



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

---

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Solid Waste Services Committee  
**From:** Das Soligo, Manager of Solid Waste Services  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023  
**Subject:** **Special Event Servicing**

---

### **Background:**

For many years, Solid Waste Services (SWS) has supported recycling efforts at special events that are held throughout the communities of the County of Wellington. SWS has helped many fairs, festivals and shows reduce the waste generated at these events by supplying blue boxes and having them collected following and/or during the event.

Recently, a large environmentally themed children's festival requested that the County support the desire of festival organizers to divert organic waste generated at the event. SWS has never provided organics collection and diversion opportunities to any special event held in the County. Providing organics diversion services to a large event is more complicated than providing recycling, due to potential concerns around contamination, odours and/or animal disturbances.

Upon reviewing the practices of a number of municipalities, staff found that very few provide organics diversion services to special events. However, staff feel that enhancing the County's waste management service offerings to special events is possible, under certain conditions.

### **Proposed Enhanced Approach:**

Staff feel that requests to manage and divert organic waste generated at special events can be supported, under the following conditions;

- Event organizers have an appropriate contamination mitigation plan
- Organizers are prepared to pay landfill tipping fees if the load is rejected at the composting facility
- There is a plan for organics to be stored in an appropriate manner until the materials can be collected in a timely fashion

SWS staff would work with event organizers to discuss a contamination mitigation plan. While recyclables collected at special events are significantly more contaminated than materials collected at curbside or at waste facilities, the recyclable materials are sorted at a processing facility. This allows for the removal of items that are not part of the County's blue box programme. An organics composting facility does not have the same ability to sort and remove contaminants.

Other communities that provide organics diversion services require event volunteers to be stationed by green bins to ensure that a clean organics stream will be delivered to the composting facility. The County's commercial composting vendor has agreed to take organics from special events, with the

caveat that unacceptable levels of contamination would lead to the materials being landfilled, with tipping fees being billed back to the County. Event organizers would need to be prepared to take responsibility for their contamination mitigation efforts by paying an invoice, should the organics load(s) be rejected.

Lastly, SWS staff would discuss the timing of collection, and how the materials can be appropriately stored until that time. As organic materials can generate odours and attract pests and animals, it will be important to have a plan that will reduce any negative impacts of these diversion efforts.

While collecting and diverting organics generated from special events comes with complications, if the event organizers are willing to put some effort and resources into an appropriate waste management strategy, staff feel this enhanced approach will be a beneficial and welcome addition to the special events service offerings.

**Recommendation:**

That conditional support for special events wishing to divert organic materials be offered to event organizers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Das Soligo', with a stylized, flowing script.

Das Soligo  
Manager of Solid Waste Services