beverage containers. Let me tell you, it really encourages those who are least likely to recycle for altruistic reasons (especially those on the economic fringe). It creates an economy around this resource. People save up their recyclables at home, and take them in for a small payment. Not really profitable for the mainstream but for those without other income, who show the initiative to go through the dumpsters and collect what others have discarded, they have turned it into slightly profitable work (much better than nothing for some! and it cleans up the city and

diverts waste!). SARCAN is staffed largely by people with intellectual disabilities, so it also provides training, jobs, pride and independence for lots of people all over the province.

At first I thought it was a bit distasteful that there was this sort of underground economy of garbage pickers, but this is the reality of the situation. It really gets you thinking about garbage – sure it's dirty and distasteful, but it belongs to all of us and why should it not have real value? We paid for it at the store, why can't we get some of that money back as consumers?

I'm not sure whether this system could completely replace the curbside pickup system in place here (which was not offered in Regina at the time), but I can see a lot of benefits, and it certainly creates jobs, economic benefits, and an incentive to recycle.

I would also like to see a tax imposed on nonrecyclable items like plastic packaging and housewares that have a short usable lifespan, and things like particle board furniture to help reflect the burden it puts on the system. I would also love to see health Canada more fully regulate a lot of the plastic items from places like the dollar store, which are likely contaminated with lead, thereby diverting a lot more waste and contamination of our groundwater with chemicals.

To me the most difficult issue is the large garbage. I live in Wolseley and there are lots of people in my neighbourhood who don't have cars and have no other way of getting rid of large items if it weren't for our large autobins. I really like the large item trading days, but wish they were more often as I always seem to be out of town at the time and of course it doesn't work in the winter. We have a bin behind our house and people pile junk beside it all the time, which seldom is picked up by BFI. This is a big issue for us, because it makes our house look messy.

Regarding the metal autobins or the plastic wheelie bins but I would imagine the steel bins last longer, and they will withstand a fire and can be repainted and have the tops replaced, whereas the plastic ones will not. Are the plastic bins easily recyclable? I have lived in cities that have the plastic bins and when you come out one morning and it looks like a truck has run into them and the wheel is broken you are in trouble because it will no longer roll and the city won't rush to replace them. To me this seems like just another way for Rubbermaid to sell more plastics, rather than use a more recyclable material like steel. So my vote is for the steel autobins.

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute!

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- **fedup** says:

[March 15, 2011 at 5:18 pm](#)

We have autobins in our lanes. members of our residents asso. have found them to be the most efficient way of keeping garbage contained. They are heavy, & can't be easily moved, garbage pickers can't get inside , We report to 311 regarding grafitti, broken lids, etc. and it is repaired. But, one of the best reasons is that it only requires a walk to the bins, lift the lid and deposit your garbage. No wheeling a plastic cart out , no problem in the winter getting the wheels to move in deep snow, roomy enough for most neighbors weekly deposits, and of course, no chance of the bins being stolen. "wheelie bins" are easily stolen, broken, run over, vandalized by kids, moved up the lane, and some seniors have to ask for help from others to get their bins out at the proper time. Also, if the above events happen to the wheelie bins, it is ridiculous to expect the public to pay \$85 for a new one. If a resident is targeted and has their bin stolen often? They must pay over and over. Rather ridiculous & expensive.



- **Faraway** says:

[March 22, 2011 at 8:43 am](#)

It's true..those that don't recycle currently, probably won't....I just moved here from Southern California...in the city where I lived, residents were given three large bins on wheels (Green for yard waste, Black for household garbage, and blue for recyclables)...if your recycle bin was empty for more than three weeks in a row you would be fined by the city. That got a lot of attention and was a good motivator.



7. **Brian** says:

[March 4, 2011 at 9:43 pm](#)

I am disappointed that the City issued garbage bins are so small. I have a family of four and frequently do not have enough room in the bin. Since I have moved into the west end of Winnipeg, I have made frequent trips to the dump, just to dump the garbage that does not fit in the bin. Each household should be issued at least 2 bins, or make the bins much larger. This would discourage illegal dumping. Why are there so many heaps of recyclables at Brady Landfill? How much money

does it cost to ship recyclables out of the province to be processed? Is the City of Winnipeg profiting enough to self fund this program? How much fossil fuel is being burned to re-cycle?

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• Laya says:

March 6, 2011 at 9:00 am

I honestly believe that houses of four shouldn't need 2 bins why maybe because people need to think of what to recycle, and what to throw into the garbage. I live in a family of four, and we have 2 garbage bags and 3 blue boxes.

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• Judith S says:

March 8, 2011 at 4:55 pm

You need to take a look at what you're throwing away because you have to be adding to the 'heaps of recyclables at Brady Landfill' if a cart that can hold 3 garbage bags isn't large enough! Or maybe take a look at what you're buying? look at buying products with less packaging...?

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

March 10, 2011 at 9:41 am

Brian,

The cart selected for residents was sized to account for a typical family of four that recycles. If a resident finds the volume inadequate, they can contact 311 to request a larger or second cart, however, there is an annual fee for the extra volume.

The cost of shipping material to be recycled is taken into account when it is sold. Material is shipped when there are no local markets and it makes financial sense. The net cost of recycling was approximately \$13 per household in 2009. In comparison, the cost for garbage collection was approximately \$61 per household.

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Using recycled material generally uses a lot less energy than new materials. For example, recycled Aluminum uses 96% less energy and boxboard (cereal boxes) 43% less energy.

Thanks!

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• Dan says:

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March 22, 2011 at 6:11 pm

My family of 6 can barely fill a bag of garbage per week. We do compost which definitely plays a role in the amount we take to the curb. In the end, we know what can be recycled and think smartly before buying things we don't need. It still confuses me to see even how a family of 4 can fill up one of those carts. They're huge! The only way I see those filling up is when a family has McDonalds takeout everyday and Tim Horton's coffee every morning. Think about what you're buying. We need to treat the source, not only the end result.

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8. Rita & Brian says:

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March 5, 2011 at 3:16 pm

We live in the west end of the city and are "very" pleased with our garbage cart...it fits our needs and if in the future it does not we will upgrade to a larger one...it is so easy to wheel to the curb, even in snow...and is secure enough that animals can not tip it over...and on pick up day it is nice to look down our street and see all the carts lined up & not the eye sore we just to see with bags, etc, and garbage blowing all over the place...now please give us a recycling cart of the same size...we fill 2 recycling boxes a week and they are a pain to take out, along with the fact so much in them flies out when pick up happens...thanks for the garbage carts..and fingers crossed recycling carts are not far behind!

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9. Martha says:

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March 5, 2011 at 4:56 pm

We have a garbage bin and I really like it. At first I thought it was going to take up too much room because it supposedly holds two and a half times the garbage of a regular can. But it doesn't seem

to take up much more room than one regular can and it is really easy to wheel out to the curb -- especially in snow. I'd love to have a similar easy-to-wheel recycling bin.

I find that the bin is plenty large for our garbage. I can sometimes wait for two weeks and still not have it full. The only complaint I have is that this past Christmas our garbage day happened to fall on Friday, Dec. 24th, and because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, we didn't get a pick-up again until Wed. Jan. 4th. This meant that all of the garbage from both Christmas and New Year's had only the one bin to go into. And since we had lots of family visiting, with four in diapers, this was impossible to do. It seems unfair to whoever happens to hit that unfortunate day in the garbage cycle. I think something should be done to put in extra pick-up, or have the old trucks come around and pick up the old style bins in the week between Christmas and New Years so that people can get rid of all of that extra garbage they have in that week only. It doesn't make sense to have to buy another bin to cover that once a year situation.

Also, I think you need to have a few more lawn and garden pick-ups in the spring and fall. Twice each season isn't quite enough. What I would love to see is for the City to go back to the system of leaf pick-up they used to use back in the 70s -- the big vacuum trucks with the long hoses that just sucked the leaves up off the boulevard from the piles left by homeowners. No plastic bags to laboriously have to fill. No plastic bags that go into the landfill. The leaves could go straight to composting. It was the perfect system and I don't know why the City got rid of it.

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10. **Chris** says:

March 5, 2011 at 8:25 pm

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We recycle in our home and I would like to see the big recycle bins. It would make it easier to get to the curb and with a truck emptying it the bin may last longer. I do not have the garbage bins in my area but would like to know if they have cut down on cost and waste of the bins themselves. I know both my larger blue box I have purchased and the wheeling garbage can I purchased continue to be broken by those who pick up the refuse and abuse the bins. It is very frustrating to throw out a bin every 2 month due to abuse. I would like to see a program when bins are provided and if broken by workers swapped out at no cost to home owner. I know this would have a cost to the waste program but maybe it would also make the employees more accountable.

The other thing I would be interested in is a composting program. I wouldn't even mind having to drop it off somewhere versus having it picked up as long as I don't have to drive to the other side of the city to do it. I think I could cut the garbage going to my curb by another 20-30%. Putting a

composting bin in my back yard would not resolve my problem as the bin fills fast and takes time to break down the waste.

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- Tanya says:

March 6, 2011 at 12:03 pm

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You can recycle your recycling bins.

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- SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

March 7, 2011 at 4:29 pm

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Hi Chris,

Yes, Automated Cart collection does save on costs compared to manual or AutoBin collection. Since the Automated Carts were introduced in Northwest Winnipeg, the amount of garbage being collected has decreased 20%.

Thanks!

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- Judith S says:

March 8, 2011 at 4:49 pm

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If your recycling boxes are broken by the crews you can call and request they replace them. I think they'll do it at least once...

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11. Tanya says:

March 6, 2011 at 10:49 am

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As a composter I am sad that composting is only 10 years away. A ban on organic matter entering landfills should happen soon. And yes a ban on organic matter, this forces the city to implement a compost plan. If we wait 10 years until a city wide composting program starts we will be creating and letting off methane gas for another 20 years. Sooner the better. Decrease waste pick ups and alternate between garbage and organics. I know I making it sound simple and its not but many other cities and places are already doing this with a little effort.

On another note, if composting is only in the plans within the next 10 years there are a number of winnipeg neighbourhood groups that are diverting a significant amount of organic waste, St Matthew/Daniel Mac, Spence Neighbourhood Association and West Broadway to name a few. If it is a priority I am sure funding to allow continued waste diversion would be welcome and show people that you are serious about organics.

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12. **Tanya** says:

[March 6, 2011 at 12:01 pm](#)

As a composter I am sad that composting is only 10 years away. A ban on organic matter entering landfills should happen soon. And yes a ban on organic matter, this forces the city to implement a compost plan. If we wait 10 years until a city wide composting program starts we will be creating and letting off methane gas for another 20 years. Sooner the better. Decrease waste pick ups and alternate between garbage and organics. I know I making it sound simple and its not but many other cities and places are already doing this with a little effort.

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13. **Karen McLachlan** says:

[March 7, 2011 at 12:05 pm](#)

Please watch 'Humus: Forgotten Climate Aid' TONIGHT March 8, at 8PM CT on Oasis HD TV.  
Check your guide for times – Oasis HD – Love Nature!

Everyone needs to watch this to understand the effects of garbage on the environment and how our lands are being depleted – excellent show that talks about Humus and Composting and the benefits of it to the landfill, environment, and planet. Excellent show!

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14. Steve says:

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March 8, 2011 at 6:33 am

Maybe we should just stop all this save the planet and just recycle. maybe companies like coke pepsi, bring back the real glass bottles to use and refill instead of the throw away plastic bottles. there the ones who have created this mess. People also had jobs collecting the bottles and washing them. maybe big companies should be responsible for making reusable stuff.

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• kim says:

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March 8, 2011 at 9:07 am

I agree with u 100%

I am from London Ontario where in the past many years we have recycled our pop cans. There is also a deposit on milk jugs so you never see these laying around on the ground. The next step was to put a deposit on all liquor bottles whether it is tetra packs for wine or rum bottles. When this started you never saw these discarded as people wanted the money. By doing this the garbage laying around went way down. As well many Londoners were big on recycling.

Maybe should be considered here

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15. Tracy says:

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March 8, 2011 at 4:04 pm

I can't speak on the large garbage bins, as I am in the south end of the city, and we don't have those yet. Recycling, on the other hand, is a bit of a sore spot. For a family of two adults and one 12year old child, we FILL four recycling bins every collection cycle. I can't even being to tell you how many times I've come home from work to find that one or more of the bins hasn't been emptied because there's something in there that is too large (like a collapsed moving box, or Christmas packaging). This is cardboard/paper, and there is NO reason for this to be refused. I have gone as long as a MONTH putting the same item out over and over and over, all with no avail. The only way that box ended up leaving was when I shoved it in my garbage can. That being said, there is no reason why ALL plastics and ALL glass and ALL paper products can't be recycled. I'm referring to those cute ads

on the transit buses saying we can't recycle your plastic bags – why on earth not? It's plastic, and recyclable plastic for that matter. Cracked or broken plastic bins should also be able to be recycled – but according to my pickup team, who leaves stuff in the middle of my driveway without labels as to why it was refused, that kind of plastic is not wanted. Really??? Since when is being picky about what you recycle a good thing? If the currently company is unable or unwilling to provide service in full, they should be replaced. I'm sure the city has clauses entered into the contracts to allow for such a thing.

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• Judith S says:

March 8, 2011 at 4:36 pm

They can't recycle the pastic bags because it jams up the machinery at the recycling plant and causes damage.

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• Tanya says:

March 8, 2011 at 6:20 pm

My understanding of Winnipeg's recycling company and the city is that there must be a market for the recycled items and because economics run most things in this world some things might be hard. I would again like to bring it back to the citizens of Winnipeg. Yes we can demand larger or different bins but we also need to change our actions as people, take responsibility and not blame it on the government.

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

March 10, 2011 at 9:45 am

Hi Tracy,

Thanks for your comments. If your blue box was not picked up, the collector should have left a notice with the material explaining why. If not, please call 311.

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There are some special cases with the material that you mentioned. A lot of wrapping paper can't be recycled because of how it's manufactured. Cardboard needs to be flattened and cut down so that it's no larger than 1 metre in any direction. Anything larger than that could become jammed in the sorting machinery at the recycling plant (See the tour here: <http://garbage.speakupwinnipeg.com/2010/11/mrf-vi...>)

See <http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/recycle/bluebox....> for more information on our blue box program

We don't accept plastic shopping bags in our blue box because they would jam the machinery, but many grocery stores in Winnipeg will take them back. There's a list of those stores available here: <http://www.plastics.ca/Recycling/PlasticBags/Stor...>

Thanks for your feedback!

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16. **V. Moore** says:

[March 8, 2011 at 5:57 pm](#)

I want to keep the garbage & recycling as it is in the Elmwood/EK area. It is simple to put your containers (garbage cans, bags, or recycling boxes) at the back of the property the night before scheduled pick up and it is all gone next day. I put my empty containers back in my yard with no mess or fuss to worry about. The large bins are too much for me to handle and bins at the corner are too far away and create a garbage dump 24/7 with inappropriate items being left in or nearby causing an eyesore and a place where mischievous imps can start fires cause other problems. Leave things as they are in my territory, they are good.

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17. **NeedBigRecyclingBin** says:

[March 8, 2011 at 7:35 pm](#)

We live in West St. James we love the new bins that have been given out. They make garbage day so much easier. Although some of the people trying to empty them don't have a clue what they are doing. One day the lady in the truck tried to pick up the can three times and then ripped the lid off of the can she ended up getting out of the truck and emptying the can my hand and throwing it onto the

ground because she was mad. The lid laying next to the can. When I came out of the house and asked what the problem was she said I don't know there is to much garbage in your can I can't pick it up. Ok then the can was full the lid was closed how can it be over filled? Nothing was packed down you pulled the bags out and throw them in the truck and broke the lid off of can?????? I noticed most of the garbage bins on our street were laying on the ground that day rather than sitting on the end of the driveways. I caulked it up to an inexperienced person running the truck. Has only happened once since that time. I would really love to receive a wheeled bin larger than the garbage bin for recycling items. I have found since we are only allowed one bin of garbage per week we (family of 6) are recycling allot more and have had to purchase more recycling bins but on garbage day the recycling bins are small and don't hold much they blow around in the wind end up emptied on the street. The people that pick them up and empty them throw them down and shatter them to pieces if they could only see me watching them from the window. If it were their bins would they be treating them that way. They are not cheep to purchase over and over again. We would much rather have a large wheeled recycling bin.

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18. **Laya** says:

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March 9, 2011 at 4:31 pm

Look at that!!! Everywhere you look on the internet type in Winnipeg and crap like this pops up about winnipeg being the worst recyclers bottom of the heap in everything.

<http://www.livinggreenlivingwell.ca/blog5/manitob...>

still lagging, as the city keeps putting out these videos my name is blah blah from blah blah and we need you open. <http://www.livinggreenlivingwell.ca/blog/compost-...>

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19. **Walter Schurko** says:

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March 9, 2011 at 5:05 pm

The rolling garbage cart is too small to accommodate many large articles. I find that many people take the large articles in their cars or whatever and go into areas that have dumpsters, where they dispose of everything that does not fit into the garbage cart. Does the City think that anyone with a couple of larger articles that do not fit in the cart will go to the Brady Dump, spend the time and gas? Also I understand that a lot of stuff that is taken to the recyclable plant is rejected and tons of it is sent to the dump. I cannot see how the people on the conveyer belt can possibly do a good job

when the belt is moving so fast, therefore a lot of good material is also rejected. I would surmise that the reason so much material goes to the dump from the recycle plant is the City does not do a good job in advising the public in the newspaper or brochure on exactly what is recyclable and what is not. When you phone 311 for any information regarding what is recyclable or not, at times you get two different answers.

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

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March 10, 2011 at 1:26 pm

Hi Walter,

Over 95% of what comes into the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) from blue boxes is recycled. The MRF uses a combination of automated and manual sorting. Manual sorters specialise on a specific container type so sorting can be done quickly and efficiently. Because they are only looking for one product at a time, milk jugs for example, the belt can run at higher speeds.

We've posted a video tour of MRF which shows how materials are sorted:

<http://garbage.speakupwinnipeg.com/2010/11/mrf-vi...>

Thanks for your feedback.

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20. **GreenWanda** says:

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March 10, 2011 at 1:30 pm

Why do many people want larger bins or multiple bins? How about smaller bins? I can't believe how wasteful we are. Everyone should really consider whether they really need "things" and if that item can be recycled somehow before they buy. Even recycling isn't the answer because it will eventually end up at the dump. I know that we will always be producing some waste but I can't believe how much a single family will trash just for convenience. Why do we complain that our water and air are polluted and species are disappearing at an alarming rate when we can't even use less. Easter is coming so don't forget to run out and buy all that ridiculous, meaningless crap we feel makes our holidays and lives better.

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21. **Chris** says:

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March 10, 2011 at 6:29 pm

Regarding garbage bins: Anyone I know doesn't like them. They take up too much room in small back yards where there is little space for parking as it is. For example, in my home in the River Heights area, there is no place to put a bin. I don't have the room or the strength to wheel it out of my garage. I really dread the new bins coming to my part of the city.

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22. **Sage\_Cynic** says:

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March 11, 2011 at 12:15 pm

The best option is not bigger recycling containers, but more of them. I have a big bin now and I sometimes struggle to get it out to the backlane because it can be pretty heavy when packed. It makes more sense for people to simply obtain the number of bins that work for their household, rather than moving to bigger and bigger receptacles.

A wheeled container wouldn't work for me because it would be difficult to negotiate through my garage. (Due to the grade of my lot, there is a 4-inch curb around my garage. I'd have to heave the bin over this curb to get it into the garage and out to the backlane.)

In my view, recycling bins are the least of our problems. I'd like to see more options for recycling packaging — including those skinny plastic bags that the Free Press is using. They're useless for any other purpose (expect perhaps dog-poop collection), and it pains me to throw them into the landfill.

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23. **Linda Moyer** says:

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March 14, 2011 at 6:28 pm

I live in the north west end of Winnipeg. I love my roll out garbage bin. I wish we had them for the recycle stuff. We have some neighbors who just put their paper in the recycle box and don't put anything on top it so that it blows around into neighborhood. I put out an average of 3 recycle boxes a week. It would be easier to roll one bin out and with a lid on it, it would make the neighbor cleaner.

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24. Will says:

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March 15, 2011 at 3:22 pm

That's a good point. In the UK you had a certain size bin or number of bins depending on how many people lived in the house, and you had to fit all your garbage in the bin (if it wasn't in the bin, it didn't get collected). It makes you question what you can recycle and what you can't, and makes the garbage space more valuable.

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• Will says:

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March 15, 2011 at 3:25 pm

Perhaps the city should make up a fridge magnet and send to everyone in the city that shows what can and can't be recycled.

I find that I have to keep reminding myself to recycle certain things, and forget what I can and can't recycle. Most kitchen bins are close to the fridge, so this would be a constant reminder and useful information, i.e. the information on this link: [http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/recycle/bluebox....](http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/recycle/bluebox...)

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25. Maurice Deforel says:

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March 21, 2011 at 10:24 pm

Has anyone from the City of Winnipeg seriously studied the capabilities of Pronto Energy ROC Inc.

My understanding of their Orverter technology, which was developed here in Winnipeg, is that it has the capability of replacing our landfills.

It requires no outside fuel to operate, has no emissions and burns so hot that it eliminates all diseases found in the products it burns.

The heat it generates can be used to produce energy which can be used to heat and power nearby buildings.

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Why is this technology not being mentioned by the City in these discussions? Are they not aware of its potential?

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- **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

March 23, 2011 at 10:46 am

Hi Maurice,

This technology has not been mentioned because in Phase 2 we are looking at options for garbage, recycling and organics on a general level (i.e. Do we support a curbside organics program? Not the technology that would be used to compost it). No specific manufacturers or proprietary technologies are being considered at this time.

We are familiar with the Orverter and are aware that many other Waste to Energy (WTE) options exist in the marketplace.

Technologies like the Orverter excel at disposing materials that are difficult to manage safely such as hazardous wastes. For most of the materials that make up residential waste stream, we are basing the Phase 2 options on the Waste Hierarchy. Reusing, recycling and recovery through composting are generally lower cost than WTE, save embodied energy and return nutrients and organic material to soils.

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26. **V. Seib** says:

March 22, 2011 at 7:42 pm

The garbage & recycling should stay as it is in the Charleswood area, which has long gravel driveways.

It is simple to carry and put your containers (garbage cans, bags, or recycling boxes) at the front of the property the night before scheduled pick up. I don't believe that the automated cart would roll down a gravel/crushed rock driveway easily in spring, summer and fall, if at all, and trying to push it thru snow down a long driveway in winter would be difficult as well.

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27. **Rajni** says:

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March 23, 2011 at 10:45 pm

I would like the companies who make plastic products pay some kind of fees to the city as well as companies using plastic products like 711, grocery stores using plastic bags etc as they are the ones who are creating the garbage because after a certain time you can not recycle the plastic. I would like to see people compost more in their neighbourhood. May be in summer months, city can have composting workshops in neighbourhoods on weekends and show them how to do composting or may be have a neighbourhood composting site. I think we should leave those big bins as it is. I live close to manitoba housing and I see so much litter on the boulevard that I have to use those blue bins to throw the garbage. I think city should also educate people living in manitoba housing how to compost and not to throw the garbage on the street. I try to keep the area around my home neat and clean but people in manitoba housing just do not think about the cleanliness. I would like some action to be taken in this regard and charge these people some kind of fees.

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28. **rajni** says:

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March 23, 2011 at 10:45 pm

For people those who have PETS, PLEASE DO NOT USE PLASTIC TO THROW THEIR POOP, INSTEAD USE NEWSPAPER AND JUST ROLL THE POOP IN IT AND THROW IN THE GARBAGE. This way you have nitrogen,carbon and water is already in the poop, perfect for mother nature.

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• **Tanya** says:

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March 26, 2011 at 7:25 pm

Common mistake, Although these are great elements for composting it happens in aerobic conditions. Regulations on landfills create anaerobic conditions which is the second largest source of Methane.

I do support using a non plastic poop bag, it is still not great for our city.

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29. PMC says:

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March 24, 2011 at 9:37 pm

I like the comment from Cathy about having a 2 bag limit. Go over the limit and its another cash grab by the city. Start off with .50 per extra bag then year 2 make it .75 per and year 3 make it 1.00 per and so on and so on .... Just like photo grab cash radar/red light millions.

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30. Garth says:

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March 24, 2011 at 9:40 pm

Most people know that incentives work, while disincentives generally do not. Incentives make for happy taxpayers who want to work within the system. Disincentives make for disgruntled taxpayers who see reduced services and will attempt to circumvent the system. Here are some scenarios.

Problem: You want to people to recycle more.

Incentive: Provide high capacity recycle carts with lids.

Disincentive: Tell people to recycle but don't provide proper bins or carts. Hire a pickup service that leaves recyclables littered all over the streets and back alleys and inexplicably leaves some materials in your bin even though they aren't stuck or frozen there.

Problem: You want people to compost more.

Incentive: Provide composite carts which are picked up weekly or bi-weekly, as in Nova Scotia (I lived there, it's a province-wide program, works great).

Disincentive: Tell people to compost but don't provide any services.

Problem: You want people to create less household waste.

Incentive: Provide proper alternatives, like good recycling carts and a compost service.

Disincentive: Force people to use a rolling garbage cart. Make larger households pay for a larger or a second cart. For households that may only periodically need a larger cart (I.e. family gatherings, house guests, renovations), don't give them any options and make them drive to the landfill. To top it off, periodically decide not to empty their cart because the lid is open by 1 inch, or it's an inch too close to a snow bank (which the city put there), even though it was picked up the prior week with no problem in the exact same location. In the case of narrow back lanes (this is Winnipeg), don't bother

to raise the forks on the truck so you have to drive right up against the opposite fence and knock or drive over someone's recycle bins. Lovely, now I have to buy new recycle bins.

We've had the rolling garbage carts for a year, and here's my experience:

What to do with yard waste? We mulch our grass but there's always branches, etc. that have to go somewhere and don't fit in the bin. We aren't allowed to burn them, so people just illegally dump it all at the civic centre. The city gave in and took down the 'no dumping' sign. So the civic centre is now our local dump for yard waste. Wonderful.

What to do when you have bulky items like styrofoam packaging or renovation waste after making a major purchase at a local retailer? Who's going to drive to the dump for a 1 kg load of styrofoam, so it's off to the civic centre again to dump it illegally (haven't done it myself, but it has become the norm in my neighbourhood).

What to do over the Christmas holidays when the garbage truck may not come for nearly 2 weeks? You could attempt to put everything in your rolling cart...it may not quite fit but you could hope the driver has pity on you due to the circumstances. Sorry, no. So now what? Are you going to drive to the landfill for a bag or 2 of extra garbage? I didn't think so. So it's off to the civic centre again, our new local dump. Perhaps it can be renamed to Civic Centre & Transfer Station, because that's what it is since we started using the rolling garbage carts. I'm sure the mice, rats and raccoons love the new system.

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• Tanya says:

March 26, 2011 at 7:15 pm

Garth,

I see a few things wrong with what you are saying.

1. Garbage isn't the city of Winnipeg's issue, it is its citizens issue, we must take some action to reduce our waste. If you have too much christmas holiday garbage maybe you and those you give gifts to should consider the waste it produces.
  2. Cash incentives may work for a short time, but other studies have shown are changing the social norm can have a bigger impact. You could be a leader.
  3. Unless we want to pay a lot more taxes for the city picking up every possible piece of garbage, deal.
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Yes I agree the city should take action, but us as citizens also need to show that we care and are willing to change our personal action.

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• **Garth says:**

April 20, 2011 at 7:41 am

1. You try having 20-30 guests over for an event involving meals and presents, and not producing more garbage than a cart can hold.
2. I never mentioned cash incentives.
3. Our former garbage pickup worked fine, and I wasn't paying a lot more taxes then.

I already reduced our garbage (prior to the carts even), and in a normal week it's not an issue (IF they pick it up). However there are no contingency plans for the odd times when the cart isn't enough. So illegal dumping is the new norm in my neighborhood.

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31. **Jennifer says:**

March 26, 2011 at 1:21 pm

I think that the options outlined in this section are a good idea but much too lax. I wonder why, when we know what needs to be done, the powers that be are too afraid to tell the public at large? We know that we need to make changes yesterday and they need to be drastic if we want to make any kind of meaningful impact and yet we make a 5 and 10 year plan?

I would be willing to pay to have my compost picked up and I think there should be a large fee for having over a standard amount of waste per week. The main reasons that more people don't already compost and recycle everything they can is a lack of education on the consequences and lack of motivation by society. If we can't teach people the harm they are doing by not recycling or composting then we need to make it cost more to motivate them to learn.

For the city, it would create jobs to have these services offered as well as improve our image as following years behind the progressive provinces. The people that care about the environment need to support those officials brave enough to suggest more and faster changes. It is for the benefit of everyone.

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32.



Mike says:

March 29, 2011 at 2:12 pm

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I look at the table "Cost of Keeping Garbage Out of the Landfill" and can just imagine the average Winnipegger's response (and probably most of city hall) – "This is going to cost me how much? Then forget it."

Is this merely a question of optics? What are the economic benefits of increasing diversion? What about pointing out that if we all produced less waste to begin with that waste collection would be much cheaper overall (i.e. low volume waste producers are currently subsidizing services for high volume producers)? Can costs be offset somewhat by charging by the volume of waste we produce (I see this possibility with the rolling bins) and the proposed charges for large item pickup?

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

April 4, 2011 at 1:08 pm

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Hi Mike,

Winnipeggers have said that they want to divert more from the landfill. We know that some of these improvements may come with a cost now, but there are also long-term cost savings.

Reducing and Reusing are the first steps on the Waste Hierarchy which is one of the Guiding Principles of this plan.

The recommendation to automated carts will lower costs versus current collection methods in two ways: increased collection efficiency and less garbage being landfilled. Less material in our landfills means lower costs for management of the landfill in the future. Landfill management costs include the capture of greenhouse gasses and the treatment of Leachate. In the automated cart area, there is a standard cart size. Residents can upgrade to a larger cart for an annual fee. So there is a cost associated with the volume of garbage generated for homes served by automated carts.

These cost figures provided in Phase 2 are preliminary, and once the options have been determined, more detailed projections (of costs and savings) can be made.

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### 3 comments on “Open Houses”



1. **Bob** says:

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March 4, 2011 at 1:08 pm

Make it easy to what is right. Once people figure out a convenient way to do it wrong, changing their behaviour later will be a challenge.

Disposing of special items needs to be easier. If I cannot put empty paint cans, used electronics, etc. in the recycle box or return them to the place I bought them, they will end up in the garbage. Last time I tried recycling electronics, it was an ordeal driving to one of the few depots that were open when I was available.

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2. **linda B.** says:

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March 9, 2011 at 4:21 pm

I lived in Edmonton over 30 years ago and they had depots that you could bring glass, plastics, etc. and receive money back. When I was young we could return bottles back to the grocery stores for our deposits back. We have gone backwards. Make small depots around the city and you'll see a cleaner Winnipeg. People will pick up that bottle so they can get the deposit back.

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3. **Rowena Fisher** says:

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March 30, 2011 at 7:21 pm

Whatever Option's adopted – back lanes must be used, not streets: I live in the Luxton Neighbourhood and I sincerely hope that whatever system is put in place the back lane is used – that's one of the purposes they're there!. Following the inception of the blue boxes in Luxton the front street became the pick up point (the blue box guys at that time zig zagged across the street picking up the boxes – which they don't any more.) Not every house has a cut through the snow bank to the kerb. Bins are balanced on snow banks; retrieving the empty bin can be a challenge. Not having easy access to put out the blue box is a deterrent to using it. Blue boxes on the street significantly increase the amount of litter.

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If the bin option is adopted, and the front street is used, these bins will sit on the boulevard week after week – just drive along Aberdeen west of Main and you'll see the unsightly black wheeled bins lined up at the kerb 24/7. Would we want our city to look like a perpetual garbage collection?

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### 31 comments on “How Do We Collect Garbage?”



1. **Aaron** says:

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December 11, 2010 at 7:15 pm

A big improvement to the automated cart approach would be to allow households the option of a smaller than 240 L cart (with annual savings) rather than just giving the option of a bigger cart.

Another way of encouraging more diversion would be to have the option of pickup every second week (with annual savings). Different coloured bins could be given to those choosing less frequent pickup so that it would be obvious to the drivers when to pick these up.

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2. **P.E.Rich** says:

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December 13, 2010 at 11:50 am

I generate so little garbage that i share an automated cart with several neighbours, truck picks up 1 cart as opposed to 3-4

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3. **Sara** says:

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December 15, 2010 at 3:19 pm

I have the automated cart collection and dislike it for a number of reasons.

a. The carts are huge (I agree with the previous poster that the city should offer incentives for getting a smaller cart) and hard to lug to the backlane, especially in winter. What are people with limited mobility supposed to do? Now instead of getting a bag to the backlane, they have to wheel the whole cart there?

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b. You're not supposed to leave the cart in the backlane after collection, but many people do leave them so that they don't have to move them back and forth (and possibly forget to put it out on garbage day). This means you now walk down a backlane full of huge, ugly carts.

If the city really wants to beautify neighbourhoods, they would call for bulky waste pickup themselves when they see something has been sitting by the garbage for weeks. Sure, we can say that people should do it themselves, but some people are just not going to.

In short, I find this an inconvenient system that has done nothing to improve the look of the neighbourhood or the convenience of garbage pickup. If anything it's made it more cumbersome and left more garbage on the streets.

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4. **C. Allen** says:

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[January 1, 2011 at 8:42 am](#)

Autobins need to go. What a ludicrous amount of garbage they generate. They are also the most unsightly of all the options and they are a hazard to vehicles trying to navigate back lanes in the winter. Automated carts, available in three sizes (under 240, 240 and over 240 should be made available for both garbage and recycling with a surcharge or savings attached. ALL single-family dwellings in the entire city should be on this system. Neighborhoods with back lanes should have pickup there and those with front drives have no other option than to take them to the curb. There should also be an option for homeowners to leave them in the back lane at the end of their property if they wish, as not everyone will have room in the yard for these to stay all year long and some seniors may have trouble carting them around in the winter. If they go missing or are damaged, it should be the responsibility of the homeowner to replace them (i.e., purchase new one from the city).

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5. **Cyndi** says:

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[January 5, 2011 at 9:49 pm](#)

We have the automated cart and as ugly as they are I'm all for them. Most (not all) people who say that they are not big enough don't recycle. The only problem that I do have with them is this past garbage pick-up we had 12 days in between with Christmas and New Year's Eve garbage. Even with all the recycling we did the cart just wasn't big enough. I think that maybe when there's that many days inbetween pick-ups they could send out another truck to pick-up the extra garbage. I know that

alot of people won't keep in stored in their garage or yard and stray dogs and cats are going to make a mess out of it. And chances are nobody is going to clean-up that mess.

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6. **mr. spellcheque** says:

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January 19, 2011 at 12:08 pm

When will the automated carts be coming to St. Vital?

Mr. Spellcheque

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

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January 19, 2011 at 4:33 pm

Automated Carts is just one of the collection options that the Garbage and Recycling Master Plan will be exploring in Phase 2 of the project. Phase 2 should be starting next month.

Our goal is to have the plan presented to Council this fall, and implementation would take place over the next few years.

Cheers!

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7. **Garrett** says:

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January 30, 2011 at 9:49 am

Autobins need to be replaced. Illegal dumping in our neighbourhood is rampant, as is the lack of recycling. We put out two containers of recycling and most of our neighbours put out none. There is a new four plex in our neighbourhood and the city has decided to put an autobin on the front street. It is getting tagged, overflowing and looks downright ugly.

Get rid of the autobins.

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8. **Danno** says:

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February 16, 2011 at 10:15 am

I have the roll out automated cart and I love it...way to go City Water & Waste. To the plentiful Nay-Sayers...make a change and embrace new systems. Its great to have one bin, filled with garbage throughout the week and roll it out to the street on Garbage Day. No more bags of smelly garbage lying around my garage. What I really would LOVE next is to have the same consideration given to Recycling. I'd love a roll out automated bin for recycling as well! Except bigger than the garbage ones as I currently put out 5 of the blue boxes every garbage day.

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9. **Jodi McLaren** says:

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February 16, 2011 at 11:44 am

I have been trying to get our autobin replaced with a the auto cart. The autobin sits right next to our back yard and in summer we can't even been in our yard for the stench it emits. It took me 3 calls to 311 to get a lid put on it.

Also the number of "others" dropping off their junk and large garbage items around the bin just because it is there – is staggering. If that spot wasn't a designated "garbage spot" by the city, and our auto carts were in our yards, no one would feel that dumping their garbage in our driveway was acceptable. Please replace autobins with autocarts asap.

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10. **Robin** says:

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February 23, 2011 at 5:06 pm

Get rid of the autobins.

In the winter they are difficult to get out to the street for someone who is reasonably fit for two elderly neighbours they have to call for help,

In the summer, as a previous runner up in take pride winnipeg, I have to store excess plant material and have it carted away.

Thanks for raising the fees at the dump.

Thanks for the small garbage cans.

Thanks for putting a dump at my community club.

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Thanks for not rasing my taxes (although I paying more in taxes) this year

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11. Eric says:

February 26, 2011 at 7:31 am

Autobins are fire hazards and eye sores. It seems where autobins are present the garbage on the ground gets out of hand. If the city's intention was to lower the property value of entire neighbourhoods I would say they did their job. The autobin behind my house has been lit on fire three times and most recently it has destroyed my fence because when they pick it up the snow falls under and when they sit it down the bin has no where else to go but in my yard. So now it lays at a 45 degree angle half way through my fence. I phone all the time, at least twice a month about different things that that eyesore creates. I'm almost at my wits end with those things.

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12. Craig says:

March 4, 2011 at 11:36 am

I'm in Crescentwood and I would love to have automated cart pickup for both garbage and recycling. We regularly have twice as much recycling as garbage, so much so that it's often overflowing the recycling blue bins and blowing down the back lanes.

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13. HMK says:

March 4, 2011 at 11:48 am

I recycle (and compost) more than I throw away. Yet I have a HUGE automated cart for my garbage, a tiny recycling box, and nowhere to use my compostable materials. Give me an automated cart for my recycling that's the same size as my current garbage cart, an automated cart for garbage that's 1/3 of the size, and an equally small automated cart for my compostables...

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14. beaker11 says:

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March 4, 2011 at 12:24 pm

We have the new roll out cart, and it is great. I hope the City will continue with this type of garbage pick up.

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15. Bob says:

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March 4, 2011 at 1:11 pm

Make it easy to what is right. Once people figure out a convenient way to do it wrong, changing their behaviour later will be a challenge.

Disposing of special items needs to be easier. If I cannot put empty paint cans, used electronics, etc. in the recycle box or return them to the place I bought them, they will end up in the garbage. Last time I tried recycling electronics, it was an ordeal driving to one of the few depots that were open when I was available.

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16. B H says:

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March 4, 2011 at 1:27 pm

There are two houses down my back lane that CONSISTENTLY generate huge volumes of garbage. These are private homes in the Crescentwood area.

There is little if any recycling going on there.

It is as though they are a business generating this, although they are not [?]

We raised two kids [family of four] and never generated this kind of volume.

I would accept easily, an automated cart behind my house, but they certainly would not work for these two houses.

So what is the answer here ?

Just as a footnote;

one of the houses is a rental and another neighbour and I are always cleaning up crap left about the backlane.

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17. Derek says:

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March 4, 2011 at 3:05 pm

It is very disturbing to see Winnipeg's low diversion position, 17%, relative to other major cities. This is not a contest, but we sure can do better; and it is facilities such as this web site that make us aware of our poor showing. More awareness programs in the newspapers and news broadcasts should also help. It is also clear, from reading the comments, that there will probably never be "one size fits all" solution to garbage collection; but there can be improvements to the current practice. I, for one, think the huge multi-family bins are ugly and are open to abuse. I'd get rid of them. I don't have the wheeled carts yet but I have used them and find that they are very easy to handle. I would certainly like to see "green" curbside pickup or more location for drop off. More drop-off locations for electronics would be helpful as now you have to drive a long way to dispose of a tv, computer, etc. Perhaps there could also be a periodic, e.g. quarterly, pickup of large items. Maybe this could be coordinated with the "give-away" weekends.

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18. Leanne says:

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March 4, 2011 at 6:16 pm

I grew up in Brandon and when I moved here to Winnipeg 10 years ago I was surprised to see that they still used garbage bins. Brandon has been using these new curbside bins since I was in junior high school. A few years ago they also incorporated a curbside bin for recycling. The new curbside bins do prevent garbage from being thrown around unlike regular garbage bins. As the new curbside bins are difficult for wind to blow over, this is also better for when the bins are empty as not all people are able to bring their bins in right after pick up and this will prevent bins from being blown all over the street. The carts are very large and we have difficulty filling one before the next pick up. What I would love to see is for Winnipeg to crate ones for recycling as well and for those who like for composting as well.

Yes this will cut jobs in half for garbage workers but in the long run it will help to save jobs because it will help prevent on the jobs injuries.

This is a good move for Winnipeg!

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19. OHO! says:

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March 4, 2011 at 11:28 pm

Get rid of the autobins. The City (I name the City, not BFI because my contract is not with an outsourced private enterprise) has now twice damaged my fence with careless pick-up and replacement. Add that to the odour, being a graffiti magnet, and people thinking "here is where I should dump my (insert large unwanted item), not behind MY fence", and replacing them with rollout carts becomes a no-brainer.

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20. Lola says:

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March 5, 2011 at 2:24 am

We still have an autobin where we live. I would love to see it gone because where it is located, it serves about 9 houses because of lack of space elsewhere, and as it sits on our lot, we would gain a lot of space by having it gone. Everyone else might have some trouble with where to put their carts though and it would make driving that stretch a bit difficult unless people share as someone else mentioned.

Personally, I wouldn't mind the carts because in our house we produce very little garbage most of the time but it is already necessary to have a matching sized or larger recycling bin. It seems like the people who complain of the carts being too small are not doing their part to recycle. So maybe an across the board change would be a good wakeup call though you are never going to change everyone. It upsets me that anyone could think that we have a "right" to generate unlimited amounts of garbage.

As for the negatives, we are young and able to drag a cart around but I can see that some people might have difficulty with this due to disability etc. I also agree that although the carts will look good when new, they will eventually become old and worn and dirty and clutter up the lane creating as many problems as the bins, but at least it will be a new and different set of problems . . .

We compost our own organics and use them in our garden, so I am not really eager to fund other people's compostables pickup but I can see the benefits.

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I would like to put a plug in here to encourage everyone to use compostable plastic garbage bags at home, to reject plastic shopping bags from stores and to encourage the city to put in place incentives for stores to adopt compostable bags and other measures to reduce all plastic garbage, which we know is mostly packaging.

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21. **Pat Thompson** says:

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[March 7, 2011 at 9:52 am](#)

I live in the Garden city and we currently use the new garbage bins . I am very pleased with this new method of garbage collection and i find that we only have to put our bins at the roadside once a month for pick up as they are so large and easily hold a months' worth of garbage. We do recycle most items and I am anxiously awaiting the large blue bins for recycling. Winnipeg came up with a marvellous idea when it implemented this new way of collecting garbage and soon recycling, I hope.

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22. **Whyus** says:

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[March 7, 2011 at 5:30 pm](#)

We have had the autobin behind our house (not fair why us for all these years?) and has caused us so many problems I cannot begin to list in one email. Suffice it to say that we all need to be responsible for our OWN garbage not everyone elses. The smells,the vandalism, damage to our fence 3 times, the mess around the bin that know one wants to be responsible for, the security risk to enter our yard , the fact that when you want to barbeque on a summer evening and the smell it so bad, others dropping animal feces in as if it is a communal dump...need i say more. Please get rid of these. Wolsely needs them gone.

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23. **Bob** says:

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[March 8, 2011 at 3:17 pm](#)

Note that they state "A garbage collector picks up an average of 9,000 kg of garbage a day" but don't display a number for the automated cart system. I suspect that human powered garbage collection is at least three times as fast.

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- **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

March 10, 2011 at 9:43 am

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Bob,

While it is possible that a manual collection truck may collect faster than automated collection using carts, the automated truck requires only 1 worker rather than 3. The cart trucks service 15-25% more homes in a day than the manual collectors

Based on our experiences so far, automated carts offer significant cost savings over manual collection. Many cities in Canada have switched to automated collection because of the cost savings and increase to diversion rates.

Automated trucks also offer many advantages to the workers such as less risk of hand injury from sharp materials and lowered incidence of repetitive strain injuries because workers throw 9,000 kg, per day. The average career of a garbage collector is 5 years and staffing recruitment and retention is a challenge for the industry.

Thanks for you comment!

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24. **rick** says:

March 9, 2011 at 9:44 am

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We like the automated pickup and need only to put it out every 2-3 weeks. Would like to have a similar recycling bin and would only need pickup once a month.

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25. **Danielle** says:

March 9, 2011 at 2:55 pm

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In West Broadway, they need to get more recycling bins by apartments, you have maybe 12 huge garbage bins and only 8 recycling bins (which are much smaller) in the back lane on my block (Our

block is almost all apartments, on both sides of the back lane). The recycling bins are often completely full a few hours after being emptied! Something needs to be done!

Also, most of the autobins for garbage have been lit on fire multiple times, or had fire works thrown in them at 2 am, and they are all tagged. There's also a serious large furniture problem, in the summer there was couches, tables, mattresses at every bin. They do come about once a year to pick it up. Last year by the time they did it, our lane (one block) had 12 couches, 4 tables, 6 mattresses and a huge TV that was kicked and destroyed by the kids around the block.

Composting would be a great thing. Actually, there are depots for compost in West Broadway, but I think there should be a pick up option or more depots in the rest of the city.

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26. **P Kovalik** says:

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March 9, 2011 at 4:27 pm

We love the automated carts, and would love to get on board with a recycling one. the blue boxes are too small and end up all over the road. I did notice the streets where a lot cleaner last summer with the new bins. About all I see now is recycling blowing all over the place

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27. **Dave** says:

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March 14, 2011 at 7:19 pm

Mattresses and large waste are pulled from the tops of the large bins ,Auto bins .Contract pickup companies such as Laidlaw pull mattresses from the bins ....they plug up the hoppers of the trucks.If a number of over large items are filling the large Blue bins they are not picked up.

The City of Winnipeg Auto bins are littered 'round them for the same reason Laidlaw often does not pickup the bin ..mattresses etc are too large to be picked up by the Trucks.The City cannot refuse to pickup the refuse, so the drivers have to dismount the unit tip out the oversize items ..mattresses then pick the rest of the waste.

Are there reports made by City refuse workers as to where the mattresses are ..so they can be picked up seperately?

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• **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

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March 16, 2011 at 10:26 am

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Dave, thank you for your comments.

Contractors and staff communicate to remove bulky waste when it is set out. Residents can call 311 to report problems. Staff and contractors will investigate and remove waste as required.

In some areas, where bulky waste is a problem, we have trucks that follow regular routes and pick up bulky waste as it is found.

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28. Pat says:

[March 15, 2011 at 12:57 pm](#)

I live in East Norwood where our garbage has always been manual pickup. I feel that some of the reasons given to eliminate this style of garbage removal are not completely accurate. The lifespan of a refuse collector being approximately five years is questionable. From my own experience this job was not a career choice, but more like a stepping stone to a better position in the civic workforce. The manual pick-up method works. Our back lanes are clean and most bulky waste fits in the truck. This method may not be as flashy as carts but it addresses the problems that plague the north and north-west parts of the city. Any change will most likely end costing the people of Winnipeg another fee that we can't afford!

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#### 4 comments on "Who Manages Our Community's Garbage?"



1. Don Sjoberg says:

[December 7, 2010 at 1:25 pm](#)

For sometime I have wondered about following the garbage pick-up plan used in Edmonton during the winter when residential garbage is picked up every other week. That seems to me to be a saving for the city. Three times I have proposed the idea to City Hall but have not heard back. Don Sjoberg

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• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

[December 8, 2010 at 3:16 pm](#)

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Hi Don,

Bi-weekly collection is definitely a topic open for discussion for the Garbage and Recycling Master Plan. A number of Canadian cities are examining or have moved to bi-weekly collection or a combination of weekly/bi-weekly as part of their overall waste management systems for garbage, recycling and composting.

Starting next January, Phase 2 of this project will be looking more closely at the options available for garbage collection.

Thanks for your feedback!

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2. **Mike** says:

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December 10, 2010 at 1:56 pm

I would definitely support bi-weekly or less frequent collection as well.

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3. **Aaron** says:

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December 11, 2010 at 7:38 pm

I really love the idea of bi-weekly collection for garbage. I hate the idea of a garbage truck coming to my house every week to pickup one small bag. The biggest part of the cost and greenhouse gas emission from garbage is obviously from the door to door collection service, why not reduce the frequency.

Maybe we could have an option for households to choose less frequent collection as a demonstration project. The volunteering households could get a different coloured cart to make it clear to the drivers that they are on a different schedule and to get the neighbors to notice. For participating they could be rewarded with a annual savings or a free backyard composter.

If households were composting and recycling they wouldn't be worried about having a mountain of garbage piling up over a two week period. I'd really like a huge recycling cart to go along with bi-weekly recycling collection though.

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## 7 comments on "17% Diversion – What does this mean?"



1. DENNIS PHAM says:

November 30, 2010 at 9:25 pm

one of the reasons i chose winnipeg university is this



2. Aaron says:

December 11, 2010 at 7:28 pm

I think backyard composting is overlooked by this kind of analysis, the city doesn't keep track of how much waste households are diverting themselves, they only count it once it reaches one of the city programs. Backyard composting is the cheapest and cleanest way of diverting waste and it doesn't have the ugly side effect of putting more trucks on the road for some sort of city collection program.



• SpeakUpWinnipeg says:

December 20, 2010 at 11:11 am

Hi Aaron,

We don't include backyard composting when calculating our diversion rate, but we have some statistics on the topic.

Over 40,000 backyard composters have been sold through the City's truckload composter sale since 2002. Based on estimates of 60% usage at 100kg per composter, these backyard composters potentially divert over 2,000 tonnes of waste each year.

Thanks for the feedback and please let us know if you have anymore questions!



3. Guest says:

December 16, 2010 at 2:20 pm

If you want to divert more by recycling, make it easier for people to do. The blue bins are small, and pick up isn't very coordinated. For example, I have to wheel the automated garbage cart to the backlane, and carry the blue box to the front street.

Blue boxes are also too small to encourage greater "diverting". My recycling is always full far before the collection date. In my case, what would help is having a recycling cart as big as the garbage cart, on wheels, and having them both picked up in the same place. (Both in the backlane. With the same truck, that would be even smarter.)

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4. Karen McLachlan says:

March 4, 2011 at 1:56 pm

Businesses including government, retail, industrial, health, entertainment and manufacturing need to be mandated to separate their food/organic waste and have this diverted from the landfill. This waste can be composted into beautiful compost in a matter of weeks under ideal conditions including weather and management. It makes absolutely no sense to have this piled at the landfill when it can be recycled into lovely new soil and be placed in gardens, flower beds and used to build up where soil is lost.

It's time to do this now.

Residential could be started too within a very short time.

It's time to get moving on this.

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5. Karen Smith says:

March 4, 2011 at 2:29 pm

WHY WE NEED TO BE COMPOSTING AND WHY WE SHOULD START RIGHT AWAY!

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Composts can vary quite widely in their chemical and physical characteristics, since many of these depend on the original feedstocks used and the conditions maintained while the material was composting. In general, though, composts share ability to provide these benefits:

#### PLANT-AVAILABLE NUTRIENTS AND MICRONUTRIENTS

- As compost breaks down in the soil, it provides the fertilizer nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in forms that are readily available to plants.
- Unlike most inorganic fertilizers, compost functions as a slow-release store of nutrients, so that the nutrients are available as the plants require them instead of in one intense flush.
- Compost also provides a wide range of important micronutrients not found in commercial fertilizers.

#### ORGANIC MATTER

- Added to sandy soils, the organic matter in compost increases the soil's waterholding ability so that both rain and irrigation water are held in the root zone for plant use. This can significantly lower the irrigation requirements in the
  - orchard industry and other applications where water use is restricted or prohibitively expensive.
- Compost lightens heavy (high clay) soils, allowing better infiltration of both air and water into the root zone. This improves plant health and helps to prevent sealing of the soil surface caused by water pooling.
- Organic matter functions like a sponge, enabling soil to retain nutrients and moisture in the root zone. Inorganic fertilizer nutrients as well as those released by the compost itself are kept from leaching down into ground water.
- Soil structure is improved, allowing effective drainage, extensive root growth, and soil aggregate stabilization, so that soil is less subject to erosion by either water or wind.
- Earthworm activity is encouraged, further enhancing soil fertility.

#### BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

- Compost is biologically active, supplying a range of microorganisms that enhance the health of both soil and crops.
  - Compost appears to suppress some types of plant disease—the exact mechanism is not yet fully understood [see Disease and Pest Control in Useful Tools].
-

## WEED SEED AND PATHOGEN FREE

- Properly processed compost will not introduce weed seeds or human pathogens when applied.

## NOTE: COMPOST AS A MULCH

When used as a mulch, compost can:

- Conserve soil moisture, reducing the need for irrigation in dry areas
- Minimize weed growth
- Insulate soil to slow temperature changes; dark colour may also help soils to warm more quickly in spring and retain heat longer in the fall.

Beyond the traits common to all composts, it is important to know that different feedstocks can produce finished composts that vary in some of their characteristics. Different plant species may be benefited, harmed, or unaffected by particular traits—knowing this can help compost producers match their finished product to applications where it is most likely to be successful. It may also provide an opportunity to produce a custom-matched compost for a particular market. Composts can vary considerably on the following characteristics:

## PH

- most composts are in the neutral pH range by the time they are mature. Those utilizing feedstocks that are significantly either basic or acidic may end up with a product that is still above or below neutral. Many crop and turf species are not noticeably affected by this difference, but sensitive species can be. In addition, some commercially grown plant species actually prefer relatively acidic or basic conditions.

## MATURITY

- Immature, active composts may be preferred by those building biofilters or covering landfills, while greenhouse growers require a very mature, stable product to use in seedling mixes. Many applications can tolerate a range in maturity levels, but sensitive crops require a more mature product.
- Other physical factors that can vary from compost to compost, and which may affect market targets include:

## INERT CONTENT

- Different applications vary in how much plastic, glass, and other noncompostable material will be tolerated in the final product.
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## COMPOST TEXTURE

· Screening the finished compost can produce a more widely desirable end product, but field, orchard; reclamation and landfill applications may not require the expense of this added step. In fact, a coarse-textured product is preferred for applications relying on compost's air filtering ability, such as biofilter construction and landfill covering and capping.

Whether they are growing and maintaining turf, producing trees or plants for sale, or maintaining fruit orchards, commercial growers are familiar with the requirements of their particular crops. To target a particular market effectively, it is important to develop a thorough understanding of that market's particular needs. Compost producers need to be completely familiar with the capabilities of their particular process and with the characteristics of their own product in order to demonstrate and explain the relevant benefits compost can provide to specific groups of horticultural producers.

Acknowledgement to The Composting Society of Canada for this literature.

Composting is good for so many reasons.

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6. **Karen Smith** says:

March 4, 2011 at 2:45 pm

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Watch "Hummus" on Oasis HD on March 8, 2011 – this is an incredible documentary and everyone should watch it to learn about what's happening in the world re: agriculture and composting and our environment. Pass it on!

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### 6 comments on “EXPO: Let’s talk garbage”



1. **Karen** says:

November 27, 2010 at 10:33 am

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I would like to draw the attention of administration to the insufficiency of Sustainability Policy as outlined bThanks for continuing the conversation . I got the invitation to attend the Expo a week before it was scheduled and because of other committments could not attend all of the Expo. Since

my interest is in Public Open Space and the social, economic, and ecosystem services it makes, I made an effort to attend the interactive survey on Parks, Places and Open Spaces. It was not well attended, primarily because, I believe that the community of interest was not identified. Lots of people are interested in this area of land use. Most were unaware that the survey was being done. If it were widely known and available the response would have been overwhelming. So the low attendance was underwhelming City Staff, that of the three legged stool. The analogy will not hold because nature bats last. In terms of urban planning, the three legged stool is a blunt instrument. As a beginning towards incorporating a more comprehensive understanding of sustainability into the day to day planning of Parks, Places and Open Spaces lets include conversations about the ecosystem services performed by Parks, Places and Open Spaces. We could start by looking at the role that these play in conservation of stormwater. Reducing the stormwater runoff reduces the burden on wastewater treatment through reducing the volume of wastewater treated. Contributes to naturalizing the urban hydrological cycle and conserves fresh water for the future.

A decade ago the Rivers Peaked at the end of March or the second week of April now they peak between the last of June and the first two weeks of July. Already this year we have received record amounts of snowfall.

The areas of the city which could benefit most from Parks, Places and Open Spaces are the areas where there is a high ratio of impermeable to permeable land.

This, and other considerations of ecosystem services need to be brought to bear on PPOS planning. Winnipeg is the only city of its' size in North America which does not have a Parks and Recreation Department.

In areas of town where there is a high ratio of impermeable to permeable land the Province has seen fit to fund agencies which have assumed the role of 'planner'. The interest, and apparently the understanding of agency employees in ecosystem services is minimal. To some extent this is reflected in what is brought to the city by graduates of the Planning Department at the University of Manitoba. It might be an idea to include the perspectives of an environmental engineer in City Planning. I understand this kind of thing is taught at Guelph University. It is not taught in Manitoba. We have to go outside the Province. It is critical that ecosystem services are taken into account when planning for PPOS. Other cities do it.

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2. **SpeakUpWinnipeg** says:

[November 29, 2010 at 3:48 pm](#)

Thank you for your comment. Since this site is specific to the development of a new Garbage and Recycling Master Plan, we have forwarded your comment to the department working on the Parks, Places and Open Spaces project.

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3. **MARY** says:

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January 1, 2011 at 3:42 pm

Your curbies are a joke. Too small and should be picked up in the front not the back lane. Atlanta has had them for forty years and they work but no one is expected to jam their garbage into a pail. AND what about the rest of the garbage that doesn't fit. It is strewn all over the back lane. Mark my words Winnipeg will be the Brady landfill. I am talking about large cardboard boxes, styrofoam, broken toys, small pieces of wood, etc. You can't expect everyone to drive to the Brady Landfill. Some of us are too old and too sick to be playing with garbage. We have garbage, we have recycling, we have hazardous waste, we have computers and TVs. Someone else wants us to compost rat food. It is your job to handle garbage not mine.

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4. **Aaron** says:

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January 3, 2011 at 10:48 pm

According to their county website, each household in Atalanta pays over \$300 per year for garbage pickup. Winnipeg claims to be doing it for \$60 per single family home. Maybe the all you can dump approach comes with an all you can pay side too.

I really find it hard to believe any household has trouble fitting their garbage into the 240 L bins (fine maybe the week after Christmas if you have lots of guests). I'd really like to see what one of these overflowing bins contains, I'm sure the city has done some waste audits, maybe they could publish the results to capture attention about what is incorrectly going into the garbage.

If people can handle bringing all the garbage into their homes in the first place I think they can handle getting it to the back lane in the right bin too.

P.S. – large cardboard boxes make great recycling bins for weeks where you have extra recycling.

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5. **Andrea** says:

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March 14, 2011 at 6:32 pm

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I believe that we should be thankful for the good job the city is doing in trying to deal with our garbage and the fact that we do not pay extra for this service. Other countries do not do as good a job and charge their citizens for that service. We as citizens of our city need to do a better job of managing our waste and teaching our children that the streets and sidewalks are not their garbage cans. I would love to see larger recycling bins similar to the rolling bins we now have for garbage as this would make it easier to get to the curb and there is less chance of the wind blowing half the items out of the bins and down the street. It would also be great to pick up organic waste. We tried to use a composter a number of years ago however with just 2 people we did not generate the correct ratio of organic products and even an additive did not seem to help.

We also need to convince companies to use less packaging and more environmentally friendly packing methods. Many times there is 10 times the packing materials as there is product in it.

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6. **Dennis** says:

March 15, 2011 at 9:58 am

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Given the reduction in lot sizes particularly in the newer areas there is simply no room for the larger garbage containers under consideration. We have no back lane access to our back yard and during the winter access from the front is extremely limited. This, in addition to having a small garage means that the containers will have to be stored on the front streetside permanently. This will create difficulties for snow clearance and will prove to be an eyesore for the community. A "one-size fits all solution" will not work throughout the City as each community has its own characteristics. We presently recycle and find that the current use of smaller collection receptacles meets our needs. Please consider this issue carefully.

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