

RECYCLING STRATEGY FOR APARTMENTS AND CONDOS

Public Engagement Summary

September 2022

Background

In 2017, the City of Winnipeg (City) began a five-year review of the Comprehensive Integrated Waste Management Strategy (CIWMS). Reducing the amount of waste going into landfills, otherwise known as waste diversion, from the multi-unit properties was identified as a near-term recommendation following the review. With the five-year review complete, the City is now developing the Winnipeg Recycling Strategy for Apartments and Condos.

Engagement

The City held two (2) public open houses to gather input from residents living in apartments and condos on what programs and services they use, what barriers and challenges they experience, and how they think recycling can be made easier and more convenient. In two (2) stakeholder meetings, the City also gathered input on barriers and potential future programs it could explore to increase waste diversion from multi-unit properties. Each public and stakeholder event consisted of a presentation with interactive polling and facilitated small group discussions.

A survey was also available to residents living in apartments and condos. The survey focused on the current state of

recycling in multi-unit properties, recycling behaviors, and opportunities to improve waste diversion.

This input will help the City create a strategy to reduce barriers to participation in recycling programs for residents living in apartments and condominiums.

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- Online advertisement – April 12 to May 7, 2022
- Kijiji advertisement – April 12 to May 7, 2022
- Facebook Marketplace advertisement – April 12 to May 7, 2022
- Email to 88 stakeholders – April 12, 2022
- Facebook posts with 16,797 followers - April 12 to 30, 2022
- Twitter posts with 78,700 followers – April 12 to 30, 2022
- Posters at 19 libraries – April 13, 2022
- News release – April 19, 2022
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 2,800 recipients – April 21 and May 5, 2022

Table 1: Public Engagement Activities

Date	Activity	Details
April 12 – May 8, 2022	Webpage	910 unique visitors
April 12 – May 8, 2022	Survey	438 respondents
April 26, 2022, 2-3 p.m.	Stakeholder Meeting #1	29 attendees
April 27, 2022, 11 a.m. – noon	Stakeholder Meeting #2	26 attendees
April 27, 2022, 7-8 p.m.	Public Open House #1	9 attendees
April 28, 2022, 3-4 p.m.	Public Open House #2	7 attendees

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What We Heard – Stakeholder Meetings & Public Open Houses

In facilitated group discussions, participants were asked to discuss what the City could do to help overcome challenges with recycling in condos and apartments, and what potential future programs could make an impact. The main topic areas, recurring comments, and ideas for potential future programs from the meetings are captured in tables 2 and 3.

Table 2: Topic Areas and Example Comments from Stakeholder Meetings

Topic: Convenience & Accessibility	
Challenges	Opportunities
- Difficult for older residents - Collection schedule inconvenience	- More bins or more frequent collection - Using schools and community centres as pickup points - Temporary recycling drop-off events
Topic: Understanding	
Challenges	Opportunities
- Language barriers - Difficulty finding information online - Illegal dumping	- Provide property managers with education materials in multiple languages - Partner with property management companies to host workshops
Topic: Developer Guidance	
Challenges	Opportunities
- Older buildings are not equipped with recycling - Hard to break habits if recycling program is added later	- Require new buildings to have proper facilities when they are constructed - Incorporate dual/triple chutes in all buildings
Topic: Potential Future Programs	
- Organics collection/management - Grants to incentivize stakeholders' participation - Mobile depots - In-depth research to determine what barriers exist and how to overcome them - City-offered recycling bin rentals based on size - Increased focus on reuse programming	

Table 3: Topic Areas and Example Comments from Public Open Houses

Topic: Convenience & Accessibility	
Challenges	Opportunities
- Extra steps to go outside and dump recycling - Overflowing carts	Toxic taxi and mobile pickups for those who do not have vehicles
Topic: Understanding	
Challenges	Opportunities
- Confusion around acceptable materials - Residents not breaking down cardboard appropriately	- Create more/better signage and advertisements to reach different demographics - Collaborate with tenant associations to promote recycling awareness - Create list of non-City led waste diversion programs and provide to residents
Topic: Developer Guidance	
Challenges	Opportunities
Poor coordination between developer and City in providing recycling containers	- Better coordination of services to new developments - Conduct waste audits to determine recycling success and report back to residents on results
Topic: Potential Future Programs	
- Organics collection/management - Acrylic plastic COVID-19 dividers recycling program - Mobile depots - Using enforcement to uphold diversion rules	

Detailed notes from the stakeholder meetings and public open houses are available in Appendices B and C.

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Key Findings – Survey Results

Residents of multi-unit properties were invited to provide their feedback on challenges and opportunities for recycling through a survey.

Participants were asked if recycling is currently convenient for them:

47% responded recycling is very convenient.

33% responded recycling is somewhat convenient.

12% responded recycling is somewhat inconvenient.

8% responded recycling is very inconvenient.

When asked about potential new programs the City could offer, 88% of respondents indicated an interest in participating in a green cart program to collect food waste. Similarly, 86% of respondents indicated a willingness to participate in a pickup service for household hazardous waste.

The top 3 areas for improvement were identified as:



Education for property managers, landlords and tenants from the City. (154 respondents)



Mandatory recycling requirements and enforcement. (133 respondents)

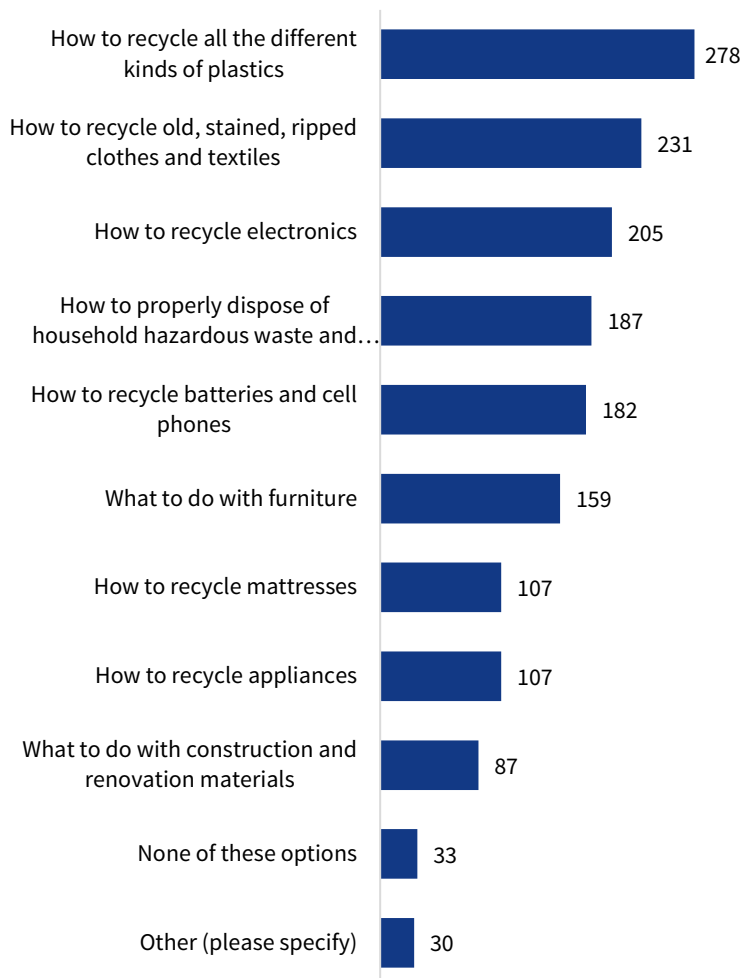


More convenient access to recycling containers. (117 respondents)

Survey respondents also suggested more frequent pick-up/better pick-up times (11 respondents), collection of more materials for recycling (9 respondents), and collection of organics (9 respondents) as areas for improvement.

Figure 1 depicts the areas in which respondents could use more information on recycling. The highest voted topics were how to recycle different kinds of plastics, clothes/textiles, and electronics.

Figure 1: What could you use more information about? (391 responses)



Of those who selected 'Other', respondents indicated they needed more information in general about what materials are accepted (6 respondents), how materials are recycled/where the recyclables go (5 respondents), and what to do with materials not accepted (4 respondents).

The full survey results can be found in Appendix D.

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How Input Was Considered

Public engagement found that interest in recycling was strong for apartment and condo residents; however, residents sometimes lack the tools, knowledge, or means to recycle. Several themes emerged from public engagement that helped shape recommendations in the Recycling Strategy for Apartments and Condos. These recommendations include:

- Creating a move-in package for new tenants to increase education and awareness
- Attending festivals, farmer's markets, and neighbourhood events to improve outreach
- Developing friendly competitions between buildings to increase recycling
- Reviewing the number of recycling bins provided to buildings so recyclables are not placed in the garbage when recycling bins are full
- Reviewing current collection practices so recycling bins are collected at convenient times for building staff
- Exploring a green cart program for food waste

Next Steps

The feedback described in this document was considered by the project team when preparing the Recycling Strategy for Apartments and Condos. The Strategy will be considered by Council in fall 2022. Implementation of the Strategy is subject to Council approval and funding.

Appendices

Appendix A – Stakeholder List

Appendix B – Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Appendix C – Public Open House Meeting Notes

Appendix D – Survey Results