

**PROCEEDINGS from the**

**Minnedosa and Area  
Community Workshop  
On Climate Change**



**Tuesday, December 9, 2003**  
**Minnedosa Community Conference Centre**

**Climate Change. Are you doing *your bit?***

## Table of Contents

I. Notes from Roundtable .....	3
Question 1: What is your interest in climate change?.....	3
Question 2: What question do want answered over the course of the day?.....	3
Question 3: What resources can you identify locally?.....	3
Question 4: What activities/resources does your sector have to share?.....	3
II. Notes from Brainstorming Session on Climate Friendly Living .....	4
Question 1: What is your reaction to this information? Are you surprised? What did you find most interesting?.....	4
Question 2: Where do your personal emissions come from? How could you reduce the GHG emissions from your lifestyle?.....	4
III. Questions and Comments, “Making Your Building Power Smart” .....	6
IV. Questions and Comments, “Municipal Greening” .....	8
V. Notes from Facilitated Discussion of Community Needs and Interests	9
Question 1: How can you further educate your sector(s) and neighbours? .....	9
Question 2: After hearing this information, what do you think is important to Minnedosa and area?.....	9
VI. Break-Out Group Work.....	11
VII. Workshop Participants .....	14
VIII. Community Workshop Evaluation Summary .....	15
1.0 Organization and Design.....	15
2.0 Presentations .....	15
2. 1 Basics of Climate Change, <i>Rachel Van Caesele</i> .....	15
2. 2 Making Your Building Power Smart/Earth Energy Systems, <i>Greg Bradco</i>	15
2. 3 Greening Municipal Operations, <i>Jennifer Duggan</i> .....	16
3.0 Facilitated discussion.....	16
4.0 Feedback .....	16
IX. Acknowledgements .....	18
X. Workshop Programme .....	19



# **PROCEEDINGS from the Minnedosa and Area Community Workshop on Climate Change**

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## I. Notes from Roundtable

**Question 1: What is your interest in climate change?**

**Question 2: What question do you want answered over the course of the day?**

**Question 3: What resources can you identify locally?**

**Question 4: What activities/resources does your sector have to share?**

- Will use information learned here today to educate students.
- Attended to receive information on geothermal heating systems.
- Wish to obtain signs to post in front of business to help further educate customers to promote and prevent unnecessary emissions from vehicles that are left running idle.
- Attended to collect information in which to apply to the farming sector, as well as to share learned information with fellow council members and community.
- Will be installing new windows in home and limit consumption levels as a result of being educated on climate change.
- I am curious as to what it would cost taxpayers to change to geothermal heating systems.
- How does climate change affect animals?
- How do we "carry the ball" by ourselves when other countries are not involved in the same extent we are?
- Would like to know the positives and negatives of climate change and how it affects farmers?
- How does the Wheatbelt fit in and how can it work with geothermal heating systems?
- Want to be involved in and create projects concerning climate change.
- What will be the effects on us in the agriculture industry?
- We need to educate our children on climate change.
- Work with different sectors, looking for information.
- Seen a lot of changes, for example, the use of land and the water table, and have an interest to learn more about climate change.
- Am interested in global changes, the water levels and the weather and how climate change has affected these topics.
- How does climate change affect one's health?
- What can we do as an organization to assist the public in dealing with this issue?
- Youth will be our climate change pioneers!
- Some species of upland birds die of respiratory problems related to climate change.
- Issues arise because water levels are lower.



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## II. Notes from Brainstorming Session on Climate Friendly Living

### **Question 1: What is your reaction to this information? Are you surprised? What did you find most interesting?**

- We could only change by 5 degrees, but it is actually a huge impact!
- Should I run an air conditioner? When were the halocarbons phased out?
- I would like to know as a consumer what else will be discontinued because it will have to be more energy efficient.
- We definitely need to use less energy.
- Should I wait until 2008 to buy new products? (i.e. lawnmower)
- How much more will it cost to change over to newer, more efficient products?
- In the R2000 homes, what we found was that they were so airtight, we found ourselves ill, I'm happy if I see a little crack as fresh air will be entering.
- Municipal councils car pool to bring down emissions.
- What is suggested in the area of heating?
- We need to develop mindset with the younger generation.



*Workshop facilitator Nicole Yunker has fun drawing comments and questions from participants.*

### **Question 2: Where do your personal emissions come from? How could you reduce the GHG emissions from your lifestyle?**

- I'm changing products in my business using a different motor on my boat that emits fewer emissions.
- I'm trying to save fuel. Informing the public is important.
- Is gas or diesel more efficient? What about bio-diesel?
- Can you use old oil for bio-diesel?
- Is there a lot of processing involved in creating bio-diesel?



- Where will the ingredients for bio-diesel be found in amounts to supply the whole country? I think there is a lot of work to be done to accomplish this.
- I've always tried to use a small, efficient vehicle. I am shocked that so many people still insist on owning/driving large vehicles. How come as a society, we still drive large vehicles, spend extra money as a result of that, yet still claim we are trying to save money? In the 1970's, during the gas crunch, everyone seemed so aware, but lost it somewhere along the way. We have to shift out of this paradigm.
- The motor vehicle companies are not helping us achieve this as they promote the larger vehicles. As a consumer we have the right to demand something else. With industry, auto manufacturers aren't doing much to promote efficiency. Why are they not working on making smaller vehicles even more efficient as they have in full sized vehicles?
- Why isn't our ethanol plant selling more of their product? Why doesn't the government create more ethanol plants? We need to look at ethanol and their products and if they are indeed making money.
- Heating = wood, its free.



*Workshop participants take in the “Basics of Climate Change” presentation.*



*Left: Climate Change Connection’s topic papers on emissions and impacts in various Manitoban sectors are available at every community workshop.*

*Right: Information pieces on renewable and alternative energy, energy efficiency, waste reduction, best driving practices, tips for climate-friendly living and much more are offered at the workshops.*



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### III. Questions and Comments, “Making Your Building Power Smart”

**Q. How soon will commercial customers that switched to T8 lighting see their savings?**

- A. *It depends on the size of the facility, the number of lamps, and the lighting schedule. However, in a typical open office with 100 fixtures (2-lamp with electronic ballast), operating from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday-Friday, it would cost \$1,147 a year to operate a T8 system -- including an energy demand reduction of 17% -- as compared to \$1,387 for a T12 system. The T8 system offers a savings of \$240 a year.<sup>1</sup>*



*Greg Bradco from Manitoba Hydro Power Smart answers questions about the energy efficiency incentive programs.*

**Q. Is there an education program available for large companies and corporations?**

- A. *Yes, Manitoba Hydro offers a variety of business-related information and solutions through their Power Smart for Business program. Their services fall into several categories, and include:*
- *Lighting Program – installing energy efficient lighting in new construction and renovation projects*
  - *Commercial Construction Program – installing the most up-to-date energy efficient technologies for lowering heating and cooling costs in commercial new construction and renovation projects.*
  - *Performance Optimization Program – optimizing energy processes and motor driven systems including pumps, fans and air compressors.*
  - *Heat Pad Program – assisting agricultural customers to switch from heat lamps to heat pads in farrowing crates.*
  - *Religious Facilities Initiative – assisting religious facilities with making building improvements that lower energy costs.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Manitoba Hydro. Power Smart. ND. There's More to Lighting than Meets the Eye! Lighting Program. T8 Lighting Systems.

<sup>2</sup> Manitoba Hydro. Power Smart for Business. Downloaded January, 2004: [www.hydro.mb.ca/saving\\_with\\_ps/psmart\\_business.shtml](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/saving_with_ps/psmart_business.shtml)

*To find out more about these programs, contact your local Manitoba Hydro Energy Services Coordinator. In the Minnedosa area, contact Greg Bradco at (204) 867-8206 or at [gbradco@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:gbradco@hydro.mb.ca).*

**Q. If Manitoba Hydro does not promote the use of coal as it is a major pollutant, why is it they still sell coal to customers?**

*A. Manitoba Hydro sells high quality coal to its customers. It burns cleaner than other coals. It is the “climate-friendliest” coal, if you can say that! Not great, but better than burning poor quality coal.*

**Q. Does Manitoba Hydro have financial assistance available to switch to wind turbines or solar voltaic systems?**

*A. There are no incentives to switch to either of these generation systems. However, thermal solar systems (such as improved windows) are covered under the Power Smart for homes program.*

**Q. Will Manitoba Hydro buy excess energy generated by solar systems?**

*A. Yes, Manitoba Hydro will buy excess power generated by independent systems. However, the systems must meet specific interconnection criteria. For more information about these criteria, contact your local Manitoba Hydro Energy Service Coordinator.*



*Greg Bradco, Manitoba Hydro Energy Services Coordinator for the Minnedosa area, fills out a workshop evaluation form.*

Other questions (beyond the scope of the workshop):

- Are the ages of dam structures factored into the fees for hydro?
- Why is it so expensive to produce hydro by wind?
- When are they going to convert the coal station Brandon Plant?
- The research facility in Toronto has incorporated the research of solar power. Why doesn't Manitoba Hydro do the same?

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#### IV. Questions and Comments, “Municipal Greening”

**Q. How do sewers and lagoons contribute greenhouse gases?**

*R. Yes, sewers and lagoons release methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. It is produced when organic matter breaks down in the absence of oxygen.*

**Q. What way can our tax system encourage people to buy smart products?**

*R. There could be higher taxes on high emissions or inefficient products. For example, vehicles with larger engines might incur some kind of penalty. However, many people legitimately use those types of vehicles. Alternately, there could be increased taxation on fossil fuels – oil and gas taxes – to insure that large-engine vehicles are driven as efficiently as possible. At the same time, tax breaks on climate-friendly/energy efficient products may help push people to choose smarter products.*

- A lot of the funding applications (ex. Canadian Gas Emissions) are way too much work. We don't have the time or manpower to fill them out. The fees to hire a consultant were way too much as well. These processes keep small communities and municipalities from accessing funds and taking on these types of projects.
- I was surprised to see the statistics-- about 50% of GHG emissions in a community are under the influence of municipalities.
- How can public transport be made cost effective in a small community?
- We presently use wood and used oil in our shops. We're working on geothermal and solar which is more efficient for all of us.
- A really effective way to understand and save on your energy consumption is to do your own audit. It's easy. Document your costs, try to eliminate a little at a time, and see how it cuts your costs.
- We should create an idling policy to generate savings in fleet vehicles such as taxis and school buses.
- Incentives, but not necessarily monetary, will help, honoring people, perhaps, that fulfill these tasks to tackle these issues.





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## V. Notes from Facilitated Discussion of Community Needs and Interests

### Question 1: How can you further educate your sector(s) and neighbours?

- Yes, I have noticed extreme changes in the weather.
- Reducing GHG's is important!
- We have been trying but must try new ways of change.
- Everyone must do their part!
- People will participate in these programs if there are incentives.
- We need to talk about this issue more and heighten awareness.
- We need to better manage fleet vehicles in regards to this.
- The bigger countries need to be involved as well.
- There needs to be more government involvement and incentives offered.
- This is a very complicated issue.
- The ideas I will leave here with I'll share with my community.
- Nobody recycled before we educated, but we don't have time to wait for everybody to get on board.
- When you are educated on an issue it becomes more relevant.
- As Canadians, we need to be proactive on this issue.
- We only have one source of air, we can't only look at money.
- We are reluctant because we get our energy so cheap.
- We need to get this issue under control.
- 



*Left and right: Minnedosa workshop participants discuss the potential impacts of climate change in Manitoba, and how they can begin reducing greenhouse gas emissions in their community.*

### Question 2: After hearing this information, what do you think is important to Minnedosa and area?

- I've learned where I can be more efficient.
- When encountering a train in town, I will shut off my vehicle as I wait.



- I will look at our community buildings to better them, reducing emissions and wasted energy.
- I didn't know what to expect when I came here today, but I'd like to hear more about how climate change affects wildlife.
- If there are motion sensors for yard lights, I would purchase one.
- I will encourage others, and talk to others locally.
- We need to lobby for this issue.
- I will be able to return as an information source to my municipality on this issue.
- We are a very wasteful society, we have to take responsibility ourselves before we can expect others to follow.
- I'm glad I came here today, I will go away pumped, and practice what I've learned.
- Small steps count!
- The older generation needs to be approached with these issues, they will have a large impact.
- Implementing what I've learned is my first step at trying to rectify this issue.
- I will encourage recycling.
- We could insert information in the water bills.
- Sometimes people need to have these issues regulated or pushed on them to be effective.
- Farmers need to be recognized for their efforts in regards to climate change
- Municipalities need to take a firm position on abandoned road lines.
- We would like to see the agriculture industry recognized for their efforts. They are the ones most affected and they have helped more with climate change. They should receive credit since they have changed their practices to try and correct the effects.
- We are looking at a blue box program in Minnedosa.
- It's important to "reteach" people, give it to people in understandable terms, retraining, retooling.
- We should put up signs where people idle their vehicles (windshield flyers?).
- Municipalities should be giving people blue boxes and not charging for them.
- Turn out lights, computers and printers at offices at the end of the day.
- Use a white board, overhead or blackboard to reduce paper consumption..
- I'm going to look at how products are packaged before I purchase them.
- We have to change the mindset of the producer.



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## VI. Break-Out Group Work

### **Question 1: How would you want your community described to potential new residents?**

#### Group 1

- Programs to retrofit homes and businesses to be more energy efficient
- 100% geothermal housing units
- Door to door pickup of blue boxes
- Community wide compost program and facility
- More green spaces
- Christmas tree chipping for compost and landscaping
- Cycling, walking, and cross-country ski paths
- State of the art recreational facility, efficient
- State of the art landfill with diversion programs (community compost, “junk swap” area)
- Water stewardship program
- Wind power, solar and hydrogen products -- all green energy sources



*Workshop participants discuss climate-friendly community projects in breakout groups.*

#### Group 2

- Town of energy efficient housing
- Give citations to those who don't comply, give tax breaks to those who do
- Land fill = treasure pit, have a junk swap area
- Plant a tree for each first grade one student
- Playground will be covered in wood chips from recycled Xmas trees
- Town with Green Day, focus on environmental issues, products and programs
- Environmental re-education

#### Group 3

- Good hospitals with doctors



- Natural gas fleet vehicles
- Cable TV
- Handi-van service for seniors, disabled
- Environmentally friendly
- Low taxes
- Great walking path -- we can walk everywhere campaign
- Clean beach, no itch
- Recycling available to homes and businesses
- State of the art environmental processing facility (dump)
- Energy efficient, environmentally- friendly industrial park
- High quality water
- A community beautification and natural green space project



*Susan Proven from the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council records her group's ideas and suggestions.*

#### Group 4

- Clean air
- Recreation opportunities and facilities
- Ample green space and urban forestry
- Promotion of recycling and geothermal heating with favorable taxation for people who adopt them
- Enhancement of climate-friendly living programs
- Hydrogen fuel-cell transportation
- Education programs relating to GHG improvement (signs, promos)
- Easy access to walking and biking paths

### **Question 2: What actions would you and your neighbours take to achieve this? How will you become more sustainable and climate friendly?**

#### Group 1

- Implement suggestions on energy audits
- Lobby municipalities too!
- Educate your neighbours and families, teach and lead by example
- Recruit the local media
- Educate and train new generation
- Stop talking, more doing



- Create more awareness on individual consumption patterns
- Promote stewardship
- Work together

#### Group 2

- Cut down on fossil fuel use and promote active, healthy living
- Walking and bike paths, bicycle right of ways for warmer months
- Recognition for businesses and individuals that walk and cycle to work

#### Group 3

- Stricter regulations on emissions
- Water quality testing, less unaccounted waters
- More training of staff, more money spent on efficient infrastructure strategies
- Secure for the community, then take action as a community\
- Create stewardship through education of community riches, ex. Riverbank Discovery Area and walking path



*Russ Danielson from the Wheatbelt CDFC presents ideas for creating a more climate-friendly and sustainable Minnedosa and area.*

#### Group 4

- Look at incentives and taxation issues
- Energy efficient municipal facilities
- Promotional and public education campaigns
- Stress car pool's where possible
- Reduce water usage/waste

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## VII. Workshop Participants

Bradco, Greg	Energy Services Coordinator, <i>Manitoba Hydro</i>
Bryant, William	Co-Chair, <i>Assiniboine Regional Health Authority</i>
Dalgarno, Bruce	President, <i>Manitoba Canola Growers Association</i>
Fast, Ernie	Councillor, <i>Town of Rivers</i>
Fearnley, Tom	Manager, <i>Minnedosa Taxi</i>
Guy, Roger	Manager, <i>Wheat Belt CDFC</i>
Hayhurst, Marlene	Zone 3 Alternate Director, <i>Manitoba Trappers Association</i>
Jasienczyk, Kathy	Councillor, <i>RM of Langford</i>
Kiazyk, Daniel	Teacher, <i>Minnedosa Collegiate</i>
Kingdon, Micheal	District 9 Zone Director, <i>KAP</i>
Kulchyski, Edward	Councillor, <i>RM of Strathclair</i>
LaCoste, Duane	Councillor, <i>Town of Minnedosa</i>
Lepischuk, Bob	Science Teacher, <i>Neepawa Area Collegiate</i>
Marcino, Kevin	Public Works Superintendent, <i>Town of Minnedosa</i>
Proven, Susan	Board Member, <i>Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council</i>
Sawchuk, Boniface	Councillor, <i>RM of Rosedale</i>
Volden, Terry	Councillor, <i>Town of Neepawa</i>



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## VIII. Community Workshop Evaluation Summary

### **NOTE:**

Rating System is out of 5 points. 5 representing “most satisfactory” or “strongest agreement”.

<b>1.0 Organization and Design</b>	<b>Score</b>
Overall quality	4.31
The programme – flow of activities	4.15
Workshop documents	4.31
Location and facilities	4.77
Meals and refreshments	4.62

### **Comments:**

- Good.
- Very well organized.

<b>2.0 Presentations</b>	<b>Score</b>
I could hear clearly	4.54
I could see clearly	4.69
Level of comprehension (minimal jargon, explained theories, etc.)	4.46
I could proceed with group work with the information given	4.27

<b>2.1 Basics of Climate Change, Rachel Van Caesele</b>	<b>Score</b>
Provided me with a basic understanding of CC	4.25
Understand impacts of CC	4.25
Understand link between lifestyle, GHG's and CC	4.42
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.63

### **Comments:**

- Very knowledgeable presenters. Excellent presentation.
- While I do not disagree with your information, I still have questions in regard to using a 100-year slice in time as the major criteria when the Earth has sustained extreme climate change over millions of years.
- Lots of energy in the presentations.
- A-okay.
- Good.

<b>2.2 Making Your Building Power Smart/Earth Energy Systems, Greg Bradco</b>	<b>Score</b>
I have ideas on how to reduce business GHG's.	4.0
I feel well informed about earth energy systems.	3.91
I understand how to access the incentive programs	4.0



The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.91
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**Comments:**

- In fairness, many questions he was asked were outside of what Greg should have been expected to know.
- We got off topic at some points.
- Excellent.

<b>2.3 Greening Municipal Operations, Jennifer Duggan</b>	<b>Score</b>
Understand role of municipalities in CC	4.08
Understand link between reducing GHG's and economic savings	4.08
Ideas for reducing GHG's in my community from case studies	4.19
The presenter was dynamic and informative	4.42

**Comments:**

- Again, great job, knowledgeable and well spoken.
- A-okay.
- Great P.R.

<b>3.0 Facilitated discussion</b>	<b>Score</b>
Ideas for educating my network about CC and need for action	4.08
Identify GHG reduction opp's in my community	4.31
Additional reduction opp's (funding, networks, etc.)	4.08
Identify steps for an action plan	4.08

**Comments:**

- Excellent input by all participants.
- Scrap Santa – save hydro, trees and money.
- Very important part of whole workshop.
- Nice format. Round circle = everyone equal.
- Tended to stray of topic.
- Good.

**4.0 Feedback**

*1. What was the most useful part of the workshop?*

- Discussion. Resources made available and contacts.
- Interacting with others, exchanging ideas.
- The global problem of climate change.
- Group work.
- Learning and sharing of information about climate change.
- Discussion.
- Learning about GHG's.
- Manitoba Hydro.
- Provision of info in a user-friendly format.





- The group discussions.
- Geothermal.
- Information.
- Bringing out different ideas of what can be done.

2. *What was the least useful part of the workshop?*

- It was all useful.
- Facts and figures.
- Power efficiency.
- All seemed good.
- Too much good food.

3. *What suggestions do you have to improve format and/or content at subsequent workshops?*

- Invite group of 3-4 students, tomorrow's stakeholders.
- Larger groups.
- Keep speakers on track.
- More information on wind power and solar heating, etc.
- None. It was good.

4. *Other comments.*

- An excellent day.
- Very excellent workshop – very well presented.
- It was good.
- Enjoyed your workshop.
- I think this is an extremely important issue and action is required immediately.
- I felt Greg Bradco was being expected to supply information that was beyond his scope – and was therefore short of time to deal with what he was asked to do.
- It was a good workshop.
- Good team! Jen, you are a great leader.
- We need to get some of these different ideas to community groups on town/municipal bodies.



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## IX. Acknowledgements

The Climate Change Connection would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their assistance in making the *Minnedosa and Area Community Workshop on Climate Change* a success.

**Daniel Kiazyk**, who generously offered the use of his LCD projector when ours would simply not cooperate. Many thanks!

**All our participants**, who took time out from their busy schedules to learn about climate change, listen to their fellow community members, and find solutions for a healthier, more sustainable Minnedosa.

*All presentations are provided in PDF format for download under Manitobans and Climate Change on [www.climatechangeconnection.org](http://www.climatechangeconnection.org). For copies of the handouts on municipal GHG-reduction option please visit the Emissions and Impacts section of the web site. Hard copies can be mailed out upon request to [climate.connection@mts.net](mailto:climate.connection@mts.net) or (204) 943-4836.*

*The workshop programme follows.*

### **Climate Change Connection**

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Rachel Van Caesele, *PEO Coordinator*  
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## X. Workshop Programme

### **MINNEDOSA & AREA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME**

Tuesday, December 9, 2003  
Minnedosa Community Conference Centre

*Continental breakfast is provided.*

#### **9:00 – 9:15 WELCOME from Climate Change Connection**

1. Explanation of logistics of programme. Pointing out of scribe and how to order follow-up proceedings.

*- Jennifer Duggan, Manager*

2. Who is Climate Change Connection? Brief description of mandate, information tools and services, & funding partners.

*Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele, PEO Coordinator*

#### **9:15 – 10:00 ROUNDTABLE, Chaired by facilitator, Nicole Yunker**

Allows everyone present to identify themselves and share:

1. Their interest in climate change
2. A question they want an answer to over the course of the day
3. Identify resources available locally
4. Share activities from within the sector they are representing.

#### **10:00 – 10:30 PUBLIC EDUCATION MODULE: Part One**

BASICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE- What is climate change? What are the greenhouse gases (GHGs)? The enhanced greenhouse effect? How are human activities involved? What are the potential impacts? Where does Canada fit in internationally?

*Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele*

#### **10:30 – 10:45 BREAK**

#### **10:45 – 11:15 PUBLIC EDUCATION MODULE: Part Two**

CLIMATE-FRIENDLY LIVING- How can we take action and live a more climate-friendly lifestyle? Discussion of Climate Champion Pledge.

Brainstorming session with participants.

*Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele*

#### **11:15 – 12:15 MAKING YOUR BUILDING POWER SMART**

Manitoba Hydro's *Power Smart for Business* incentive programs for lighting, envelope and heating/cooling technologies maximize the performance, comfort and visual appeal of your facilities. Learn how to use Power Smart to significantly reduce your organization's greenhouse gas impact. Learn how you can save money plus make an important savings on your "carbon budget".

*Presenter: Greg Bradco, Energy Services Coordinator*



**12:15 – 12:30 EARTH ENERGY HEAT/COOLING SYSTEMS**

Gain an introduction to a low-GHG technology to heat and cool your homes/offices. Learn about the incentive programs.

*Presenter: Greg Bradco*

**12:30 – 1:30 LUNCH (provided), displays and informal networking**

Please bring local information you wish to share.

**1:30 – 2:15 GREENING MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS**

Up to 50% of emissions in any given locale are directly or indirectly under the influence of the municipal government. Many opportunities exist for municipal councils to reduce GHGs and provide their residents with cleaner air and healthier communities, while saving money! Success stories from other jurisdictions across North America will be shared. *Thanks to the Partners for Climate Protection Program, Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Energy Services,*

*International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives for providing content.*

*Presenter: Jennifer Duggan*

**2:15 – 4:20 FACILITATED DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS & INTERESTS**

Facilitator will draw out participants' ideas on:

1. How to further educate their sectors and neighbours about climate change and the need for action,
2. What GHG reduction opportunities exist in Minnedosa and area,
3. What the community would need/want in order to participate in outside-supported programs, or to generate locally-led programs
4. Envisioning what a climate-friendly sustainable Minnedosa area would look like.

**3:00 – 3:15 BREAK & filling out of evaluation and request forms.**

Breakout groups for flip charting responses and feedback into larger session. Action planning for next steps. Final summary comments.

**4:20 – 4:30 THANK YOU from Climate Change Connection & Power Smart**



*Climate Change Connection aims to build awareness and to empower Manitobans to take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, both individually and as a community.*

**GHG emission reductions achieved by Manitobans will help Canada to meet targets established by the Kyoto Protocol.**

**The Connection will work to assist Manitobans make the changes necessary to live more sustainable and climate-friendly lifestyles.**

**Working to reduce GHG emissions enables us to take responsibility for our part in a changing global climate.**