

**PROCEEDINGS from the**

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



**Tuesday, April 15, 2003  
Victoria Inn, Brandon**

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

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I. Notes from Roundtable

**Roundtable questions:**

- 1. What is your interest in climate change?**
  - 2. What question do you want answered over the course of the day?**
  - 3. What resources can you identify locally?**
  - 4. What activities/resources does your sector have to share?**
- Climate change has great implications for agriculture.
  - What I can do, what can others do?
  - Interested in environmental issues.
  - Working on a geo-thermal unit
  - What can we do to make things better?
  - Reconstructing the landfill in a different way.
  - Gauge a level of awareness, and levels of climate change in Brandon.
  - Learn more about educational methods.
  - Other ways to find out how other people can help out.
  - Start taking ideas to community and school kids.
  - Youth want to learn about climate change.
  - Educated so that we can take back to community.
  - Take info back as to what was inspiring and what to do.
  - Find out some of the issues about Kyoto and how it affects the communities.
  - Indoor air, air quality - for everyone's breathing.
  - Monitor what is happening.
  - Climate is actually changing and going to impact our lifestyles.
  - What can we do to accommodate or adapt to it.
  - Issues of water quality.
  - Find out what the level of community interest is.
  - Work specifically on the Saskatchewan water system.
  - We want to implement some systems in regards to Kyoto.
  - Nitrous oxide could destroy the ozone layer.
  - Understand the production of greenhouse gases.
  - Agriculture affects climate change, climate change affects agriculture.
  - Help farmers make decisions.
  - Learn, because these things are going to affect municipalities.
  - Need to convince people that this is doing the right thing.
  - Want to know more about climate change and greenhouse gases.



- How can we influence people?
- See benefits and want to be educated.
- For every action there is a reaction.
- Need to have the knowledge.
- Hope to get up to speed on this issue.
- Get a feeling of this issue.
- Get some information and take back to the municipalities.
- How we can get the different levels of government to produce more money?

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

### **Question 1: After hearing all this information, do you think climate change is important for Brandon?**

- A good place to start.
- We learned about our options to reduce emissions.
- Climate change - specifically for Brandon - is big
- It's important, not just for Brandon, but for everyone.
- We were given some concrete ideas to take back to businesses, workplaces, schools, and municipalities.
- We need to get people to buy in
- It takes money which council indicates they don't have.
- We should have an environmental office.

### **Question 2: What stood out for you today?**

- The discussion about greenhouse gases and the presentation about greenhouse gases being here with us now.
- Youth teaching us about recycling, and other things.
- You don't have to convince us that the climate is changing. There are people here who agree.
- We talked about climate change and not about Kyoto.
- There were a lot of positive things people could take home with them.
- The whole thing.
- There are things we can do to help with to get this issue changed. We can make a difference.
- Reconfirmation of what has been going on in the City of Brandon. This is a really polluted area, and there are things we can do to change things, like getting buses going more fuel-efficient.
- Really nice to have this all packaged together.
- Helped put it into perspective.
- Impressed the City of Brandon has someone from each department here.

- We want to get this thing under control.
- Look at where we need to be the most efficient.
- Good for everyone to get together and determine the problem. Get a grasp on everything.

**Question 3: What strategy did you really like?**

- “Green Fringe” (grassroots/community based) initiatives.
- We have to sell it mainstream - educate the mainstream.
- Reputation for involving people in initiatives.
- Developing that energy to accomplish something.
- Require more thought and discussions.
- Incentives for municipalities, industry, people with children, etc.

**Question 4: Which of the gas reduction strategies really struck you?**

- Really good educational experience.
- How simple is it.
- Work a little bit hard on the education part of it.
- Invite experienced and knowledgeable people to a town meeting.

**Question 5: What sort of struck about things relevant to Brandon?**

- There are no small stores in the south side – you have to burn a litre of gas to buy a litre of milk.
- We have a lot of decisions to make.
- We need the infrastructure to support change and advertising to sell it to the people.
- Brandon is a good city.
- We should get the media to run a regular climate change article.

**Question 6: When you think about Brandon, where do you think about reducing the gas emissions?**

- Is this a private or business initiative?
- Get this to go to our government.
- It is each person’s responsibility.

**Question 7: What did you take away from today?**

- As individuals we can do so much.
- We have a way to educate our neighbours.
- We need to make people aware of the economic opportunities.

**Question 8: Where would you start, what is the information you would convey?**

- Quotes from instructors at Brandon University – it would lend credibility to the issue.
- Manitoba Hydro’s information on Power Smart programs.



### **Question 9: Who would be your climate change pioneers?**

- Note: Everyone in the room said they would be pioneers and champions.
- Governments have to get away from the attitude of "...do as I say and not as I do"
- Get everyone coming out together firing with the same bullet. In regards to methane, if the technology is there, it can be done. At what level do we start education at - secondary school, high school, etc.? There was a curriculum developed but we don't know when we will be able to get it into schools.

### **Question 10: What are the barriers that you have come up against with this issue?**

- What is the percentage of people do we need to partake?
- The Connection's answer -- "We need everyone".
- Communication is a real big thing.

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## III. Notes from Breakout Groups

### **Question 1: What is your vision of a climate-friendly, sustainable Brandon?**

#### Breakout Group #1

- No big box stores
- Organized bike and walking paths
- More centralized neighborhoods
- Corner stores
- Community gardens.
- Recycling bins
- Core area revitalizations
- Realistic/sustainable zoning
- Retrofitting -- R-2000 everywhere
- Carpooling to events and for errands
- Encourage employees to be more sustainable with carpooling to work
- Use of community centers and groups
- Workshops: how to compost
- Railroads revitalization
- Healthy
- Happy
- Utopic
- Involved
- Committed
- Caring
- Team-work

### Breakout Group #2

- Materials recovery facility and its Phase 2 gasification
- Tax credit for making sustainable choices. “Eco” incentives to be better water consumers, energy efficient, use of recycled material, R-2000
- Convert out of coal/fossil fuel
- Wind, solar, renewable, alternative energy
- Unlimited dollars for education
- Ground source heat pump in all buildings
- No remote car starters
- More trees
- Get rid of eye sores
- Green spaces
- Strategic use of leafy trees: south sides, shade
- Improved transit
- Combat idling
- Smaller “shuttles” for select transit routes
- Electric/gas hybrid vehicles
- Health
- Vibrant
- Community pride
- Resilience
- Stewardship
- Biofuels/alternate fuels
- “Evolve or dissolve”
- Planning that thinks generations ahead

### Breakout Group #3

- Shared commitment and knowledge within a community and the surrounding region
- Leadership within communities
- Preservation
- Strong communities
- Pollution-free
- Partnership and scholarships
- Reduce the waste ending up in landfills
- Better water management - riparian areas, putting trees along river to prevent erosion
- Ecosystem sensitive planning
- Community compost site(s)
- Healthy
- Active
- Recycling: Easily. Everywhere. Everyone
- More recycling
- Don't get gassed (reduce GHG emissions)



#### Breakout Group #4

- Low crime
- Clean air
- Green
- Quiet cooperation
- Spirituality
- Healthy
- Bike paths
- Music in park, skating paths, rinks
- Peaceful

**Question 2: Identify low-cost/no-cost strategies that could get Brandon started on reducing GHG emissions.**

#### Breakout Group #1

- Awareness
- Evaluate yourself
- Community meetings/rallies
- PSAs
- Walking school bus
- Carpools
- Community/sector challenges
- Use centers
- Community groups, churches
- Free workshops partnered with safety, health (How to compost workshops)
- Pool regional resources

#### Breakout Group #2

- Demonstrations (techniques):
  - Sites
  - Education/workshops
  - Rallies
- Advertising
  - Inside water bills
  - Boards on buses
- Partnerships/Sponsorships

#### Breakout Group #3

- Education through youth and grass roots groups (i.e. recycle council, Eco-odyssey class, Lion's club)
- Workshops
- Marketing co-benefits
- Translate the science
- Communicate
- Lobby governments to lead, get policies in synch
- Find prominent local "champions"





- Community competition/challenge
- Create partnerships
- Idling could be an easier issue than walking school buses
- Tree planting could be popular (i.e. communities in bloom)

#### Breakout Group #4

- Plant trees
- Connection of people with nature
- Covered walkways and bike paths
- Composts
- No box stores
- Dutch style windmills
- No more sprawl
- Banishment of harmful emissions
- Develop a lot more green space
- Corner stores on every corner
- More passives -- solar

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## IV. Workshop Participants

Don Alexander	Chairperson, <i>Pembina Valley Conservation District</i>
Thelma Alexander	Representative, Miami-Thompson Portion, <i>Trans-Canada Trail</i>
Elisabeth Archambault	Co-Chair, <i>Westman Recycling Council</i>
David Barnes	Teacher, <i>Neelin High School (PM)</i>
Kim Beilby	Southwest and Youth Representative, <i>4H</i>
Darci Clark	President, <i>Clark Community Consulting</i>
Jack Cumming	General Manager, <i>Construction Association of Rural Manitoba</i>
Russ Danielson	Representative, <i>Wheat Belt Community Futures</i>
Jo-Anne Douglas	Westman Region Director, <i>Manitoba Lung Association</i>
Blair English	Agro-Forestry Specialist, <i>PFRA</i>
Chad Hackywicz	Representative, <i>Brandon Waste and Water Treatment</i>
Brent Hansen	President, <i>Environmental Business Consulting</i>
Chris Hayhurst	Environment Manager, <i>Simplot Canada Limited</i>
Dr. Mohammad Khakbazan	Research Economist, <i>AAFC</i>
Victor Kowall	Lead Hand, Sanitation Department, <i>City of Brandon</i>
Jeff McConnell	Councillor, <i>Town of Virden</i>
Dr. Roderick McGinn	Professor of Geography, <i>Brandon University</i>
Wally Melnyk	President, <i>Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association</i>
Warren Minnie	Representative, <i>Brandon Transit</i>
Marcia Monreal	Manure Management and Methane Reduction, <i>Brandon Research Centre</i>
Robert Myers	President, <i>Brandon Civic Seniors Inc. (AM)</i>
Gerry Nadon	Business Representative, <i>Manitoba Hydro</i>
Dr. Bill Paton	Agricultural Program Coordinator, Department of Biology, <i>Brandon University</i>
Garth Rice	Councillor, <i>City of Brandon (AM)</i>
Jeff Sim	Manager, Public Works, <i>City of Brandon (PM)</i>
Matthew Skinner	Member, <i>Manitoba Youth Round Table for Sustainable Development</i>
Lynn Slobigian	Program Manager, Green Living 101, <i>Marquis Project</i>
Beth Smale	Councillor, <i>City of Brandon</i>
Stan Ward	Mayor, <i>Town of Virden</i>

## V. 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	4.4
The programme – flow of activities	4.3
Workshop documents	4.4
Location and facilities	4.2
Meals and refreshments	4.1

### **Comments:**

- I like more interaction if possible. And I much prefer a more locally owned and operated facility, organic fair trade coffee, tea and food.
- Well-organized – lots of opportunities for networking, interactive is important.
- Very comfortable environment. I feel this organization is important and more people should know about it.
- Some noise from adjacent workshop in facility.
- Very well organized, flowed well.
- Excellent.
- Would like more windows.

<b>2.0 Presentations</b>	<b>Score</b>
I could hear clearly	3.88
I could see clearly	4
Level of comprehension (minimal jargon, explained theories, etc.)	4.28
I could proceed with group work with the information given	4.52

<b>2.1 Basics of Climate Change, Jennifer Duggan</b>	<b>Score</b>
Provided me with a basic understanding of CC	4.52
Understand impacts of CC	4.52
Understand link between lifestyle, GHG’s and CC	4.52

### **Comments:**

- Well done. Good use of slides! Nice, easy to understand.
- Very clear.
- Very clear, enjoyable, interactive.
- Some of cartoons excellent – run slower. Concept of time-related changes excellent. 3D-mobile presentations stay in long-term memory longer.
- Great initiative needs expansion.
- Very good – graphics, flow, prizes, humour, approachable, interesting, easy.



- Very clear and practical – too much science even loses the scientists. Good visuals and ad-libbing – a polished delivery.
- Very informative.
- I still need to educate myself on different aspects of climate change.

<b>2. 2 Understanding Kyoto, <i>Dennis Cunningham</i></b>	<b>Score</b>
Provided me with a basic understanding of Kyoto	3.84
Understand how Kyoto will affect Manitoba	3.76

**Comments:**

- Slides difficult to read. Lots of letters not explained.
- Complex and new to me, but I learned something (more than I knew before).
- Slides were congested and overwhelming.
- Question necessity to community activity. Voice level; slides too cluttered!
- Dennis’s presentation was good but his “slides” were not as easy to follow as Jennifer’s.
- Dennis is a great guy but too much “stuff” on his overheads, too much info, stats, not enough visual stimulation, little interaction, jargon-y.
- I do understand, but rated it a 3 as info not presented well – very crowded slides, mumbled delivery, no opportunity for interactive comments.
- Very interesting.
- Confusing and unclear.

<b>2. 3 Greening Municipal Operations, <i>Paul Gregory</i></b>	<b>Score</b>
Understand role of municipalities in CC	4.04
Understand link between reducing GHG’s and economic savings	4.16
Ideas for reducing GHG’s in my community from case studies	4.16

**Comments:**

- Fun.
- No real outline – all over the place.
- Worthwhile, especially examples from communities. Funding sources and other resources.
- Paul went too quickly – he had great info and often, I nearly missed it, couldn’t read fast enough or he skipped it totally.
- Good ABC’s.
- Some need larger letters and less text.
- Great sense of humour, good visuals though case studies took a bit of time to process. Loved that he had Brandon specific details!
- Information was good, but too casual a delivery method – I watched faces in the crowd and the skipping over stuff bothered some of them.
- Informative. Speaker added a touch of positive humour to enlighten things.

<b>3.0 Facilitated discussion</b>	<b>Score</b>
Ideas for educating my network about CC and need for action	4.23
Identify GHG reduction opp's in my community	4.26
Additional reduction opp's (funding, networks, etc.)	4.09
Identify steps for an action plan	4.26

**Comments:**

- Great discussion.
- Good NOT to have role-play strategy – ticks people off. Very positive to give everyone a planned opportunity to speak/opine.
- Very good facilitation by Nicole.
- Excellent job!
- Good idea to let people express what they think of the workshop.
- Well done. Maintained dialogue well.
- Fun. Humor is important.
- More funding needed from Feds and Prov.
- Satisfactory.
- I think that is was facilitated very well. I would like to have continued on further with the process. Many goods comments and ideas came out of the session.
- Good facilitator, interesting discussion, most people had similar opinions, thoughts.
- Most of the points above I got from the presentations not the discussion.

**4.0 Feedback**

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

- Knowing what people can do to change things.
- First presentation – but to be fair, audience was fresher start of day. Informal networking opportunities – never enough of them.
- Jennifer's presentation.
- New ideas and to meet people in the community with similar concern or common ground.
- The information in the workshop and the roundtable comments from the group about GHG.
- Getting a better general understanding of climate change and GHG emissions and some simple ways of lowering them.
- Ideas on how to make a difference when it comes to climate change.
- All parts were beneficial.
- Listening to speakers and everyone giving out ideas.
- The facilitated discussion and the intro to climate change.
- Practical ideas.
- Info giving to group.
- 1-stop source of information and data, networking with technical specialists.
- Sharing group ideas during facilitated discussion.
- Group discussion.



- Identifying GHG reduction opportunities.
- Group discussion.
- Meeting people from a variety of backgrounds in our community and region. Good to see representation from council, industry, etc.
- The most important/useful part of the workshop was the presentation of the facts – clearly laid out.
- The basic info. The people.
- For me, a town councilor – Paul Gregory’s presentation!

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

- It was all useful.
- Need a more appealing second presentation.
- Sorry, Kyoto.
- Some overheads were not good.
- The Kyoto Protocol.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- Nothing.
- N/A
- Info from FCM went too quickly – I expected to learn more details about their programs.
- The part about FCM – unclear, no real concept was put forward.
- ?
- N/A.
- Some discussions looked too simplistic, which are not.
- Understanding Kyoto stuff.
- Discussion of Kyoto.

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

- It was difficult to hear some of the audience’s comments. A different room may help.
- Need a more appealing second presentation.
- Going back to that idea of local facilitation/organization, have area/community specific info. It’s nice to ask, “So, what’s going on here locally?” but even nicer to have someone who’s already checked into it.
- In some presentations better visual aid.
- The speakers to have cordless microphones while making their presentations (less cumbersome).
- Pretty well presented. No suggestions.
- Make visuals easier to see. Some of print was very fine.
- Keep discussion groups smaller. 30 are too many.
- N/A.
- Somehow have higher profile people attend.

- Bring in groups with successful GHG reducing projects.
- Focus the presenters to a narrow topic.
- To be more balanced not just saying positive things, consider good and negative of climate change.
- Local input if possible – prior to event – i.e. Pre- and post-evaluation of knowledge level. Helps to gear the content to participant’s interests and goals.
- Nothing.
- None.

4. *Other comments.*

- Great workshop! Very informative. I’d recommend it to others.
- Great information about GHG and what is needed to make the world a place that will be safe and healthy planet to live for endless time.
- Good job.
- Open discussion/circle discussions were great. Provides an opportunity to see “other” concerns and issues with GHG and climate change.
- Great experience. I kind of knew about GHG’s and Kyoto but now I have a broader knowledge of all this. I hope people I pass this on to take it as serious as I did.
- Good job of presenting info to a variety of individuals.
- Invite high school students from a variety of schools to get a youth perspective.
- Friendly, cheerful staff like Rachael and Jennifer is greatly appreciated.
- Keep up the good work.
- I would like to be a part of any and all proceedings after this workshop. Contact me as to what our office can do to help out.
- Thanks for inviting me. Encouraged me to go further with our PCP program at Viriden!! Glad it wasn’t preachy. Not that I mind, but you would lose lots if it were.

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## VI. Acknowledgements

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

**Patti-Jo Burt** (BSc., C.A.E.), an instructor in the Office Administration Program at Assiniboine Community College helped recruit and select two skilled students to act as workshop scribes. The ACC students – Kari Trinder and Kim Grudeski – were punctual, polished and professional, a testament to ACC’s excellent programming.

**Nicole Yunker** acted as Climate Change Connection’s outstanding workshop facilitator in Brandon. She both drove the distance (from Dauphin) and went the distance contributing to and drawing contributions from workshop participants.

**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 Brandon.

*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.***

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## VII. Workshop Programme

### **BRANDON COMMUNITY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME**

Tuesday, April 15, 2003

Victoria Inn

*Continental breakfast is provided.*

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

Introduction of local facilitator and explanation of logistics of programme.

Pointing out of scribe and how to order follow-up proceedings.

- *Jennifer Duggan, CCC Manager*

Who is Climate Change Connection? Brief description of mandate & highlighting of all information tools and services.

*Presenter: Rachel Van Caesele, CCC PEO Coordinator*

#### **9:15 – 10:15 ROUNDTABLE, chaired by Jennifer Duggan.**

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.

#### **10:15 – 10:30 BREAK**

#### **10:30 – 12:15 PUBLIC EDUCATION MODULE**

10:30 – 11:45 BASICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. What is climate change? What are the greenhouse gases (GHGs)? Greenhouse effect? How are human activities involved? What are the potential impacts? Where does Canada fit in internationally? How can we take action and live a more climate-friendly lifestyle.

*Presenter: Jennifer Duggan*

11:45 – 12:15 UNDERSTANDING KYOTO. What is it? What does the Protocol mean for us in Manitoba? Opportunities? Barriers?

*Presenter: Dennis Cunningham, Climate Change and Energy Team, International Institute for Sustainable Development.*

#### **12:15 – 1:00 LUNCH (provided) & DISPLAYS & INFORMAL NETWORKING**

Please bring local information you wish to share.

#### **1:00 – 1:45 GREENING MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS**

Municipal councils have many opportunities 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. Examples apply also to school divisions, campuses, and so on.

*Presenter: Paul Gregory, Partners for Climate Protection (PCP), Centre for Sustainable Community Development, Federation of Canadian Municipalities. PCP is a national program that brings municipal governments together to reduce local production of greenhouse gas emissions and improve quality of life.*

### **1:45 – 3:50 FACILITATED DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY NEEDS & INTERESTS.**

*Facilitator will draw out participant 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 the community (what would really work for Brandon)
3. What the community would need/want in order to participate in outside-supported programs, or to generate locally led programs.

### **2:45 – 3:00 BREAK**

Breakout groups would do flip charting in response and then feedback into larger session. Action planning for next steps. Invitation for final summary comments on the day from participants.

### **3:50 – 4:00 THANK YOU from Climate Change Connection**

Filling out of evaluation forms by participants. Filling out of proceedings request form for later mail-out and joining e-listserv. Any additional business.



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.**