



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TITLE:

ORGANIC DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM FOR MULTI UNIT DWELLINGS

PRESENTER:

Lindsay Hargreaves

DEPARTMENT:

Environmental Initiatives

ATTACHMENTS:

DATE:

11/19/2025

CLEARANCE / APPROVALS:

Ryan Nickel General Manager

Dave Wardrop City Manager

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That council consider the Organic Diversion Pilot Program for Multi Unit Dwellings during 2026 budget deliberations.

BACKGROUND:

The City's greencart program only picks up organic waste in on a seasonal basis from single dwelling units and multi family dwellings of 6 units or less.

The City has focused on residential, hoping that commercial companies would include organic waste pick up as part of their business models. However, after 15 years residents in multi family units are left with throwing out organic waste as refuse as their only option.

A proposal for 2026 budget deliberations is for council to consider is to run at minimum a 12 week pilot with 120 participants from a muti family unit using electric food recyclers.

ANALYSIS:

Exploring oportunities for organic waste diversion in multi family dwellings has several benefits including:

- Extending the life of the landfill
- Reduce fees to the building owner (landfill tipping fees via commercial hauler)
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (both at the landfill and transportation sectors)
- Create awareness of food waste
- Less capital expenditure than green bin expansion
- Reduces contamination as it is dealt with in the household
- No service disruption due to staff shortages, vehicle breakdowns, or inclement weather
- Electronic food recyclers can accept a variety of food items that the green cart program cannot
- Provides an instant finished product for residents to use

An estimated 4000 multi family units in Brandon and the average household throws away 250Kg of foodwaste/year. If an electric food recycler was used in all units, there would be 1000 metric tonnes of foodwaste diverted from the landfill/year ans estimated savings of \$162,480/year. The estimated savings is based on the landfill tipping fee.

Over 20 Manitoba municipalities have expressed interest in this type of alternative to reduce organic waste going to landfills for their residents. There are over 85 municipalities across Canada that have piloted this alternative in their communities.

Results from Newmarket, ON

- 37.5 metric tonnes of CO2e emissions diverted per year
- 288.6kgs of food waste diverted/household annually.
- 28.85 metric tonnes of food waste diverted per year from a total of 100 households.

Results from Cold Lake, AB

- 38.98 metric tonnes of CO2e emissions diverted per year
- 29.98 metric tonnes of food waste diverted/year
- ~39 garbage bags per household annually going to the landfill.

Each volunteer participant would receive an electric food recycler at a discounted rate (TBD). Participants would be required to track how often they use the food recycler, and the amount diverted. After the 12 week pilot period a report would be compiled and reported back to stakeholders to consider next steps.

If the City does not explore this alternative option, it will lead to a missed opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase food waste awareness in the community and the potential to extend the life of the landfill.

This pilot program aligns with the City's Climate Change Action Plan through big move #7 Consume and Produce Sustainably and Big Move #1 Become a Carbon Free Corporation.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

This initiative aligns with the council adopted Climate Change Action Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

A \$50,000 commitment in the 2026 budget would help subsidize 120 participants. Staff will continue to seek for external funding to increase the number of participants and/or offset the financial impact on the city.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

Information on implementation of the pilot will be shared with local media and on social media platforms in coordination with the City's Corporate Communications Officer.

CONCLUSION:

That council consider the Organic Diversion Pilot Program for Multi Unit Dwellings during budget deliberations.