



2026 Manitoba Community Recycling & Waste Reduction Forum (Oct 14-15, 2026)

CanadInns Destination Centre Polo Park, 1405 St. Matthews Ave, Winnipeg)

Agenda – Thursday, October 15, 2026

8:00am	Registration, breakfast and trade show open	
8:50am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
9:10am	Setting the Context and Table Swap Introductions Moderator: Mike Fernandes, StrategyMakers Consulting Inc.	
9:30am	Plenary Session 1 – Strategies for effectively engaging and informing elected officials about recycling and waste management issues and opportunities.	
10:20am	Networking Break & Trade Show	
10:50am	Breakout Session 2A Recycle Manitoba (the public-facing name of Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba Inc., or MMSM) - Updates on newly accepted materials, the new brand, and status of proposed transition to full EPR for packaging and printed paper	Breakout Session 2B Recycle Everywhere/Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association (CBCRA) - Resources, education, tools and support to assist Northern and Indigenous communities and organizations in addressing challenges and increasing beverage container recycling.
11:30am	Breakout Session 3A Call2Recycle - information about Call2Recycle programs with a special emphasis on understanding and managing household and lithium containing batteries safely.	Breakout Session 3B Green Action Centre – community stories and lessons learned from the Winter Road Recycling Project.
12:05pm	Networking Lunch & Trade Show	
12:55pm	Breakout Session 4A Manitoba Organics and StrategyMakers Consulting will share ideas and examples of how communities and nearby agricultural producers are using circular economy thinking and strategies to turn food and organic waste into healthier soil.	Breakout Session 4B Electronic Products Recycling Manitoba, Product Care Association and Tire Stewardship Manitoba - 3 brief presentations on how to safely and effectively manage waste electronics, tires, household hazardous waste.
1:35pm	Breakout Session 5A Manitoba Environment and Climate Change - update on the status of pending changes to EPR regulations and information on the department's plans and priorities for waste management and circular economy under Manitoba's Path to Net-Zero strategy.	Breakout Session 5B Spence Neighborhood Association will share information about what might be Manitoba's first Repair Café initiatives as we explore how to encourage Reuse and Repair as part of an overall strategy to reduce waste.
2:10pm	Networking Break & Trade Show	
2:35pm	Plenary Session 2 – The Great Debate! A fun, interactive and still serious learning and sharing session where three contestants will vie for your vote on what should be put forward as the next material to get an EPR program in Manitoba.	
3:35pm	Wrap-Up, Prize Giveaways & Closing Comments	

** Agenda may be subject to change if unforeseen circumstances arise.*



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Session Descriptions

Plenary Session 1 – Strategies for effectively engaging and informing elected officials about recycling and waste management issues and opportunities.

The question of how to effectively engage and inform councils and elected officials about recycling and waste management issues and opportunities is a consistent underlying theme in our work. With municipal elections taking place later in the month, this is a good time to tackle this one head on.

Panelists: Brad Saluk, AMM Vice President/Reeve of RM Brokenhead; Devan McCoubrey, Assistant CAO RM Grahamdale; Mark Miller, Councillor RM Springfield

Breakout Session 2A – Recycle Manitoba (the public-facing name of Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba Inc., or MMSM) will provide updates on newly accepted materials, the new brand, and the status of the proposed transition to full EPR for packaging and printed paper.

Breakout Session 2B – Recycle Everywhere/Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association (CBCRA) will introduce the resources, education, tools and collaborative support they offer to communities and will discuss specifically how they are working with Northern and Indigenous communities and organizations to address challenges and increase beverage container recycling.

Breakout Session 3A - Call2Recycle will present information about their program with a special emphasis on the information, tools and resources they've developed for helping communities and collectors/handlers understand and manage household and lithium containing batteries safely. (They will also provide a brief outline of some of the new initiatives they've launched in other jurisdictions on recycling of "vapes".)

Breakout Session 3B - Green Action Centre will provide an update and share some of the lessons their team and participating communities learned from this past season of the Winter Road Recycling Project. (Note that although the main theme of the session is winter road communities, many of the lessons discussed will be valuable to all weather road communities too!)

Breakout Session 4A – Local, circular strategies for turning food and organic waste into healthier soil

Food and organic material is approximately 1/3rd of household waste, adding significant cost to municipal budgets and contributing a significant amount of methane into the atmosphere. This session will explore how circular economy thinking and strategies can help Manitoba communities and agricultural producers come together to turn food and organic waste into valuable nutrients for healthier soil and regenerative agriculture.

Featured presenter: Marika Dewar-Norosky, Executive Director, Manitoba Organics

Breakout Session 4B – Quick Snappers from 3 PROs: Basic information and important updates on how to safely and effectively recycle/divert Used Tires, Waste Electronics and Household Hazardous Wastes This session will feature brief presentations from Electronic Products Recycling Manitoba, Product Care Association and Tire Stewardship Manitoba. It is geared primarily to participants who need more information on how to work with each PRO to ensure the safe and effective management of these materials.

Breakout Session 5A – Manitoba Environment and Climate Change will provide an update on the status of a number of pending changes to EPR regulations and will also discuss how the department's plans and longer-term priorities for waste management and circular economy align with Manitoba's Path to Net-Zero strategy.

Breakout Session 5B – Encouraging Reuse and Repair as part of an overall strategy to reduce waste

Reuse and Repair are important parts of an overall waste reduction strategy and we are seeing more examples of successful, community-based successes that we can learn from and apply in our communities! This session will feature a presentation from the Spence Neighborhood Association on what we think might be Manitoba's first Repair Café initiatives as we explore how to encourage Reuse and Repair as part of an overall strategy to reduce waste.

Featured Presenter: Stephen Kirk, Spence Neighborhood Association Repair Café initiative

Plenary Session 6 – The Great Debate! Our last session of the day will be a fun, interactive but still serious learning and sharing session where three contestants will vie for your vote on what should be put forward as the next material to get an EPR program in Manitoba.

- Dennis Neufeld from EPRA Manitoba will argue for small waste electronics
- Greg Teillet from Mother Earth Recycling will push for mattresses
- Melissa Lelcerc will make the case for appliances/white goods