

Organics Disposal Ban for Manitoba's Capital Region *Updated for 2017-18*

Mover: Green Action Centre

Whereas: In signing the Vancouver Declaration, Premier Pallister has committed Manitoba to implement greenhouse gas mitigation policies that meet or exceed Canada's 2030 target of a 30% reduction below 2005 levels of emissions.

Whereas: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that the global warming potential (GWP) of methane is 28-36 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period, and the GWP of nitrous oxide is nearly 300 times that of carbon dioxide.

Whereas: Manitoba's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases are Koch Fertilizer Plant and Brady Road Resource Management Facility. Chemical fertilizers release nitrous oxide into the atmosphere, and the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter in landfills releases methane into the atmosphere. Aerobic composting not only eliminates methane emissions, it creates a natural fertilizer that sequesters carbon from the atmosphere.

Whereas: Statistics Canada and the Compost Council of Canada indicate that up to 50% of the residential waste stream is compostable. Per capita, Canadians are one of the highest waste-producing OECD countries, and Manitobans are the third highest waste producers in this country, exceeded only by Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Whereas: There is a strong correlation between provincial policies and municipal action when it comes to the management of organics. Nova Scotia has the lowest per capita waste generation rate among the Canadian provinces, thanks to a full organics ban introduced in 1998 that diverts all compostable material (including yard waste and food scraps) from the landfill. In the absence of a full provincial organics ban, a regional ban can provide crucial leadership without insisting that a one-size-fits-all approach can address the unique requirements for composting in northern regions of Manitoba.

Whereas: The Manitoba Capital Region includes 16 municipalities and represents roughly two-thirds of the province's population. The Government of Manitoba has a strong commitment to the Manitoba Capital Region, and the Partnership of the Manitoba Capital Region has identified two goals that are directly compatible with an organics ban: i) explore opportunities to implement new technologies and practices for waste management, and ii) reduce greenhouse gases.

Whereas: Winnipeg is the largest city in the Manitoba Capital Region, and the last city of its size in Canada without a residential composting program. Progress on implementing curbside organics collection in Winnipeg has been stalled multiple times, and these delays have indirect costs for taxpayers. Elected officials continue to suggest that composting is an optional route for disposal, rather than an urgent necessity for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Whereas: The Federation for Canadian Municipalities estimates that composting creates up to seven times the number of jobs as landfilling. As long as composting organics remains optional, most businesses will continue to send compostable waste to the landfill. This discourages the development of composting businesses and social enterprises that can support municipalities by serving the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector.

Whereas: Local communities and businesses have been diverting organics from the Brady Road Resource Management Facility for at least 15 years, providing employment and improving community volunteerism, yet these efforts are rarely supported by provincial and municipal policies or funding. Requests for waste management proposals continue to rely on outside expertise, stunting the growth of local expertise within existing community and non-profit organizations, social enterprises and small businesses.

Whereas: The Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan acknowledges that solid waste accounts for 5% of Manitoba's GHG emissions, and suggests that a landfill disposal ban is one action the Manitoba government could take to reduce methane emissions from waste.

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to announce a deadline of 2022 to begin a phased organics disposal ban on organics in landfills in the Manitoba Capital Region.

Be It Further Resolved That: CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to support the transition to improved organics management by:

a. Offering a financial incentive to approved transfer stations and facilities that compost organic material in the Manitoba Capital Region.

b. Introducing and enforcing a phased fine for any organic material that is landfilled in the Manitoba Capital Region after 2022, with an initial threshold of 25% organic matter landfilled and decreasing to 5% by 2025.

c. Making municipal waste management plans that include the diversion and composting of organic materials mandatory for the Manitoba Capital Region.

d. Creating a provincial waste management plan that builds on the community expertise gathered in earlier government consultations.

e. Implementing policies, funding and social procurement programs to support small businesses, social enterprises, and community initiatives that meet environmental, social and economic goals (i.e. diverting organics from landfills, improving community sustainability resources and providing local training and jobs).