Evolution of the City of Winnipeg Composting Program

Thursday, May 14, 2015
Winnipeg’s Composting Program

The Early Days….

- In 1990, Council adopted Waste Minimization and Recycling Action Plan which was directed towards introductory composting and recycling programs.

  Leaf depot collection and composting program

  Lets Chip In Christmas tree recycling program

  Backyard composter mail-in rebate program.
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1990’s

- **DEPOTS**
  - Expanded to 11 depots city-wide

- **CURBSIDE**
  - Two week period in the fall only
  - 1200 homes curbside; 1994 - 60,000 homes
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1990’s

- In 1996, Council adopted Waste Minimization Strategy was directed towards expanding composting programs.
  - Expand backyard program to door to door compost bin sales with cost subsidies
  - Expand Curbside collection to entire city

- In 1997, Waste Minimization Budget cut.
  - Curbside collection discontinued.
  - Depot program reduced to 5 depots
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2000’s

- 2002 - One Day Truckload Sale of Compost Bins
  - 12 years - distributed close to 55,000 units
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2000’s

- 2002-2007 Status Quo
  - Repeat visits to Council in an attempt to expand Composting Program

- 2008 Breakthrough?
  - Depot Program expanded – includes Spring operation
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- Introduction of Garbage Cart Collection to N.W. Winnipeg
  - Included LYW Curbside collection to 43,000 homes
  - Reusable containers, paper bags, compostable bags
  - No plastic bags!
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2011

- Garbage and Recycling Master Plan

  - Increase promotion of Backyard Composting and Grasscycling
  - Increase the composting capacity for yard waste at BRRMF
  - Expand yard waste curbside collection city-wide, bi-weekly from April to November
  - Implement a trial curbside collection program for household kitchen organics in a select households throughout the city

  - If successful:
    - composting facility to support full volume
    - implement weekly city-wide curbside household kitchen organics collection
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Yard Waste Composting Facility

- A nine hectare composting pad that processed almost 30,000 metric tonnes of LYW in 2014

- Produced over 14,000 metric tonnes of compost meeting CCME requirements Class A compost standards
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Pilot Biosolids Composting Complex

- Designed to compost about 20% of the biosolids produced

- Commissioned May 2015 and is expected to produce over 300 cubic metres of compost per week, to be used as a final cover on the landfill to enhance vegetation growth
Program Accomplishments

Residential Yard Waste Tonnage

- **Depot and Self haul**
- *Curbside collection*
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Waste Diversion Rate

- Actual Rate
- Diversion rate goal

Years: 2007 to 2017

Percentage: 10.0% to 40.0%
Soil Manufacturing

- A feasibility study into blending Biosolids with other feedstocks to fabricate new soils, increasing the overall quantity of topsoil for use on finished areas at the BRRMF.

Market Study

- Evaluate the overall marketability and value of the product, and identify potential purchasers and/or marketing partners.
Next Steps

- Organics Diversion Strategy
  - Identify a framework and potential options to manage all types of organic material from not only SFD but also MFD and commercial establishments.
  
  - Provide an implementation plan identifying infrastructure, resources, markets for the end product and the associated timelines.
  
  - report to Council expected in early 2016
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Next Step - Key Factors

- Impacts on existing programs?
  - Collection - methods/schedules
  - Relationship to LYW Program

- Division and Department Resources?
  - Current and future commitments

- Ownership and Operational model for organics processing
  - What will the procurement strategy be? Who will own and operate the facility?

- Enforcement and By-laws
  - Controlling contamination.
  - Future material bans

- Education and Communication
  - Stakeholders- organic collectors processors,
  - Council/Residents – effective tools for engagement
  - Enforcement and By-Laws

- Financial health for the system?
  - Most appropriate funding model
Questions?