

If you Build it, they will come: A Story of Community Food Waste Drop Off Stations



SWANA Northern Lights Chapter
Waste Management All-Stars Conference
Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 12, 2025



Introductions

Amanda Wolfe

Compost Winnipeg

Green Action Centre

amanda@compostwinnipeg.ca

Ash Raichura

Solid Waste Services

City of Winnipeg

ARaichura@Winnipeg.ca

Outline

- The Challenge
- The Pitch
- Location – establish the playing fields
- Service – cover our bases
- MVPs - community champions
- Results – we hit a homerun!
- Lessons Learned – setting up a championship dynasty
- Questions



The Challenge

- Residents demonstrated a demand for a food waste diversion program
- A city-wide green cart program takes time to establish
- Develop a program in advance of a city-wide curbside collection program
 - Must be relatively easy to use
 - Accessible to all residents
 - Minimal cost

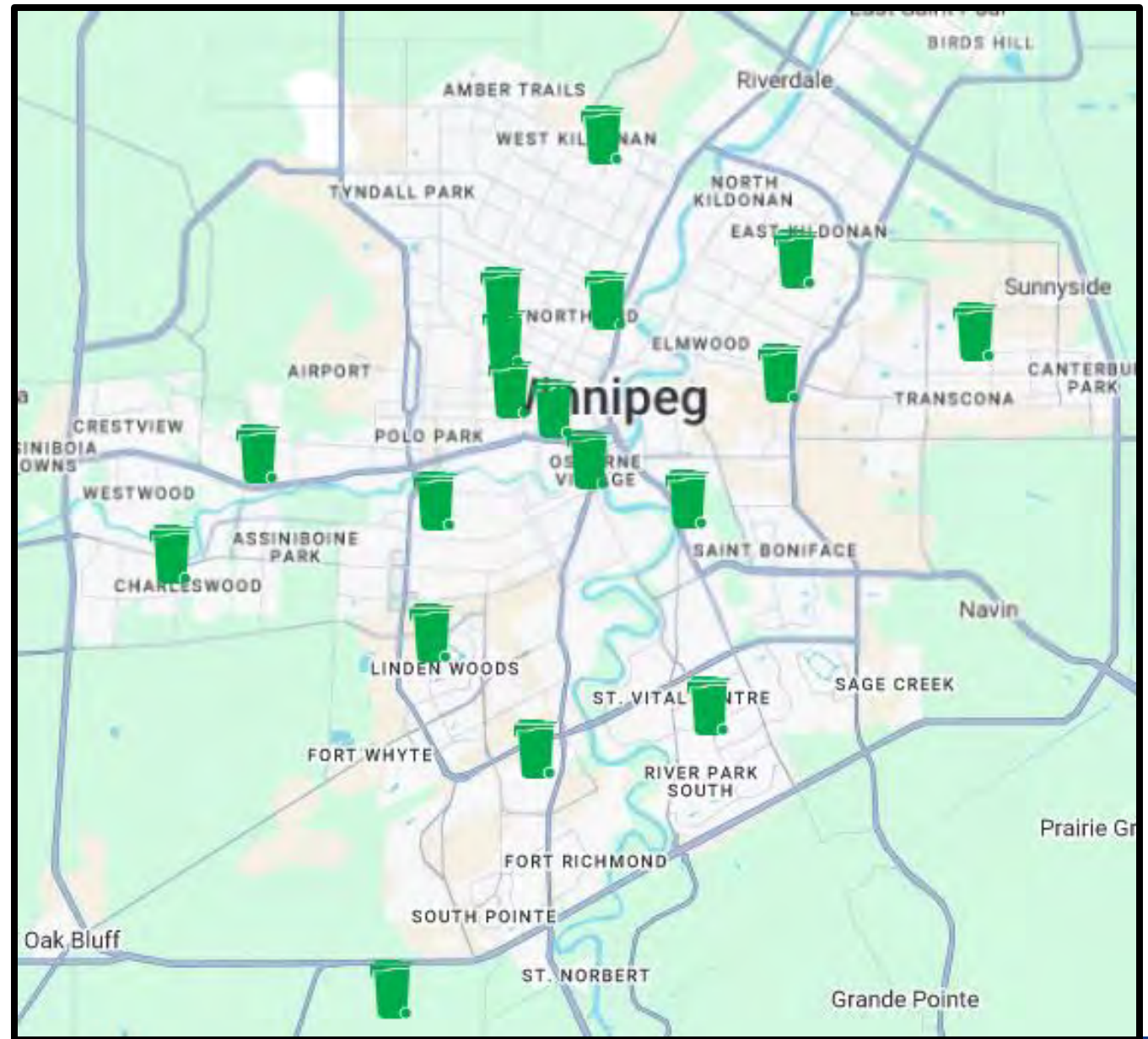
The Pitch

- Community drop off locations
- 15 locations for residents to drop off food waste for free
 - community gathering spots
 - different areas of the city
 - accessible by transit, bike, walk, car
 - accessible for compost truck
 - willing partners



Locations

- 3 City 4R Depots
- 11 community centres
 - Garden City CC
 - Valley Gardens CC
 - Turtle Island NC
 - Glenwood CC
 - Dakota CC
 - South Winnipeg CC
 - Lindenwoods CC
 - Central Corydon CC
 - River Osborne CC
 - Sturgeon Heights CC
 - Roblin Park CC
- Transcona Collegiate High School



Service

- Accepts same materials as city-wide green cart program
 - food waste, paper products
 - no compostable packaging
- Set up green carts
- Compost Winnipeg empties the carts weekly
- Compost Bin Caretakers monitor drop off sites weekly
- Waste Connections composts the material at Prairie Green Landfill compost site



Most Valuable Players

Compost Bin Caretakers

- local program champions
- monitor the drop off sites 3 times / week
- send photos to Compost Winnipeg
- report if carts are broken, missing, or overflowing
- paid on contract



The Results - We hit a homerun!

Exceeded all expectations

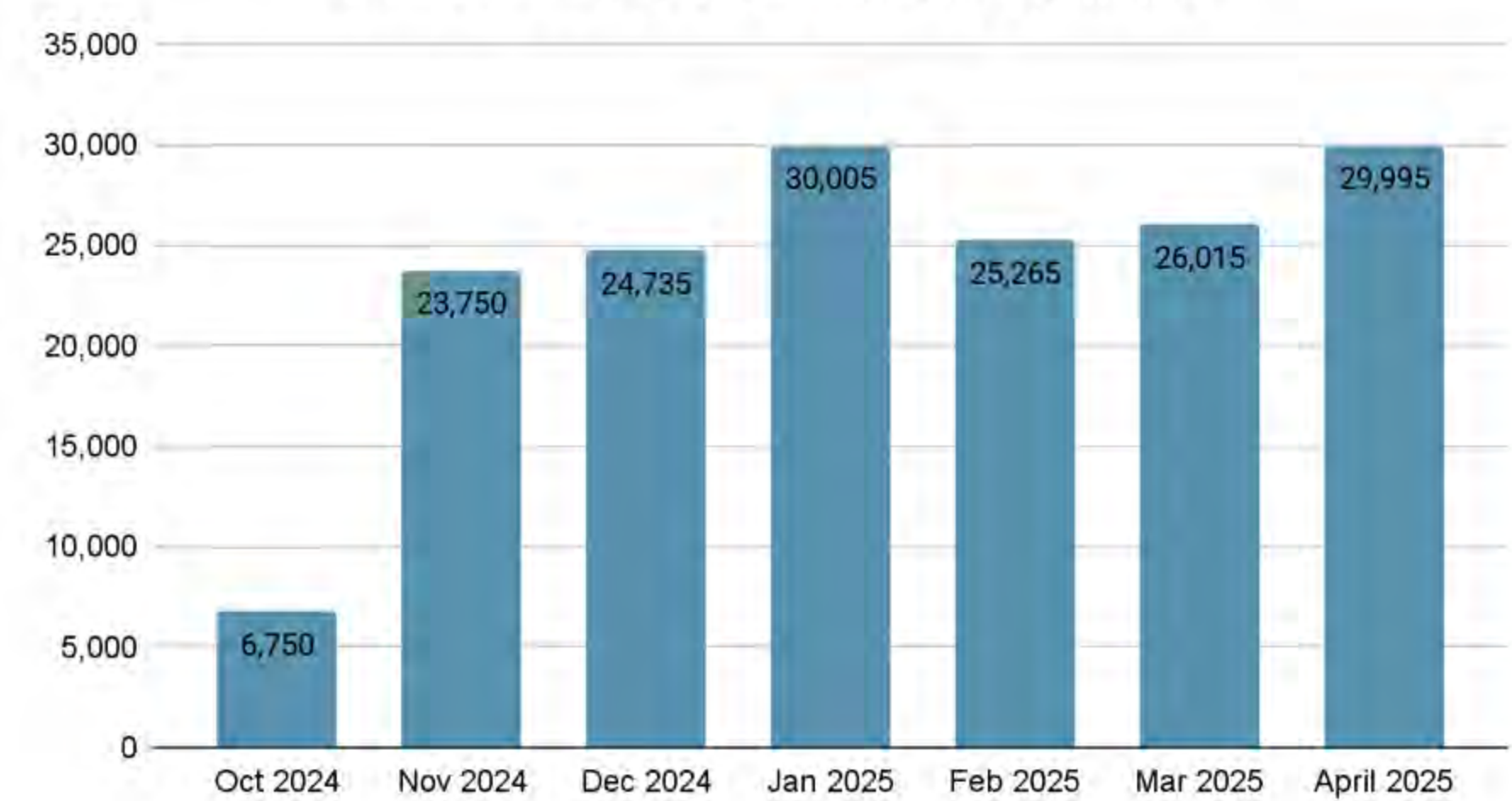
→ **166,500 kg collected from 2,510 bins** in 6.5 months

→ equivalent to food waste from 3,000 households

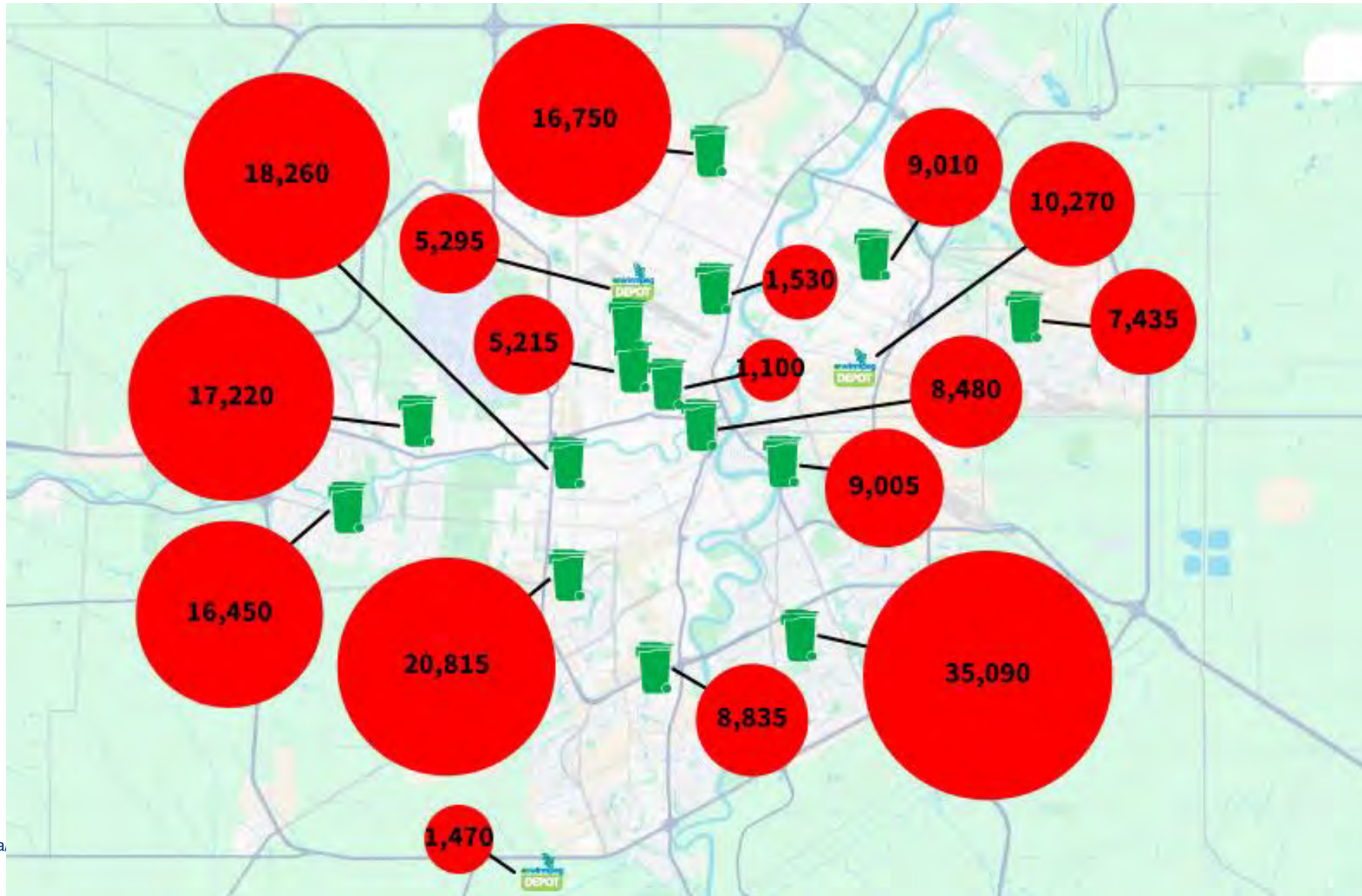


The Results - We hit a homerun!

KG of Food Waste Diverted By Month



The Results -



Lessons Learned

- There is interest to use this self-haul service!
- Site selection - perceived fairness
- Program flexibility - seasonal volume
- Expansion - sustainable growth



If you Build it, they will come: A Story of Community Food Waste Drop Off Stations

Compost Winnipeg

Amanda Wolfe
General Manager

amanda@compostwinnipeg.ca

City of Winnipeg

Ash Raichura
Project Coordinator

araichura@winnipeg.ca

